



Summer Newsletter, July 2017

We have a plan!

CMC Associates have now delivered their Interpretive Plan for Cupar, and I urge you all to go to our website at

<http://www.cupardevtrust.org.uk/webs/440/documents/Cupar%20Interpretive%20Plan%202005.06.2017.pdf> and read it.

Of course it begins by detailing all that has gone before, and all Cupar's many assets, but then it goes on to list several headings under which exciting developments might take place. The Plan identifies that there is a need in Cupar for:

- Improved signage to help orientate people around the town
- A standardised approach to the planning and design of signage
- A replacement of the town's orientation panels, to reflect the town's brand and ensure a consistency of approach
- A refresh and/or replacement of the town's blue plaques
- Update the birds-eye heritage map
- Develop digital tour media including Apps
- Update web presence – including Google Maps and Sat Navs.

BUT - this is only the beginning. All of these schemes will need collaborative effort by interested groups - it can't be a case of sitting back and waiting for 'them' to do something - we are all in this together if we want to make Cupar a destination in its own right.

These projects have the potential to increase tourist footfall, revitalise the town centre, bring groups together and celebrate Cupar's heritage

We might promote them through Facebook and other social media, introduce new

signage, interpretation panels, etc and make street/place improvements.

This scale of change will take time, commitment and support from many sectors.

There is a new Grant scheme from the Heritage Lottery Fund - the Great Place Scheme, which we think is a great fit for taking these projects forward - but it needs collaboration and input from all parts of the community. All Lottery Fund Grants require strong evidence of community collaboration, and this one more than most. However if our bid is successful it could provide funding for a developmental post for three years to coordinate the community groups and really make these ideas a reality. We just need evidence of interest and involvement. So - read the Plan, get excited, get involved.

What do you think? Can you get behind one (or many) of the ideas in the Interpretive Plan?

Do you have neighbours, friends or relatives who are long-standing residents of Cupar or its rural hinterland who might have interesting tales to tell? Then get involved in an Oral history project!

Do you have old photographs of Cupar and district, or any expertise in scanning/digitising old documents and pictures? Maybe you can help in creating 'Digital Cupar'.

Any experience of literary festivals? Maybe you'd like to get involved in organising one in Cupar in 2022 to celebrate the 225th Anniversary of David Lindsay's *The Thrie Estaitis*?

There are many threads in this Plan which might lead to a way in which you or your community group can contribute to bringing these ideas to fruition. We urge you to read it in a positive and 'can do' spirit and overwhelm us with constructive suggestions and offers of support. If you can persuade some of your friends to join Cupar Development Trust as well, that would be a bonus!

Jennie Hughes
Membership Secretary
Cupar Development Trust
2nd July 2017