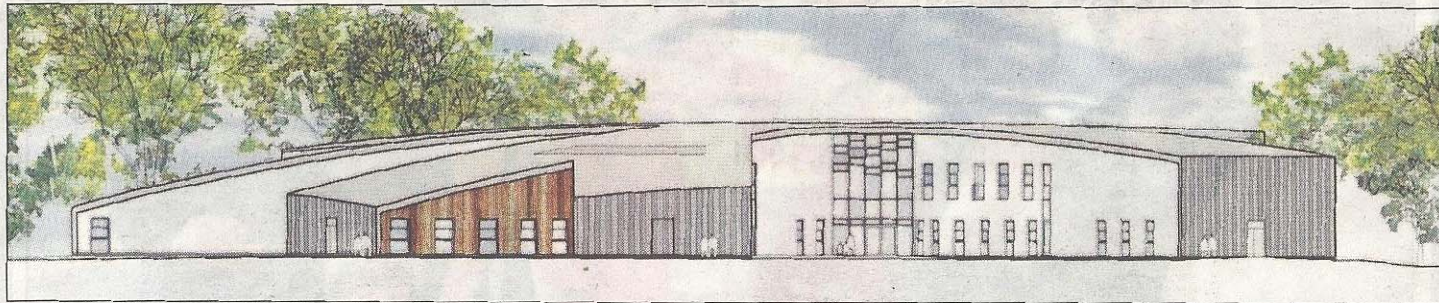


Medical centre vision



STUNNING images of what the new Alexandria Health Centre will look like have been revealed.

It came in the same week formal plans were submitted to West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) for the building of the new £20m health centre within the grounds of the Vale of Leven Hospital.

An application was made for the erection of the facility with associated access road and parking on land to the south east of the hospital.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC), which is applying for planning permission, says the development will be part of the continuing provision of NHS services from the Vale site.

It will include accommodation for the four General Practices currently located in the existing centre, health visitors and district nurses, a full range of services including physiotherapy and podiatry.

The centre will also provide the opportunity for the co-location of some social work services consistent with the objectives of the new West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership.

A spokesperson for GGC said: "The Centre is intended to be a place that is

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welcoming, reassuring and revitalising for its patients and their carers; its staff; and visitors from the wider community.

"Its aim will be to effectively and imaginatively meet the current and developing needs and expectations of the local population."

It is intended the new facility will complement the range of acute and specialist services that are set out in the Board's Vision for the Vale of Leven Hospital which was approved in February 2009.

Developer, Laing O'Rourke, is the principal supply chain partner for the multi-million pound development and is involved in the design of the building.

The spokesperson added: "NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership continue to develop plans

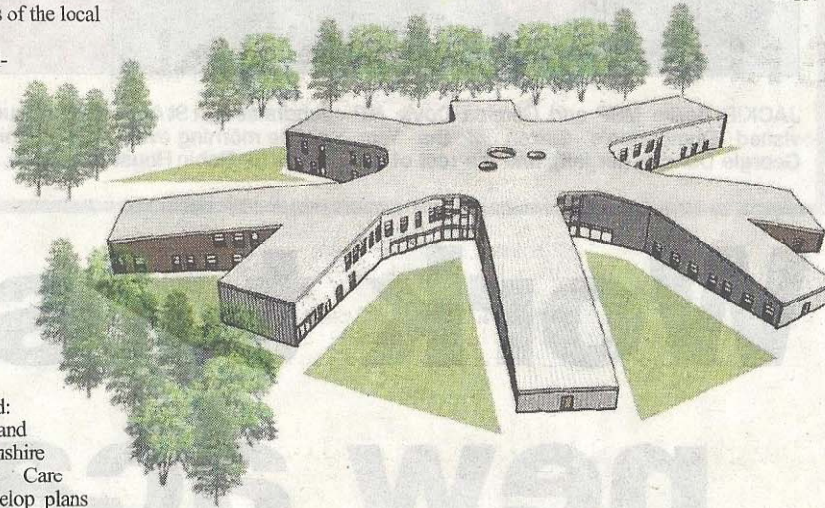
for a new Alexandria Health and Care Centre.

"The submission of a detailed planning application is the next major milestone and if approved, a full business case will be submitted for approval by the Scottish Government Health Department."

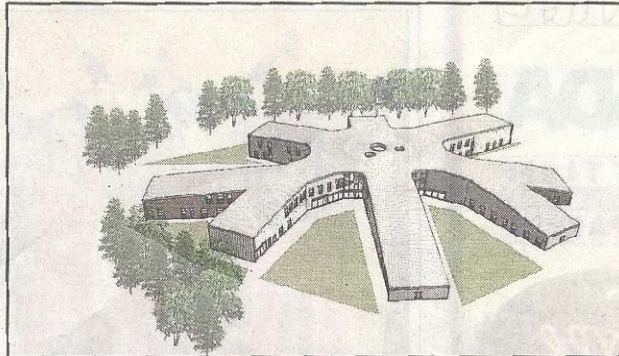
It is expected work

will begin before the end of the calendar year and under the proposed time scale £4m would be spent on the centre this year with a further £16m being invested over the course of the 20-month build.

If all goes according to plan the facility could be ready to open its doors to the public by early 2013.



New medical centre plans are unveiled



VISION: A first look at Alexandria's new medical centre which could open in 2013.

THIS is a first glimpse of Alexandria's new state-of-the-art medical centre.

The plans were unveiled as bosses at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde submitted a full planning application for the long-awaited facility – which is set to be constructed in the grounds of the Vale of Leven Hospital – as well as associated access roads and parking facilities.

The striking arachnid shaped building will provide space for GP practices currently located in the Bank Street clinic, as well as community mental health services, podiatry and physiotherapy, and community nursing including health visitors and district nurses.

The designs for the modern timber and metal clad centre by Glasgow-based architects Archi-al show space for treatment and consulting room, clinics, surgeries, waiting areas, baby change and baby feeding facilities and a public education room.

Residents have had their say

on the proposals at public consultation events.

Developer Laing O'Rourke is the health board's principal supply chain partner for the multi-million pound development.

Cash for the project was released by the Scottish Government in April and work could begin by the end of the year and is expected to take 20 months to complete, with the new facility opening its doors in 2013.

A health board spokeswoman said: "NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership continue to develop plans for a new Alexandria Health and Care Centre.

"The submission of a detailed planning application is the next major milestone and, if approved, a full business case will be submitted for approval by the Scottish Government health department."



RUTHER BOY COMPETITION