

CUPAR DEVELOPMENT TRUST

NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2016

A Good New Year to Everyone

At the inception public meeting held back in September and through the October Newsletter we described the ambition of the Cupar Development Trust to be active in promoting the regeneration of Cupar's Town Centre. We were much encouraged by the support expressed by many for the new venture.

In the period since, we have been pursued the steps necessary to secure the Trust as an active community organisation and become incorporated legal entity. Both were essential to provide for community-led regeneration.

An active community organisation

The Trust made application to the Scottish Government's Mainstreaming Charrettes Programme in early September. The Scottish Government had invited local authorities and community bodies to submit proposals for holding town centre charrettes (read this as being intensive local initiatives providing for 'hands on' community engagement). The Programme required a focus on town centre issues and design solutions.

We spoke with Fife Council and finding strong encouragement prepared a proposal for funding a community engagement project for Cupar. We invited PAS, a charity with expertise in delivering such initiatives, to work with us and together we made applications for grant support to Scottish Government, Awards for All and to Fife Council.

We have been successful in securing funding and Cupar's town centre charrette will be up and running over January to May. We will engage with our schools, will gather views on the issues affecting the town centre, and in March we will undertake a set of place-design workshops exploring what solutions might look like. Already a community-based charrette steering group is meeting. An action plan arising from the project will be ready for adoption in May.

In parallel we also have had a feasibility study carried out assessing the redevelopment of a key derelict town centre site. The conclusions of that study will be considered over coming weeks. It will provide a key test case of how in a small town context public-private regeneration projects can be taken forward.

A strongly supported effective and incorporated legal entity

We had intended that the Trust would be incorporated as a charity and over past months we liaised with OSCR (the charity regulators in Scotland) aiming to become a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). However, and because the Trust intends to engage in public-private town centre regeneration projects (where private owners can realise financial gains in property value), then such projects are at present non-charitable.

We turned instead to the 'tried and tested' legal form of the Company Limited by Guarantee. We received excellent advice from the Development Trusts Association Scotland and from Fife Voluntary Action. With their guidance we framed a set of Company Articles which will enable the Trust to function as a community-led body and to pursue appropriate objects.

Going Forward

Cupar Development Trust became a registered incorporated body (SC522831) in late December. We are now in a position to attract members and to appoint Directors. We are now recruiting people who support our objectives and especially want to give their time and knowledge to further the Trust's potential.

Cupar's Town Centre Charrette will be vigorously promoted in coming weeks. It will be the subject of specific publicity. Everyone is very welcome to become involved and make their contribution.

For Further Information please contact:

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Please help us build the membership of Cupar Development Trust.

The Trust operates by the efforts of unpaid volunteers. We have secured grants to cover the costs of our projects. Our running costs are met by donations. The Trust does not set a membership subscription but welcomes donations.

Donations should be made payable to Cupar Development Trust, 59 Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife KY15 4BY

RDK 11.01.2016