

# Plans to transform 'neglected' listed building lodged

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A NEW restaurant and bar could be opening in Kidwelly.

New plans submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council detail proposals to reinstate a restaurant in a Grade II-listed building just opposite the town's castle.

Hamish Burns has lodged an application to transform the Old Moat House listed building on Castle Street into a new restaurant and bar.

The proposals include plans to renovate what is referred to as the "neglected listed building" by restoring it using "traditional building techniques and materials".

If given the go-ahead, terraces for outdoor seating as well as a new pathway could be just some extra additions to the property.

A heritage impact statement reads: "The redevelopment proposals are for sympathetic repair and renovation of the building and restoration to its past



Old Moat House in Kidwelly.

function as a restaurant.

"Groundworks are planned for the creation of two terraces for outside seating on the Castle Street frontage, level access along the narrow strip of Castle Street frontage, a pathway along the south-west side of the building and removal and planting of trees.

"The property, and especially the Castle Street frontage where outside seating is proposed, has a close view of Kidwelly Castle, which is a scheduled monument and a Grade I listed building.

"The client is keen to repair and restore the property and to ensure that it is maintained for the long term as a valuable asset to the town."

It goes on to quote Mr Burns, saying: "Retaining original features preserves knowledge of historical building techniques and materials.

"Repairing and maintaining the property using traditional materials and building techniques is essential for the ongoing historical value of a property.

"As a restaurant it would

also be accessible to the public, furthering its significance as a heritage asset to the local community and the public from further afield."

Luke Thomas, a resident who lives directly behind the site in Bailey Street, believes that this is what the town "desperately needs" as he says these plans will "undoubtedly protect the building for future generations".

"The owner plans to do a sympathetic restoration on an important key building which has been unloved for many years," Mr Bailey said.

"The plan to reinstate a restaurant/bar which I believe the town so desperately needs, currently having the lack of choice for fine dining during the evening hours for locals and tourists alike.

"This proposal will undoubtedly protect the building for future generations but open up a key historical asset to the general public once more.

"It will not only enhance the Kidwelly Conservation Area but Kidwelly being a tourist destination."

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