



News Release

September 2015

DO YOU LIVE IN AN OLD BUILDING? IS YOUR OLD HOUSE WARM ENOUGH?

Older properties are often thought to be draughty and more expensive to heat, but this does not need to be the case. Find out more about improving your energy efficiency by coming along to the Cupar CARS/THI Energy Awareness open day on Friday 2nd October from 12 to 7pm at the County Buildings, Cupar.

Gregor Stewart, the CARS Energy Officer said: "The energy efficiency of traditionally built properties can be improved, while maintaining their character. Just reinstating your windows and shutters can reduce heat loss by up to 50% and insulating the shutters could add an additional 10%, the equivalent to modern double glazing.

"I will be at the open day to answer your questions and provide information about how to reduce your heating costs. For homeowners living within Cupar's Conservation Area I can also arrange for either myself or a local energy champion to visit your home to carry out a free assessment of your property and identify any problem areas."

Fife Council is working with Fife Historic Buildings Trust and local groups to invest in Cupar's historic properties and streets to support the town's future and heritage. Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Town Heritage Initiative (THI) are funded by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. A 5 year project is currently underway to invest in Cupar's historic buildings, investing around £7 million in the area over the project period.

Cllr John Wincott, Fife Council's Sustainability Champion, said: "This project benefits the environment as well as the health and comfort of the building residents. From a sustainability perspective, working on the fabric of the buildings to improve their thermal efficiency is one of the best ways forward. Older buildings tend to be harder to work with in this respect, but this initiative overcomes a number of the main challenges and will provide benefits for years to come. This excellent initiative will reduce the energy consumption of the building, reduce the heating bills, and reduce carbon emissions."

Adapting older properties to make them more cost effective while preserving their character enables the heritage and future of the buildings to be maintained.

Other events are being organised by the CARS/THI project, including presentations from Historic Scotland about how to reduce heating costs in older buildings and demonstrations from the Scottish Lime Centre on basic repairs. Those interested can register their interest at the open day.

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Did you know?

- 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 Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and Fife Council. The five-year CARS/THI programme, which runs until March 2019, will deliver a number of elements: priority building projects, a building repair grant scheme, public realm improvements to Cupar streets and closes, and training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- 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 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.

