



# *News Release*

May 2019

## **A 'STITCH IN TIME' FOR CUPAR TOWN CENTRE**



Fife Council will be carrying out a maintenance visit to some buildings in the Cupar town centre as part of a 'Stitch in Time' exercise generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and Townscape Heritage Initiative (Cupar CARS/THI). This will complement the recent £7million improvements to the town centre such as the redevelopment of the Burgh Chambers and part of the County Buildings, the building repair grant scheme for private owners, and the works to Steele's Close and Speedie's Close.

There have been many improvements to the town centre in recent years, however a street level survey carried out by Fife Council of the front facades and roofs of buildings in the area

has shown there continues to be extensive minor disrepair, and in some instances, significant disrepair affecting buildings.

Alan Brown, Contracts/Maintenance Supervisor at Fife Council, said: “The lack of investment in maintaining town centre properties gives cause for concern as the continuing deterioration of the front facades create a risk to public safety. It is in this context that Fife Council will carry out a maintenance visit to some of the accessible buildings on St Catherine Street, Bonnygate and Crossgate. We will use cherry-picker vehicles to carry out basic roof maintenance to the front facades including cleaning out gutters and downpipes and removing vegetation growth from roofs, chimneys and stonework. Advance notice will be given to the targeted properties.”

Fiona Stenke, Project Officer at Fife Historic Buildings Trust, said: “We are delighted that funding has been made available through the Cupar CARS/THI scheme for this one-off initiative. However, it is important that property owners are aware that they are responsible for the repair and maintenance of their buildings. In flatted properties, owners also have a legal duty to maintain the common parts of the building. Some really useful information on repair, maintenance and owner responsibilities can be found at [www.underoneroof.scot](http://www.underoneroof.scot) (impartial advice on repairs and maintenance for flat owners) and [www.engineshed.scot/building-advice](http://www.engineshed.scot/building-advice) (guidance for owners of traditional buildings)”

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#### *Notes to editors*

- Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is operated by Fife Council and Fife Historic Buildings Trust, and core funded jointly by Historic Environment Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme, which runs until March 2019, has delivered a number of elements: priority building projects including the Cupar Burgh Chambers, a building repair grant scheme, public realm improvements to Cupar streets and closes, and training, apprenticeships and community engagement. [www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk](http://www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk)
- 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. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk); [@heritagelottery](https://twitter.com/heritagelottery)
- 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 eight CARS application rounds awarding over £45m of Scottish Government investment.

