

Competition could give town a new lease of life

By Roy Beers

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THE science behind steel galvanising might not sound too exciting, but it could give some dilapidated Barrhead building a colourful new lease of life.

Local people are being urged to join a nationwide contest to find Scotland's public structures most deserving of a makeover.

Leading Scottish galvanising company, Highland Galvanizers & Colour Coaters, wants Barrhead residents to nominate public structures they would like to see brightened up, free of charge.

It could be outdoor play equipment which has seen better days, a weary piece of street furniture, a civic installation or a piece of public art.

In fact anything involving steelwork which would benefit from a splash of colour or which needs protected from Scotland's harsh weather will be considered.

Highland has launched the competition at a time when council budgets are under serious pressure and many repair and upgrade projects have been put on the back burner.

The contest aims to provide councils with the opportunity to see a public structure they may not have otherwise had the resources to maintain given some much-needed TLC.

Highland says Galvanising has been proven to give steelwork a brighter, lighter and longer life-span, requiring less long-term maintenance work.

The firm's director, Paul McCafferty, said: "We're really excited about launching this competition and believe local communities across Scotland will wholeheartedly embrace it.

"Local authorities throughout the country are looking at the ways in which they

can continue to improve and regenerate public areas.

"However, the economic climate means they have to think that bit more creatively, which is why we believe our competition will be a hit."

Highland will be joined with an expert panel of judges which include leading steelwork artist, Andy Scott — famous for his giant steel public art structures of motifs such as horses' heads.

Anyone with a bright idea for a dog-eared steel structure in Barrhead can put forward their suggestion on the Brighten Scotland website at www.brightenscotland.co.uk by the closing date of November 30.