



TASTEFUL: Steve Reynolds, owner of Slipping Jimmy's, tunes up with Fiona Weaver, of Hutchings and Thomas Chartered Surveyor, outside the new restaurant on High Street, Newport

American bar with music is on its way to recapture the magic of the legendary TJ's

A NEW live music American-style bar and grill will reignite the vibe of Newport's iconic and much-lamented venue TJ's.

The legendary live music nightclub in Clarence Place which closed after the death in March 2010 of its founder John Sicolo, aged 66, played host to an array of bands over its existence achieving cult status on both sides of the Atlantic.

Now Newport businessman Steve Reynolds says a new venue he is opening will help recreate some of the energy and excitement of the celebrated music joint.

Steve, owner of Toy Army in Newport's market has joined with two business partners to launch Slipping Jimmy's Bar and Restaurant in High Street, Newport.

Steve said: "We've had the idea for a time and have been looking for the ideal venue for some time. We looked at a number of potential places and then saw this former betting shop opposite the Market and next door to the best pub in the city, The Murenger, and this suited

us right down to the ground.

"Live music will be a major part of the new restaurant and will aim to recreate what the city lost with the closure of TJ's."

The bar and grill restaurant, with a capacity of 180 and close to the soon to open Tiny Rebel Urban Tap House, could be open before Christmas and will offer American-style barbeque food in a retro reclaimed style décor.

Steve said he has already been approached by bands and promoters looking to book gigs at the new venue.

Fiona Weaver, of Hutchings & Thomas Chartered Surveyors, acted for owners Llanhennock Property Investments, said: "The former betting shop premises offers 2,500 sq ft of space which has been leased for 10 years at £18,000 a year.

"The opening of this restaurant is yet another positive example of the optimism, excitement and confidence investors and business people now feel in Newport city centre."

Plans to 'breathe new life' into city centre are revealed

AN opportunity to view draft plans for the area surrounding Newport's Station Quarter and Cambrian Road is being offered to the people of Newport on November 5.

They are being invited to the official opening of the new public plaza at the Station Quarter in Newport and will also get the chance to visit a drop-in presentation which will unveil plans to further revitalise the area.

Scarborough Development Group has announced a new scheme to redevelop the site surrounding the newly-completed public plaza and Admiral House at the junction of Cambrian Road and Queensway.

The scheme will include 14,000 sq ft of retail, restaurant and café space with up to 40,000 sq ft of office space spread above over up to five floors.

Information will be on display between 1pm and 5pm on Thursday, November 5, in

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a pop-up event space on the public plaza off Cambrian Road. There will be the opportunity to view the draft plans and speak to members of the project team.

The scheme's frontage will be modern and attractive, reflecting the style of the neighbouring Admiral building while being sympathetic to the surrounding architecture.

Ground floor space will be designated for restaurant, café or retail uses, with offices above. The scheme will complement the high standard finishes of Admiral House and the public plaza.

Due to its prime-location, next to existing office space and opposite Newport's busy railway station, developers believe the scheme is ideally positioned to positively con-



DEVELOPMENT: An artist's impression of Newport's Station Quarter from Queensway

tribute to the wider resurgence of Newport city centre.

The urban courtyard environment provided by the plaza will provide a modern external space for occupiers of both office buildings.

This is the second phase of a regenerative scheme to transform the site.

Phase one saw a £30m development which included 80,000 sq ft of office space for Admiral with the capacity to

accommodate 1,200 staff on flexible shift work patterns, as well as 28,000 sq ft of retail and leisure space including shops and a gym, parking for 290 cars and the new public plaza.

As well as the new Admiral House building, the construction of Newport's new retail and leisure scheme Friars Walk shows that there's an appetite for development of
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