



FACT



Newsletter - Spring 2024

Making the Forres Area a better place to live, work and visit.

Welcome to our new Quarterly Newsletter!

As many of you will have seen, building work has started on **Forres Town Hall** and it is surrounded by scaffolding. **FACT** was awarded **£300,000** of Grant Funding in March 2023 by the **UK Government's Community Ownership Fund** and we are using this to complete **Phase 1** of the the **Town Hall Redevelopment Project**.

This **Phase** will make the building more energy efficient and help reduce our heating bills which is good news for **FACT** and the environment!



FACT Staff have worked hard to secure **£250,000** of additional funding to match the **Capital Building Costs for the Project**.

This extra match funding has included Grants from:

Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) - Green Grant Fund

Moray Local Action Group Fund

Scottish Community Landfill Fund

Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund which was delivered by **Money for Moray and tsIMORAY**



We would also like to thank **AJ Engineering and Construction** for storing all these rolls of insulation for **FREE** for over 10 months while we raised the funds to complete **Phase 1**.

Phase 1 has enabled us to start work on making the roof space completely wind and watertight so that the new roof insulation that was bought in 2023 can be fully installed.

The remaining **£50,000** from the **Community Ownership Fund** Grant is being used for Professional Fees, **FACT** Staff costs to support the delivery of **Phase 1** and other additional operational costs incurred while the works are being carried out.

Forres Town Hall Redevelopment - progress so far:

Thanks to previous **Grants** from **Funders** we have been able to carry out vital **Surveys** to clarify the current state of the building. This has included Grants from: **Berry Burn Community Fund, Development Trusts Association Scotland** (Green Shoots Fund) and the **Architectural Heritage Fund**



The Surveys have been an essential aspect of the **Redevelopment Project** and has meant that we could go out to tender for **Phase 1 of the Project**. We are pleased to announce that the **LTM Group - Laing Traditional Masonry Ltd**, were awarded the contract and will be **working on the roof and completing remedial work on the dry rot in the FACT Office**.

We anticipate that this work, along with the **fitting of the insulation**, will be completed by the end of March 2024.

Representatives of all the Funders who have contributed to the **Forres Town Hall Redevelopment Project** were invited to have a Hard Hat Tour up on the scaffolding around the building to see how the funds are being spent during **Phase 1**.

As the UK Government allocate the **Community Ownership Fund** and the Scottish Government allocate the **Just Transition Fund** both the **MP and MSP for Moray** were invited and so were included in this historic photo opportunity.

They are joined by representatives from **Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Money for Moray**, the **Berry Burn Community Fund** and **Development Trusts Association Scotland**.

The Site Manager from **LTM** as well as the **FACT** Chair of the Board showed them the work that is being carried out and discussed the future aims of the **Redevelopment Project**.



Forres Town Hall is run by **FACT** on behalf of the local Community.

FACT Members get regular Newsletters and also information about the Courses, Workshops and the support that we provide for the local Community.

A lot of the activities are free thanks to Grants that we apply for to fund our work.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information, then please encourage them to sign up as a **FACT Member** on our website: www.forresarea.org

The History of **FACT** and Forres Town Hall

FACT took over the running of **Forres Town Hall** in 2018 after Moray Council closed the building in 2017 due to budget cuts. In 2021, **FACT** bought the building via a Community Asset Transfer thanks to a **Grant** from the **Scottish Land Fund** so the building could remain a focal point for the community in the Forres Area.

Since then we have developed a number of strategies to raise funds for the **Forres Town Hall Redevelopment Project**.

As we were not successful in our 2022/23 Application for £3 million to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, we have decided to complete the Project in phases instead.

We are thrilled to have started Phase 1 of the Redevelopment Project.



The **current estimate for the total Project is now £5 million** to make the building **fully accessible** to all members of our community and to **reduce the running costs**.

This in turn, will help **FACT** keep hire charges for rooms and halls as low as possible.

There are **many more Bookings** since 2017 and lots of people have told us that they are thrilled that the Town Hall is such a busy place now!

We are grateful that so many **Funders** have **recognised our ambition** to redevelop **Forres Town Hall** and have awarded us **Grants**.

FACT are in the process of setting up a **Crowdfunding** page to **raise further funds** to help pay for the ongoing **Forres Town Hall Redevelopment Costs**. Anything that you can donate would be **HUGELY APPRECIATED**.

Keep an eye out for more information on our social media pages and our website!



Forres Town Hall is **YOUR Town Hall** and **FACT** need help to keep the **Redevelopment Project** going.

Dates for your Diary for Spring 2024

Digital Drop-in Sessions in Forres Town Hall including a Browsing Station

Every Tuesday and Thursday: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

FREE Digital Advice - pop in to the North Room and get IT support or FREE access to the internet in a warm space



Dungeons & Dragons Table Top Games

Saturday: February 10th & 24th + March 9th & 23rd
In the North Room at 2.30pm | Minimum Age: 18 years
Laptops, dice, paper & refreshments provided.

FREE Gentle Seated Exercise & Drumming Class with Jane

Every Tuesday: 10.30am - 12 noon including a cuppa & a chat.



Cameron Project Classes - supported by tsiMORAY

For details of the Courses and Workshops -
please see our Activities Brochures



Booking is essential for all activities More details at: www.forresarea.org

To book, please email: Activities@forresarea.org or phone 01309 674388

Forres Family Hub - FREE on Mondays: 3.30 - 5.30pm

FACT is working with **St. John's Church** to provide support for families

Family Social Club: **Monday 4th & 11th March** in Forres Town Hall

After School Supper Club: **Monday 11th & 25th March**
at St. Leonard's Church Hall, behind the Church

FREE Activities and snacks or supper for families to enjoy together

Coffee Mornings - Saturdays: 10.00am - 12 noon



March 2nd - Forres Bowling Club

March 9th - in aid of Pilmuir Primary School

March 16th - in aid of the Forres Golf Club

March 23rd - in aid of Uganda Aid

March 30th - in aid of the Forres OAP Association

April 6th - in aid of the Royal British Legion - Forres Branch



Pop Up Pantry in the Lesser Hall

Saturday 2nd, 16th & 30th March: 10.00am - 12 noon

Friday 8th & 22nd March: 2.00pm - 3.30pm

