



News Release

September 2017

CUPAR CARS & THI UPDATE

Cupar's historic town centre is currently undergoing a transformation thanks to the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and Townscape Heritage Initiative (Cupar CARS/THI). This is a five year scheme running from 2014 to 2019 that aims to help regenerate the conservation area in Cupar. Managed by Fife Historic Buildings Trust on behalf of Fife Council, the programme of improvements is receiving £1.5 million pounds funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The main project is the Burgh Chambers, which holds an important place in the history of the town and is one of Cupar's most recognisable town centre landmarks. The building has been empty for many years and is on the Buildings at Risk Register. Fife Historic Buildings Trust is managing the conversion of the building into a holiday let apartment and the works are now well underway by the contractor, John Smart & Son (Kirkcaldy) Ltd. The historic fabric is being carefully repaired in line with best conservation practice and the interior is being sympathetically adapted for the new use while retaining as much of the historic fabric and character as possible. The proposals from ARC Architects for the interior are very exciting – this will be a luxurious apartment combining historic features and modern, high quality facilities.

The Burgh Chambers will be transformed from an empty building with no life in it into one with that will attract new visitors to Cupar and benefit the local community. While the works are on site there have been a number of hard hat tours for the local community to see the historic features being uncovered and how the building has been altered over its 200 year history.

Fife Historic Buildings Trust is involved in a range of further projects in Cupar through the Cupar CARS/THI, including a building repair grant scheme where

property owners in the centre of the Cupar conservation area can apply for grants towards sensitive repairs to their buildings using traditional materials and skills.

Fiona Stenke, FHBT Project Officer, said: “The Lighthouse Café on the Bonnygate is a great example of how repairs can transform a building - here the damaging, non-breathable masonry paint and cement pointing were carefully removed and replaced with a traditional lime mortar, along with small areas of new stone and repairs to the rainwater goods. New café signs and shop doors to match those shown in old photographs provide the finishing touch.”

Other Cupar projects include a stone and slate survey carried out by the Scottish Lime Centre Trust along with mini building surveys of the majority of the buildings in the town centre, and traditional skills training for homeowners, contractors and specifiers. You can find out more on the FHBT website at <https://fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/project/cupar/>

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Note to editors

- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, it invests in every part of our diverse heritage. To date it has invested over £588million in Scotland’s heritage.
- HLF’s Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) encourages partnerships of local organisations to carry out repairs and other works to a number of historic buildings, structures or spaces. Grants range from £500,000 to £2m. To date, HLF has invested over £214m regenerating towns that have suffered serious social and economic decline.
- Historic Environment Scotland’s Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) provides financial assistance, over a five year period, for Conservation Area based regeneration and conservation initiatives undertaken by Local and National Park Authorities, community groups and other 3rd sector organisations experienced in delivering multi-funded projects. Since 2005, there have been six CARS application rounds awarding £33m of Scottish Government investment.

Further information

- Heritage Lottery Fund: Website www.hlf.org.uk Twitter: @heritagelottery
- Fife Historic Buildings Trust: Website fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk



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