

**KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME -
STEERING GROUP - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

CARS PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Priority Projects

Glengate Hall

Works are continuing to progress at the Glengate Hall. Externally, roofing works have been largely completed. Re-pointing works have been completed at scaffolding level with just the lower level to be completed once the scaffolding is removed. Works to the window openings are expected to commence shortly and discussions have taken place between the contractors, Project Officer and Planning Officer on the design of the replacement windows and the use of appropriate historical techniques for grant purposes. Grant eligible works are expected to be completed on time by the end of this financial year. Interim grant payments totalling £140,202 have been paid to date for eligible works amounting to £164,944 in respect of professional fees and completed building works. Further invoices totalling £17,950 have been submitted for payment and are currently being processed.

1 - 3 Roods

Planning and listed building consent applications for alterations to the building to form a retail unit at ground level and a maisonette dwelling at first floor and attic level were submitted to Angus Council on 27th January 2014.

The proposed works include a new timber shopfront on the corner with Roods and Ogilvy's Close, replacement of the existing doors and windows in a traditional style, small dormer windows in the roof space (not grant eligible) and extensive stone repairs and rendering to the three external elevations. The applications are due to be determined by 25th March 2014 after which it is expected the grant application will be submitted.

Warehouse/ Store, Ogilvy's Close

No further progress to date on any prospective works.

Former Airlie Arms, St. Malcolm's Wynd

No progress to date on any prospective works and the building remains vacant. Council Officers have recently inspected the building to assess its condition. As per the previous report, there has been no formal enquiry or interest stated in progressing any grant funded works.

Small Grants Scheme

Grant aided works at the Jeweller's Workshop in Bank Street are due to commence within the next few weeks. Whilst there remains a considerable amount of interest in the Small Grants Scheme by the owners of properties within the Conservation Area, many have intimated that they are having difficulty obtaining quotes from contractors, both local and further afield, for the grant eligible works and this has inevitably delayed further applications being submitted. The Project Officer intends to further discussions with local contractors with a view to highlighting the benefits of CARS for enhancing traditional building skills and furthering employment opportunities in the near future.

Two further Grant applications have recently been received and form the next Agenda item.

Public Realm Works

Since the concept design for the enhancement of The Square was presented to the January meeting of the Steering Group, there has been ongoing discussion with Transport over the design of the proposed Bus Shelter and this has unfortunately delayed the start of the public consultation exercise. It is anticipated that details will now be made available to the public during the week commencing 3 March subject to any further consideration by the Steering Group for a period of six weeks. As agreed previously, this will include a presentation to Kirriemuir Community Council.

Other Matters

The web pages dedicated to Kirriemuir CARS are now available on the Council's website. This includes details of the priority projects, the small grant scheme, information in the grant application pack and membership of and dates for the Steering Group meetings. It will also be used to highlight progress on current grant projects as well as forthcoming training days and education awareness events. The use of social media is to be investigated and discussions have taken place with the Council's Communications Officer so that the webpage can be linked in to the Council News on twitter, facebook etc.

The first event planned under the heading of Education and Awareness is due to take place later today (25th February) in the adjoining Hall. The proposed workshop "Swifts and Bats in Kirriemuir Conservation Area" aims to raise awareness of these key species in buildings and how to safeguard them. We are fortunate to have two leading experts in the subject of swift and bat conservation to run the workshop and it is hoped that there will be a good turnout from property owners, contractors, Architects/ Agents and developers.

The Project Officer has also met with Historic Scotland to discuss potential training opportunities funded through CARS. This could be gauged at various levels to provide learning activities for schools, practical training days to upskill local contractors and professionals in traditional building methodology, as well as lower level training aimed at homeowners or community groups dealing with simple repairs to traditional buildings etc. The Project Officer will be working with Historic Scotland and local Contractors to establish any skills gap and details of proposed training opportunities will be presented to the Steering Group in due course. Again, these will be publicised through the CARS website, press releases and social media.