

PRESS CUTTING SERVICE

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An artist's impression of the £100m resort planned for the Irvine Valley.

A vision for the Valley

A £100 MILLION resort proposed for East Ayrshire could bring more than 400 jobs and thousands of tourists to the Irvine Valley area.

A site at Galston is earmarked for development of a four-star hotel, holiday

by **Bill Davitt**

and visitor complex called Allseasons at the Meadows.

It will be Scotland's first environmentally-led tourist destination, which could include wind turbines and solar panels to provide electrical power.

Local landowners Jennifer and Andrew Malcolm are the driving force behind the ambitious project, which has its roots in 'green' tourism.

The scheme's centrepiece is a 25-acre manmade loch which is nearing completion.

The first development phase involves a waterfront hotel, restaurant and 100 lochside holiday lodges.

Opening is scheduled in 2009 to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the birth of poet Robert Burns and the Open golf championship at Turnberry.

Details of the Allseasons masterplan have been submitted to East Ayrshire Council for approval.

Phase two of the project features a harbour with moorings, boardwalk, bistro, retail outlets, garden centre and wildlife viewing areas.

A key element in creating the resort is winning council approval that will enable the building of new housing — which will include affordable homes — on 50 acres of the resort site.

The homes would allow resort employees to walk to work and their children to walk to school.

The Malcolms envision the creation of a luxurious inland tourist destination offering a restful and tranquil environment that

will attract local, national and international visitors.

In 2005, Allseasons at the Meadows won a top business vision award from Scotland's environment protection agency.

Wetland and grassland areas will surround the resort, which has been designed to blend in and balance with the beauty and ecology of the area.

Andrew told the **Extra** this week: "It has taken 10 years of consistent effort and immense hard work to bring the project to the final stages for planning approval.

"East Ayrshire has tremendous potential in its people, products and locations, but the pace of development needs to be stimulated much more.

"There are a number of like-minded business people who want to do more.

"Many people have asked why we have chosen Galston for a £100 million project?

"My reply to them is always: Why not?"

The Malcolms and their dedicated support team started working on the project in 1996, submitting their original draft plans in 2000.

"The loch centrepiece is nearing completion and we are almost ready to start building, subject to council planning approval," added Andrew.

