# Former Dundee pub set to become luxury gym with sauna and whiskey barrel plunge tubs



A former Dundee pub is on the verge of a significant transformation into a modern gym, featuring an array of luxurious amenities aimed at health enthusiasts. Plans have been submitted to Dundee City Council to convert the Dungeon Urban Bar on Princes Street into a state-of-the-art facility, which is expected to include an eight-person sauna, a hot tub, and unique whiskey barrel cold plunge tubs. Additionally, an outdoor shower area is part of the ambitious design, aiming to enhance the user experience.

The application, lodged under the name Mark Smith, reflects a growing trend in Dundee where former pubs are being repurposed to meet the evolving needs of the community. In recent months, similar projects have emerged, including the conversion of the former Airlie Arms pub into a convenience store, highlighting a shift in how urban spaces are utilised. The Stobswell pub, once popular with football fans for its proximity to Tannadice and Dens Park, closed last year, further reflecting the changing landscape of local businesses.

The trend of converting former pubs into fitness and retail spaces is not isolated to Dundee. Across Scotland, there is a notable movement towards repurposing such venues to cater to contemporary demands. For instance, Dundee City Council is currently considering another application, this time for the historic Michelin Athletic Club building, which aims to become a high-quality gym. This site, dating back to 1898 and classified as a Category C listed structure, has held significant communal value and will aim to serve both local residents and patrons of the nearby Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Meanwhile, a more expansive gym development in Dundee has faced scrutiny yet received approval despite concerns from planning officials about its potential impact on local trade. This £5 million gym project, set to be built in the Stack Leisure Park area, is projected to create 96 new jobs, further underscoring the potential employment benefits associated with the fitness sector. It’s a clear indication that there is both a demand for fitness facilities and a readiness from investors to respond to this growing interest.

Another initiative worth noting is the plan to convert a home décor store into a low-cost gym, operated by JD Sports. This venture is expected to create at least 30 full-time jobs, including roles for personal trainers and managerial staff. Such projects are vital as they reflect both economic opportunity and a community-centric approach to public health and fitness.

As Dundee embraces these shifts, it is not alone in its venture into new fitness landscapes. Nearby, a former social club in Kirkcaldy is also set for a transformation into a gym, indicating a broader regional trend of utilising vacated spaces for health and well-being purposes.

Moreover, the rise of innovative fitness concepts, such as Scotland’s first 24/7 private exercise pod by TinyGyms, reflects a significant diversification in the fitness service offerings across the country. With ample backing from the Scottish EDGE awards, this initiative positions Dundee at the forefront of fitness innovation.

The transformation of the Dungeon Urban Bar is emblematic of wider changes within Dundee and other cities, signalling a dynamic response to community needs and lifestyle changes, all while breathing new life into former pub spaces that hold historical significance in the urban fabric.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1, 3, 4
2. Paragraph 2, 3
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 5
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/5241433/former-dundee-pub-gym-transformation/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/4775007/bid-to-transform-former-michelin-athletic-club-building-into-high-quality-gym/> - An application has been submitted to Dundee City Council to convert the former Michelin Athletic Club building into a modern, high-quality gym facility. The proposed gym would offer a range of fitness equipment, including cardio and weight lifting facilities, and aims to serve as an addition to the nearby Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc. The building, dating back to 1898, is a Category C listed structure and has historically been a communal asset to the surrounding community.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-33147760> - Development of a £5 million gym and sportswear outlet in a former Dundee nightclub has been approved, despite opposition from planning bosses. The development, located in the Stack Leisure Park in the Lochee area, is expected to create 96 new jobs. Planning officials had expressed concerns that the move could harm trade elsewhere in the city, but the development management committee chose to approve the plans.
* <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/dundee/1563610/plans-to-transform-dundee-harry-corry-into-new-low-cost-gym-recommended-for-approval/> - Plans to convert a home décor store in Dundee into a low-cost gym have been recommended for approval. The proposal would see Harry Corry Interiors in Kingsway East Retail Park transformed into a health and fitness club operated by JD Sports. The gym would likely feature a running track, cardio areas, free weights areas, boxing area, studios, ladies gym, spin facilities, burn and tone gym activities, and changing rooms. A minimum of 30 full-time jobs would be created, including managerial staff, personal and fitness trainers, and cleaning/security staff.
* <https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/politics/council/former-kirkcaldy-social-club-set-to-become-a-gym-4993275> - A former social club in Kirkcaldy, which has been empty for several years, is set to be turned into a gym. A planning application has been lodged with Fife Council to transform the Lang Toun’s Railway Club into a gym. The applicant, Gary Paterson of Paterson and Dewar Holdings Ltd, aims to relocate the family-run Arena Gym from its current location to the former Railway Club building. The proposed gym would have a maximum membership of 250 and accommodate 30 people at a time.
* <https://www.dundeeculture.com/post/dundee-will-be-home-to-scotlands-first-24-7-private-exercise-pod> - Dundee is set to become the first city in Scotland to host a 24/7 private exercise pod, thanks to fitness startup TinyGyms. This innovative launch will take place later this year, marking a significant milestone in the fitness industry in Scotland. TinyGyms secured funding for this project as one of the thirty-five businesses awarded a share of the £1.5 million prize at the prestigious Scottish EDGE awards in Edinburgh.
* <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/moray/1009964/new-gym-boost-for-buckie/> - A disused building in the centre of Buckie, Moray, has been transformed into a state-of-the-art gym. Local entrepreneur Shawn Milne completed a £400,000 project to convert the abandoned property into the Motion Fitness gym. The facility now employs 15 full and part-time staff and is expected to provide a health and jobs boost for the port town. The gym features more than 65 machines, including equipment suitable for a range of interests and abilities, as well as weightlifting equipment.