

# Hopes new police base will be a deterrent to troublemakers

A NEW town centre police base in Carmarthen will be a deterrent to troublemakers at weekends, it is hoped.

The station will form the second part of Carmarthen's Guildhall revamp.

Plans have been officially lodged by Dyfed-Powys Police to develop a base for officers at the historic building which seven months ago saw a deal struck to develop a restaurant and cafe bar there as well.

The police will share the space by having a small station with access at the side of the building.

The £1 million plan to transform the Guildhall into an eatery was unveiled by entrepreneur James Morse, of Nextcolour Limited, who was behind both of Swansea's Lounges restaurants - Croeso and Zinco.

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Town leaders have welcomed plans by the police to occupy space on the Hall Street side of the Guildhall to have a focal point for the public and a base for officers in the heart of the town.

There were concerns after the force's Priars Park station was relocated to the Llangunnor headquarters.

Under the new plans, the base will be used by the town's neighbourhood policing team.

Carmarthen mayor Emlyn Schiavone said: "This will be an excellent development for the town and will be a permanent extension of the mobile police base that has been in the town recently.

"That was positioned outside the Guildhall and

it really helped, it was there on a Saturday night, a busy time but acted as a deterrent to trouble and I think a permanent base in the heart of the town will do the same.

"Not just on a Saturday night but at all times.

"Officers will be there and able to respond to incidents in the town quickly because there was concern when the station moved from Priars Park.

"Having somewhere where police can be and respond to incidents or concerns and have a dialogue with the public."

The plans for the police base will go before Carmarthenshire Council planning committee in the near future.

Work is expected to start soon on the as yet unnamed cafe bar restaurant.

The venture will create up to 35 jobs.



Carmarthen's Guildhall, which is set to be converted.

Picture: Carolyn Evans