

CUPAR DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Newsletter: October 2015

A Development Trust for Cupar

The Scottish Government is promoting a Town Centres approach. Funding is being made available to support regeneration initiatives promoted by community bodies. The incentives are intended to encourage communities in doing things which might not otherwise be achieved.

Cupar already benefits from the activities of local organisations and local businesses whose activities contribute to the social well-being and the physical fabric of the community. The CARS/THI Programme is carrying through a significant conservation of Cupar's key historic buildings and streets.

The decision to form the Cupar Development Trust was taken to build upon these strengths. The Trust aims to take advantage of the policies and funding favouring town centre regeneration. To accomplish this the Trust must build a wide and involved membership and to work in local partnership with other local organisations, local businesses and with Fife Council.

The Trust is in the early stages of framing the most appropriate organisational form and seeking approval for charitable status. Initially there are five Trustees and in due course this number will be increased.

We are confident that there will be a wide interest in becoming members and participating in the work of the Trust. Forms are now available inviting people who are interested to apply. Memberships will be confirmed once the legal and procedural process of Trust registration is completed.

The Role of a Town Development Trust

"Community-led regeneration is about local people identifying for themselves the issues and the opportunities in their areas, deciding what to do about them and being responsible for delivering economic, social and environmental action that will make a difference." (Development Trusts Association Scotland)

There are over 230 local development trusts across Scotland. The number is growing. Evidence of on-the-ground achievement confirms that town development trusts can unlock the potential within their communities and progress a wide range of projects meeting local priorities. The Development Trusts Association Scotland (www.dtas.org.uk) is the network organisation for Scottish trusts. Its advisers are providing us with a valuable resource of experience and guidance.

Local people, local groups and local businesses are key elements of a vibrant community. Helping communities identify the issues and opportunities lies at the core of all development trust activity. Harnessing the energy, creativity and commitment resident within the community is increasingly important for tackling local issues. The Development Trust will promote such discussion and involvement early in 2016. There will be more about this in a forthcoming newsletter.

For further information please contact:

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Please help us build the membership of Cupar Development Trust by passing on an application for membership to individuals who you think will be interested in the aims and activities of the Trust.