



News Release

25 June 2019

INVERKEITHING CELEBRATES ANOTHER MAJOR HERITAGE FUNDING AWARD

Inverkeithing is now celebrating a grant award of £1,255,900 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for essential repairs and improvements to its historic streetscape and buildings.

The Townscape Heritage (TH) funding, which can be allocated thanks to National Lottery players, was confirmed by the Scotland Committee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund today.

The good news means that a regeneration package of over £3 million is now available for a five-year programme of heritage themed improvement & investment in the town, 2019-2024.

This National Lottery award will now be combined with the grant made in April to Inverkeithing of £1,007,700 from the Historic Environment Scotland Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS), along with Fife Council money and other funding contributions.

Councillor Alice McGarry, Area Convenor for the South and West Fife Area Committee said: “This is more 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 applications were 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 wished to see new investment, jobs, and diversifying the local economy, whilst protecting and enhancing our built and natural heritage.

“The National Lottery and CARS 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.”

This latest award to Inverkeithing by the National Lottery Scotland Committee is one of the first Scottish projects to secure major funding support under a newly devolved decision-making process, which puts 80% of money distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund into the hands of local decision-makers with local expertise.

Commenting on the awards, Riona McMorrough, Acting Head of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “Making more decisions on funding in Scotland means we can focus on the heritage that really matters to people, creating jobs, bringing economic prosperity and improving people’s lives right across the country.

“The awards we’ve made today not only demonstrate how incredibly diverse our heritage is, they celebrate the thousands of volunteers who commit their time to making sure our country’s past is kept safe for future generations.”

The Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration project will be managed by Fife Historic Buildings Trust (FHBT) in partnership with Fife Council.

Lorraine Bell, Manager of Fife Historic Buildings Trust, said: “So many people have been instrumental in the planning process for this magnificent level of funding. FHBT will build on its recent experience of delivering the award winning Cupar CARS project to bring some of Inverkeithing’s most historic buildings back to life in partnership with the local community and Fife Council. We are absolutely thrilled for Inverkeithing, and we can’t wait to get started.”

The rules for National Lottery and CARS Heritage funding means that it is largely restricted to use within the Conservation Area of Inverkeithing Town Centre. Last week, Fife Council’s Policy & Coordination Committee decided how to use the £4.335m allocated to Fife from the Scottish Government’s Town Centre Capital Fund. Up to £170,000 from that programme was allocated towards Inverkeithing’s Heritage regeneration, to increase the impact of the CARS TH funding package, by supporting streetscape improvement works in front of the Civic Centre, beyond the Conservation Area southern boundary.

For more information visit <http://www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk/inverkeithing>

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Notes to editors:

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund is the largest dedicated funder of heritage in the UK, believing that understanding, valuing and sharing our heritage brings people together, inspires pride in communities and boosts investment in local economies.

- 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.
- National Lottery grants range from £3,000 to £5million and over, funding projects that sustain and transform the UK's heritage.
- Inverkeithing Heritage regeneration: Following a submission to National Lottery by Fife Council 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 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 £1.255 million.
- 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 of funding decisions in March 2019.
- Fife Council, in collaboration with Fife Historic Buildings Trust, will now 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.

- The CARS and TH funding will 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 Council: www.fifedirect.org.uk
- Fife Historic Buildings Trust: Website www.fifehistoricbuildings.org.uk

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