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Campbeltown man appears on attempted murder charges

A CAMPBELTOWN man has been remanded in custody on a petition alleging four counts of attempted murder following an incident in the town last week.

The 40-year-old man appeared in private from custody at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Tuesday. No plea or declaration was made and the case was continued for further examination.

Police cordoned off a section of the town's Lochend Street on Friday after a people carrier collided with a parked van shortly after 7.30pm.

Two girls, aged five and three, a 45-year-old woman and a 14-year-old boy all sustained serious injuries as a result. The driver sustained minor injuries.

The woman and the boy were airlifted to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow whilst the two girls were taken to Yorkhill Hospital.

Anyone who has information regarding the incident is urged to contact local police on 01586 862 200.



'We're never leaving' says hotel developer

'Instead of people moving to the city, we want them to come to Campbeltown'

'WE'RE never leaving': this was the message from the man behind the renovation of a prominent town centre hotel.

David Southworth, president and CEO of Southworth Development LLC, which bought over the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown and the Ugadale Hotel at Machrihanish in 2008, reas-

sured *The Courier* they are here to stay.

Mr Southworth, and his business partner Joseph Deitch, unveiled the £4.95 million renovated Royal Hotel and explained they will now focus on improving what they have in Kintyre over the next six months.

Phase one has now been completed, which in-

volved the creation of the Village at Machrihanish Dunes, the new golf course and the restoration of the Ugadale and Royal Hotels.

The company has invested £19.3million in all the projects, as well as further grants funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the

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Revamped Royal Hotel opens its doors

GRAHAM Construction was awarded the contract to overhaul the Royal and Ugadale Hotels, with both hotels stripped back to their shells.

The £5.8million contract saw the firm rebuild the hotels, which are expected to add £3m to the local economy annually.

Transform

It took an average of 50 workers, 50 weeks to entirely transform the five-star venue, installing around 70 tonnes of structural steel to form the new layout and over

15km of cable for comprehensive re-wiring.

A concrete staircase covering the length of the four levels had to be brought in through the roof in 12 sections. With each section weighing around 12 tonnes, a 150-tonne crane was required to set the stairs in place.

The Graham team was also responsible for the creation of bay windows, which saw diamond rope being used to chop through two-foot thick stonewalls before the old-style glazing could be installed.



Joe Deitch, left, and David Southworth of Southworth Development LLC, with their special guest Olivia Bertram outside the Royal Hotel, Campbeltown. 20_c2royal01

'We're never leaving' say developers

Continued from Page 1
Campbeltown Area Regeneration Scheme, European Regional Development Fund, Historic Scotland and the Scottish Government.

The Royal Hotel boasts 23 rooms, The Black Sheep Pub and

the elegant Harbourview Grille, and its opening was celebrated with a special dinner and reception as well as a fireworks display over Campbeltown Loch, with hundreds of locals turning out to watch.

Speaking exclusively

to *The Courier* Mr Deitch said although there were a few surprises when they began the renovation of the Royal, everything went smoothly after that.

'The relationship with the community really has been great,' he said.

'Everything went to schedule and we've had wonderful help from the people in the community.'

'We have had to prove ourselves to the local people, and we have been welcomed with open arms. We are becoming part of the community.'

He said transportation was a huge issue for the company, and the more accessible Campbeltown is, the more people they can attract.

Exclusively he revealed they are in talks with helicopter companies and tour operators to encourage more people to travel here.

'Instead of people moving to the city, we want them to come to Campbeltown to start their own business,' he said. 'This is a success story for Campbeltown.'

He thanked the community for giving them an opportunity to invest in the area and for supporting them throughout.

Beginning of another chapter

AFTER years of economic difficulties in the area which led to a slow decline in business, the ageing property eventually had to close its doors.

In 2008, David Southworth and Joe Deitch purchased both The Ugadale and Royal Hotels, along with the Machrihanish Dunes Golf Course, and thus began the development of the Village at Machrihanish Dunes, which includes both hotels and the newly built Ugadale Golf Cottages.

'It's important to both Joe and I to

celebrate this momentous occasion with the community that supported us through a painstaking restoration process,' said David Southworth.

Celebrated icon

'The Royal Hotel holds a special place in Campbeltown history. For many, it serves as a celebrated icon where families and friends once celebrated grand occasions. For us, it begins another chapter in our pursuit to make Campbeltown and Machrihanish a world-class destination.'

Bombing target

THE Royal Hotel was the target of a German aerial bombing in November 1940, but the town restored itself following the attacks of World War II.

Further development of the Pierhead and the adjacent shore brought bustling tourism back to the area.

The Royal remained a focal point for the town in the years following the attack, contributing to its image as not simply a building, but a celebrated icon of Campbeltown.



The view from one of the 23 bedrooms, looking out onto Campbeltown's front. 20_c2royal02

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