

Annan Townscape Heritage Initiative

Introduction

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway are jointly funding a restoration project in Annan as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative – Annan THI.

A sum of £890,000 is available to help with the restoration and repair of selected buildings in the town centre and the improvement of some of the public spaces over the life of the scheme.

Solway Heritage, who co-ordinated the bid to the HLF on behalf of the Council, are managing the project with help from the Council.



What are the aims of the THI?

The overall aim of the Annan THI is to secure a viable economic future for Annan town centre by investing in the built heritage and so helping to preserve and enhance the historic character and make Annan an even better place to live in and to visit.

The character of the town is shaped by the quality and diversity of its older buildings. In recent years changes in the local economy have led to low levels of investment and too many of the buildings falling into varying levels of disrepair and being underused.

By offering grants the project aims to restore confidence and strengthen Annan's position as a commercially viable centre, reduce the amount of under-used or empty buildings and provide an attractive physical environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

What is covered by the THI?

The Annan THI covers buildings within the conservation area fronting the High Street from the Bridge to the Parish Church. Buildings within this area have been ranked into 3 groups. Priority A, Priority B and priority C. Initially grants will be directed to Priority A and B buildings. Full details are available from Solway Heritage.

What grants are available?

Over the 3 years of the life of the project, grants will be available for major investment in up to 4 significant landmark buildings. Secondly there is a general grants scheme to assist with repairs to a number of other important buildings.

Heritage Lottery Fund



This may include restoration of certain traditional shop fronts. Finally assistance will be given to works to improve key areas of public open spaces.

Due to the limited availability of funds it will not be possible to offer grants to all buildings in the THI area.

What are the planning implications?

The town centre is now an outstanding conservation area. It is important that building works and restoration of older buildings are sympathetic to the special character and appearance of the area.

The Council has prepared a Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Guidance. These booklets give detailed guidance on the standards and approach that should be adopted when working in the conservation area.

Special planning controls apply within the conservation area. Please contact the Planning Officer, Kenny Green, at the Council Offices, Dryfe Road, Lockerbie (Tel. 01576 205023) to determine what consents may be required before you apply for a grant.

Who is running the project?

The Council is the lead body and has engaged Solway Heritage to manage the project. A Steering Group, comprising representatives from the main partners, oversees the project.

The current composition of the Annan THI Steering Group is:

For Dumfries and Galloway Council:

Councillor Richard Brodie; Councillor Ian Carruthers; Councillor Sean Marshall; and Councillor Ronald Ogilvie.

For Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway:

Ross McWhirter

For Annan Initiative:

Sharon Ledger and Alan Thomson

For Annan Community Council:

John Bonner and Frank McGowan

In addition the following officers attend:

Sue Bennett – Service Manager Environmental Planning; Volkmar Nix - Conservation Officer; George MacQuarrie – Project Manager – Solway Heritage; and Michael Leybourne – THI Project Officer

Where do I get more Information?

The Council Offices; High Street, Annan, 01461 203311

Solway Heritage, - Tel. 01387 247543

Volkmar Nix - Conservation Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Newall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LW – Tel. 01387 260189

Please contact Catriona Fitzsimon at Solway Heritage if you would like to arrange a meeting on site or in the Council Offices in Annan.

This Project is supported by:
The Heritage Lottery Fund Dumfries and Galloway Council
Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway