



News Release

April 2019

INVERKEITHING CELEBRATES MAJOR HERITAGE FUNDING AWARD



Inverkeithing is celebrating a grant award of £1,007,700 from Historic Environment Scotland for essential repairs and improvements to its historic streetscape and buildings. This was announced by HES today.

The heritage funding, which is distributed through the HES Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) was confirmed by HES following an application made by Fife Council last November.

This will kick start a five-year programme of improvement and investment in the town, starting in April.

A complimentary bid was submitted last month to the National Lottery Heritage Fund Townscape Heritage programme (TH). If this is also successful, when combined with this CARS award, Fife Council money and other funding contributions, a regeneration package of over £3 million will be available.

The CARS and TH will be run together and be managed by Fife Historic Buildings Trust in partnership with Fife Council. The heritage funding supports local authorities committed to investing in their historic environments, as an important way to help stimulate economic regeneration.

Councillor Alice McGarry, Area Convenor for the South and West Fife Area Committee said: “This is very good news for Inverkeithing and its regeneration. It reflects the positive and constructive input taken onboard from local people and groups in Inverkeithing whilst the application was developed. It also represents a major step forward in starting to realise local people’s vision for the town as expressed in the Imagine Inverkeithing Community Masterplan developed last year. People wish to see new investment, jobs, and diversifying the local economy, whilst protecting and enhancing our built and natural heritage.

The CARS TH funding will enable repair & redevelopment of the Town House as a community use hub; major streetscape uplift in the High street and the Market Square; and a grant scheme for repairs to other historic buildings in the town centre. There will also be a wide range of training & education courses and activities for the whole community, designed to improve heritage skills and knowledge for both adults and children.”

Councillor Altany Craik, Convener – Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning & Transportation Committee said: “Like many towns today, Inverkeithing has to contend with a range of negative market forces, like changing shopping habits, and as an historic centre, needs investment to tackle dilapidation associated with an ageing building stock. To have a sustainable future the town needs to evolve and improve its offer to attract both locals and visitors. The town’s heritage and history is underplayed, but given its location on the Fife Coastal Path and Pilgrims Way, proximity to the Forth Bridges and Edinburgh, and its major transport links, Inverkeithing has the potential for step change through heritage led regeneration, and this funding can enable that to happen.”



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Notes to editors

- Historic Environment Scotland's Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) programme can offer grant of up to £2 million to support cohesive heritage-focused community and economic growth projects within Conservation Areas across Scotland.
- HES expect CARS to deliver a combination of larger building repair projects, small third-party grant schemes providing funding for repairs to properties in private ownership, activities which promote community engagement with the local heritage and training for professionals in traditional building skills, all of which will contribute to sustainable economic and community development within the Conservation Area.
- The CARS funding programme has been in operation since 2007 with over £40m awarded to date.
- Applications for Round 8 were accepted up to 15 November 2018. Applicants were notified funding decisions in March 2019.
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the National Lottery Heritage Fund 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.
- The National Lottery Townscape Heritage (TH) 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.
- Following a submission in December 2017, initial development funding of up to £50,500 was awarded to Fife Council by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (then Heritage lottery Fund) in August 2018 to help progress its plans for repairs and improvements to Inverkeithing's historic streetscape and buildings. A more detailed proposal was then submitted in March 2019 in order to apply for a full National Lottery grant of up to £1.2 million.
- Fife Council, in collaboration with Fife Historic Buildings Trust is seeking to secure this funding to operate a CARS/TH programme in Inverkeithing, that will deliver a number of elements, including priority building projects, a building repair grant scheme, and public realm improvements, and training, apprenticeships and community engagement.
- If both CARS and TH bids are successful, this would be combined with Fife Council money and other funding contributions, to deliver a five-year heritage-led regeneration programme in Inverkeithing, starting in 2019.

Further information:

- Fife Historic Buildings Trust: www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk

