

PERTH CIVIC TRUST

Perth Civic Trust Forward Plan for 2024

Introduction

This Plan builds upon our previous Forward Plan for 2023.

1. Meetings of the committee

We intend to continue with our monthly meetings - 10 per annum with one break in winter and one in summer.

2. Events

In addition to two public meetings we intend to hold our Annual General Meeting and also an innovative open meeting when we invite kindred organisations and members of the public along to it as well as our Civic Trust members. An informal evening meeting where members and others are invited to bring along a photograph of the built environment of Perth City that is important to them has now been arranged for June 5th between 6.30 and 8.30pm at Willows in St John's Place. Some members will give a very brief presentation on their choice of photograph or picture and submitted pictures will be shown on screens within the venue. Generally it would be an opportunity for folk to meet socially and discuss why their picture/photograph was important to them.

It is intended also to hold one other event during the year. Potential subjects are the Railways in Perth, Regeneration of Perth City Centre, joint meetings with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and/or Scottish Civic Trust and other Historic Societies. A provisional date of late August has been set for a talk on Transport in Perth.

3. Partnership working

We set out our stall last year to participate in partnership working with a variety of organisations including:

- Perth & Kinross Council
- Culture PKC
- Perth Society of Natural Science
- Royal Scottish Geographical Society
- Glover Incorporation
- Guildry Incorporation
- Friends of P & K Archive
- Thomson Charitable Trust

We have in effect invited a variety of different members from organisations to our meetings and we want to continue and enhance this in the future.

4. Projects

1) The Blue Plaque Scheme. Extremely valuable work has been undertaken by Roben Antoniewicz during 2023 to develop our Blue Plaques proposals and our first batch of Blue Plaques is now ready to go to the Council seeking planning consent once the potentially more complex task of gaining permission of building owners to having the Blue Plaque fixed to their property. This process has commenced and we look forward to positive outcomes.

2) Historic Map. In conjunction with Perth Society of Natural Science and the Historic Towns Trust this mapping work is led by John Jessop and we look forward to the publication of the map in the spring/summer of 2024, with a provisional launch date of 11 May 2024 having now been set. Once work on the map is concluded detailed work on an Atlas will be continued.

5. Website

Our Website has been upgraded thanks to the skilled and enthusiastic work undertaken by Mike Bell. The Website is widely available for reference by members of the public and the upgrades will allow the easier development of self-guided themed walks based on the existing plaques recorded there.

6. Annual Report

We will produce an Annual Report of our work which would be widely distributed within Perth City and further afield.

7. Guided Walks

In addition to the self-guided walks being developed on the website, it is proposed to hold one or two guided walks in the spring/summer of 2024. If these are successful we would consider developing a more detailed programme of walks throughout the year.

8. Architectural Design Competition

Consideration needs to be given as to whether we promote an architectural design competition previously held on an annual basis, with improved/renovated buildings one year and new builds the following year.

9. Planning

We intend to continue our work in monitoring Planning Applications in Perth City and particularly within conservation areas. Our secretary, Ian Cameron, works very hard to keep us appraised of what proposals are made.

10. Membership/Involvement of the public

Through the series of enhanced meetings and maintaining a higher profile within the City we intend to increase our membership and involve more members of the public in our activities and aspirations. This will be done by the measures outlined above.

11. St John's Kirk

We continue to work closely with St John's Kirk in its efforts to promote its building and to gain advantage from the opening of Perth Museum in the spring of 2024.

12. Improvement within the City

One final proposal, which would have fairly major implications in terms of workload, would be to have a programme of housekeeping, maintenance and enhancement of areas within the City that are crying out for redevelopment, renovation or improvement. Such areas would include the former Co-operative shop in Scott Street and the former White Horse Inn in North William Street. Some progress has been made in 2023 with the renovation of St Andrew's Church in Atholl Street also the demolition of the Clachan Bar in North Methven Street. We strongly support the work of the Council in pushing

ahead with such projects. We would seek to involve our members in audits of City areas to identify and monitor problem areas and opportunities.

Following a recent walk round we have now compiled a report on vacant sites and buildings to enable focussed discussions with Planning on how we might assist in improving the appearance of the City.

Willie Wilson 30/12/23 updated March 2024.