

Story So Far.....

EXPERIENCE FALKIRK

Lots of ambitious projects in Falkirk are making it an even better place to live, work and visit. They include Falkirk Community Stadium and the Bo'ness Town/Foreshore regeneration (see news releases).

A state-of-the-art stadium

The new Falkirk Community Stadium in Falkirk Gateway, on the east side of the town, is simply state-of-the-art. The first phase of this major development is complete and Falkirk Football Club moved in during July, playing their first match at the end of that month.

The stadium's not just for football – it's a multi-use, seven-day-a-week centre, and it will be home for several important businesses. What's more, its innovative, high quality design and build will make it an icon for the regeneration of the area.

Councillor David Alexander, Leader of Falkirk Council explained:

"It's a very striking building. It demonstrates the vision and ambition in the Falkirk community. It would have been very easy just to build a football stadium, but we wanted something more. All of the partners involved were keen to create a bigger, better community facility that would be used every day and could make a real contribution to the future of Falkirk."

In September, builders Mowlem and Company plc were given the green light to go ahead with the latest phase - the new North Stand. This is due to be completed in March 2005, and it will increase the venue's capacity to 6,100, making it suitable for the Scottish Premier League.

INNOVATION FALKIRK

New technologies get great support in Falkirk and the surrounding areas. Grangemouth Technology Park, which provides purpose built, flexible facilities is one example...

A Park with great potential

The £1.6 million ultra modern technology park currently provides over 10,000 sq ft of bio-technology space. It was unveiled in autumn 2003 and has the potential to create 50 new jobs for the area.

Phase I of the park – next to speciality chemical company, Avecia – will attract fine chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical businesses into the area.

Meanwhile, planning permission for Phase II, which will provide another 10,000 sq ft of space, has been submitted.

Graham Snow of Avecia said: "It's fantastic to see the efforts being made on the part of the MFiF partners to stimulate the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors in the area. The opening of Grangemouth Technology Park and the plans for Phase II have brought great advantages to the related industries in the area, and the proximity is a real plus in terms of strengthening the local business community."

Over £1.3 million for the Park project came from Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, together with £275,000 from the European Regional Development Fund.

SUCCESSFUL FALKIRK

Generating new business space is key to the success of the area, and Falkirk Gateway is helping lead the way.

Gateway to the future

The £100m Falkirk Gateway project is set to open the area to massive economic regeneration.

The site covers over 120 hectares (298 acres) alongside the M9 and was promoted as a major strategic development opportunity by Falkirk Council working in partnership with Callendar Estates, Falkirk College and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley.

This fully integrated, mixed-use development will include a retail warehouse park, business park, and commercial and leisure accommodation. And it will create up to 1200 jobs.

The preferred developer, appointed in April this year, is a joint venture between Macdonald Estates plc and Hammerson UK Properties plc. Each comes with an impressive track record. Edinburgh-based Macdonald Estates has a great deal of experience in procuring, creating and managing real estate, particularly in the retail and leisure industries. Hammerson is a leading European property company that invests in and develops retail parks, shopping centres and prime offices.

Both companies have a reputation for delivering successful, major developments, and this joint venture brings together their energy, vision and financial resources.

Dan Macdonald, chief executive of Macdonald Estates, said,
"Since our appointment we have done a great deal of work to create the masterplan and I am delighted that we have been able to secure architect Alan Murray Associates who have considerable experience in large scale ventures, such as Edinburgh Park. Our plans are due to be considered by Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Gateway Alliance next month, with construction work due to start on site in 2005."

www.falkirkgateway.co.uk

NETWORKED FALKIRK

Falkirk and the surrounding area is a fantastic location – quite literally. Geography puts us at the heart of central Scotland, and the Intermodal Hub project is capitalising on our physical connections.

At the Hub

Grangemouth is Scotland's main intermodal distribution hub and largest port. It is truly integrated, with road, sea and rail access, and it's an extremely attractive location for production, warehousing and distribution.

Scottish Enterprise, Falkirk Council and others are working with Forth Ports to develop a strategy for future development of the port. To date, £5.5m has been invested in this project, as well as £2m that's been put into in warehousing facilities. In addition, the potential to attract manufacturing and other developments is being actively pursued and promoted.

Visit our website – www.myfuturesinfalkirk.co.uk – to find out more about the exciting projects going on in the area.

Get in touch with the named contacts – we welcome your questions.