



News Release

March 2017

CUPAR'S BUILDING REPAIR GRANT SCHEME MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Expressions of interest are now invited for the next round of the building repair grant scheme in Cupar town centre, with a closing date of 28 April 2017. Grants are available for historic buildings within a designated area at the heart of the Cupar Conservation Area, which includes St Catherine Street and part of Bonnygate and Crossgate. All property

owners and tenants with full repairing leases can apply for grants towards sensitive repairs to historic buildings using traditional materials and skills.

To date, grants totalling £260,000 have been awarded, resulting in an investment of over £500,000 for Cupar's built heritage and providing opportunities for local contractors and professionals.

Work carried out at the first building repair grant project to be completed in Cupar is typical of the type of repairs that can be funded. Mr Hair, owner of a historic C-listed property in the centre of the Cupar conservation area, successfully secured a grant towards stone repairs. Inappropriate cement mortar, which was causing damage to the soft stonework, was replaced with traditional lime mortar. The gable was rendered with a lime render which will protect the stonework while allowing the building fabric to 'breathe'. Two Cupar-based companies were involved in the works – Arc Architects Ltd were the professional advisors and the contractor was R. Mason Contracts Ltd.

Mr Hair explained: "Receiving the building repair grant means that the works have been completed to a much higher standard than would have otherwise been the case without the grant".

David Grove, Lead Officer Town Centre Development, Fife Council said: "It's wonderful to see a number of historic buildings in Cupar brought back into a good state of repair – old buildings need regular care and attention, and this grant scheme is designed to help property owners and occupiers to repair and conserve the historic fabric and traditional appearance of their buildings. The council is keen for others in the grant-eligible area to take advantage of the funding to carry out repairs to their own properties. I would encourage property owners to get in touch with Fife Historic Buildings Trust, who are managing the scheme on behalf of Fife Council, for advice and support."

Fiona Stenke, Project Officer at Fife Historic Buildings Trust, said: "There has been a strong interest in the grant scheme so far and we expect that many more projects will come forward in the next month. Funding is limited though so please do get in touch with me as soon as possible to discuss your ideas. "



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The Cupar Building Repair Grant Scheme is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Cupar Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme. To find out more please contact Fife Historic Buildings Trust on (01592) 890060 or email

fiona@fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk.

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Note 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, 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 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 www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk

Contact: Fife Council communications team (01592) 583312