

AGENDA ITEM NO 5

KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME -

STEERING GROUP - 16 DECEMBER 2014

CARS PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Priority Projects

Glengate Hall

As Members may be aware, the Glengate Hall priority project was the overall winner in the Town Centre Regeneration category of the SURF Awards (Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network) for Best Practice and Innovation in Community Regeneration, supported by the Scottish Government. Lorna Redford of Redford Homes Ltd. picked up the Award at the recent ceremony in Glasgow.

The project was also winner of the Best Use of Media Award at the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership's Scottish Champion of the Year Award announced at their Conference in Glasgow at the end of November.

Angus Council is currently preparing a press release to publicise both awards.

Lorna Redford passes on her thanks for all the support she has received and for our confidence in putting the project forward.

1 - 3 Roods

Our Legal Services department are awaiting the signed grant documents being returned from the Applicants Solicitors. They have raised some concern over the ownership of the building in relation to their Title Deeds which their Solicitors are currently dealing with. This may ultimately impact on their ability to reclaim the VAT associated with the grant eligible works and may request their CARS grant award to be reassessed accordingly. Notwithstanding this, the commencement of external works on site will likely be delayed due to the festive lights attached to the front elevation of the building. The Project Officer will keep members updated should there be any requirement to amend the CARS grant award.

Warehouse/ Store, Ogilvy's Close

As reported at the last meeting, an offer has been accepted for the building and missives are currently being concluded. The building is expected to change hands this month after which it is expected that the new owners will pursue any proposed new use and the grant monies allocated. The Project Officer will be liaising with the Planning Officer in terms of any planning application submitted in order to maximise the grant monies available through CARS.

Former Airlie Arms, St. Malcolm's Wynd

It is understood that the new owners (The Firm of the Airlie Arms Hotel) are now about to appoint their Conservation accredited Architect to progress tenders for repair works to the building and their CARS grant application.

The Project Officer will be involved in discussions with the appointed Architect and the owners over the grant eligible works and the requirement to make best use of the grant monies allocated (£102,000). It is understood the premises will operate again fairly soon on a phased basis as a hotel/ restaurant use, with no major alterations to the building proposed.

Small Grants Scheme

Two new Grant applications have been submitted for consideration at this meeting and will form the next Agenda item.

As mentioned previously, letters and publicity leaflets to highlight the revised boundary in the Small Grants Scheme and the additional properties that could benefit from grant funding have now been sent out in the post to the respective properties.

There has been renewed interest in the grant scheme with regular enquiries and site meetings taking place. Another grant application for small grant has also been submitted and is currently being assessed by the Council's Quantity Surveyors.

Public Realm Works

Since our last meeting, the Landscape Services Officer has now met with the art teachers at Websters High School who are very interested in getting their students involved and also working with Bruce Walker. He is now waiting to hear back from them as to how this might be progressed.

Other Matters

There are no other matters arising.