

July 2026

# COMMUNITY UPDATE: THE PALACE THEATRE & GRAND HALL

## Project Update

McLaughlin & Harvey is the main contractor delivering the refurbishment of The Palace Theatre & Grand Hall on behalf of East Ayrshire Council and ayrshire360.

Delivered through the SCAPE Scotland framework, the project includes the construction of a new front extension to the existing Palace Theatre. This will incorporate a new café and bar, reception area, ticket office and improved level access to both venues.

Extensive refurbishment works are also being carried out internally and externally across both buildings. These improvements include upgraded back-of-house facilities and stage areas, enhanced public spaces and energy-efficient upgrades to the existing heating and electrical systems.

Strip-out works are progressing well, with walls, ceilings, flooring and M&E services currently being removed. Within the youth theatre, plaster and flooring have been removed in preparation

of further structural alterations.

The tower crane has now arrived on site and will support the offloading, vertical distribution and installation of materials, including steelwork, concrete and precast panels.

A Considerate Constructors Scheme audit was recently undertaken, with the project achieving a score of 43/45. Registration with the scheme demonstrates our commitment to supporting the local community, protecting the environment and valuing our workforce.

Works to the fly tower roof have also progressed, with the roof removed and sections of wall demolition completed. Steel erection works to the fly tower are now complete, while the clock faces have been removed from the Albert Tower and taken away to be refurbished.

The next major milestone for the project will be the reslating of the roofs which will commence towards the end of this month.



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## Social Value Update

McLaughlin & Harvey have participated in several community-focused initiatives aimed to support local residents and promote opportunities within the construction industry.

In partnership with The Salvation Army and WG13, the team took part in a "Talk to the Trades" engagement event. The initiative highlighted career pathways within construction, including apprenticeships, traineeships and graduate opportunities, while helping to challenge misconceptions about the industry.

The team also supported a community event designed to reduce social isolation and bring residents together. Activities included bingo, karaoke and dancing, alongside refreshments provided by WG13.

In addition, the project team volunteered with CVO East Ayrshire to support local foodbank donation drives, helping to raise awareness and collect essential supplies for people in need. Contributions also included a monetary donation and a microwave to East Ayrshire Foodbank.

