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Group wants better sailing facilities A COMMUNITY company has been formed with the blessing of the local council to press the case for improved facilities for small vessels in the Oban area.

Oban Bay Marine, with the backing of Argyll and Bute Council, is now seeking funding from a range of organisations to install pontoon access at Dungallan Park, where it is hoped fuel and water facilities will be available with access for disabled people. Steering group chairman John Anderson says the initial scale of the development will be modest but it is hopeful of a larger project which will help tap into the lucrative marine leisure industry, which is worth £250million to the Scottish economy.

He says funding will be a critical factor but it is felt that a community-based company, with profits being reinvested in the development, will be an attractive option for a range of potential funding bodies. "This is the same model as has been used by the very successful Tobermory Bay Association, which has been very supportive of the plans for the Oban area," he said.

The venture has been welcomed by owners of leisure, charter and fishing vessels, along with local and national organisations. Local canoeists, seeking improved facilities, say Oban and surrounding waters are considered a top-rank area.