

TRUST NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

I am very pleased to advise you of the successful result to our application to Fife LEADER.

Cupar Development Trust is recruiting two members of staff. This is the result of our application to Fife LEADER, the rural development programme for North East Fife. Cupar's organisations had backed the application with letters of support. Without doubt this made a huge impact with the LEADER decision-makers.

What's the purpose of this?

Remember that the Cupar Town Charrette in 2016 identified the importance of making Cupar visible positioning the town as a 21st century market town, resilient in both social and economic terms. Cupar required to undertake bold initiatives.

Making more of Cupar's character and heritage was an obvious opportunity. With a grant from the Scottish Government in 2017 we commissioned the preparation of the Cupar Town Interpretive Plan. Well-received, the Plan identified the measures required for the Cupar community to promote its heritage as a means to improving both the local economy and its attractions as a place to live. The measures required being progressed as a coordinated set of community projects, and essential to each would be the involvement of volunteers.

The measures identified in the Plan included town history projects, the organising of community events, and using social media to make Cupar visible beyond Fife. We knew that having potential projects was not in itself sufficient, we recognised that we would need to have core staff to recruit and support the volunteer teams undertaking the new projects.

What will the staff be doing?

We made application to Fife LEADER, the rural development programme, for the funding of the costs of employing two staff - a community projects coordinator and an administration and finance officer. Their primary job is to match the tasks of the projects with the right people. The staff will provide the projects with management support ensuring that the time volunteers put into project activities makes the most effective use of their skills and interests.

Cupar Development Trust has been awarded a grant of £40,000 by Fife LEADER. The Fife LEADER grant is matched by the provision of grants, totalling £10,000 from Fife Council. These grants will provide for employing the staff until December 2019 and also covers office and related costs. The process of recruiting the staff has started. We are looking for applications from suitably experienced individuals who want to play key parts in making the project succeed.

In parallel to the application to Fife LEADER applications have been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and to the National Lottery Awards for All for grants for the costs of delivering two community projects - 'Classic Cupar 1' and a 'Festival for Special Families'. The projects have been awarded

grants of £10,000 and £8,500 respectively. A further project 'Classic Cupar 2' is the subject of a current application for £10,000. Recruiting volunteers will make the delivery of these three community projects possible. We will be promoting the opportunities to volunteer and to be actively engaged in the projects in early 2019.

The Cupar Town Centre Interpretive Plan, the application to Fife LEADER and the three community projects are the outcomes of a partnership of Cupar organisations sharing the vision of revitalising the town and building volunteer capacity to undertake community-led projects. A working group drawn from Cupar Heritage, Cupar Community Council, ABCD Cupar's business association, Cupar & North Fife Local Tourist Association, Fife Cultural Trust and the Development Trust meets on a regular basis. We have continued our link with the expert services of heritage consultants CMC Associates.

The new staff and the grants received for the community projects provide the Cupar community with a real opportunity to bring good ideas to life. We can look forward to a lot happening in Cupar in 2019!

A closing word, the work of the Development Trust depends upon a small core of volunteers who give of their time, their experience and their know-how to make it possible to realise opportunities which otherwise might be lost. We will welcome hearing from individuals who are willing to put some time and effort into the community projects identified in this letter. Contact David Kirk (email: cupardevtrust@gmail.com)

David Kirk

Chairman, Cupar Development Trust



Cupar Development Trust Ltd is a voluntary organisation registered as a company limited by guarantee (SC522831) to promote local initiatives which secure long-term social, economic and environmental benefits for the Cupar community. The Trust explores and takes forward projects in creative partnerships involving community groups, the public sector and the private sector.