



PERTH
CIVIC TRUST

Promoting the built heritage of Perth since 1967

www.perthcivictrust.org.uk

Perth Civic Trust Forward Plan for 2026



Turning the Corner - Perth's corner buildings, past and present, 14th May 2026

Registered Charity Number SC001531

Introduction

This is the fourth Forward Plan of Perth Civic Trust and builds upon previous years' plans. During the last four years the Civic Trust has established a pattern of public meetings and events that have helped raise awareness of the built and civic heritage of Perth. This plan outlines our thoughts, ideas and proposals for 2026.

New dates for your diary

The following events, for members and the general public are planned for this year:



12th April - Walk, Perth in Jacobean times.



14th May - AGM and "Turning the corner" a talk on Perth's corner buildings past and present.

17th May- Walk, Perth in Georgian times.



26th August - Photographic Evening at Willows.



10th September - Perth during the Great War. An illustrated talk by Dr Michael Taylor.

September - Possible Three Bridges walk along both banks of the Tay between Smeaton's Bridge and the Railway Bridge and points in between

Partnership working

We intend to continue developing partnership working with the following local organisations.

Perth & Kinross Council, Culture PK, Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences, Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Glover's Incorporation, Guildry Incorporation, Friends of P&K Archive, Thomson Charitable Trust.

Perth Civic Trust works in partnership with The Friends of Perth & Kinross Archives and the Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences to deliver the annual Rhoda Fothergill Memorial Lecture. Details of the 2026 Lecture to follow.

Members of the Trust's Committee have worked in partnership with Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences and the Historic Town's Trust in the delivery of "An Historical Map of Perth" and continue to work on articles that may develop into an Atlas at a later date.

Committee Members have benefitted, along with many other local Charity's, from involvement with the Third Sector Interface (Perth & Kinross) and their series of lectures, funded by The Gannochy Trust on Charity Trustee Training and Accounting guidance and continue to be involved with their Knowledge Network which gives access to peer experiences.

Projects

Blue plaque scheme. This has now seen the delivery of three blue plaques for pioneering photographers David Octavius Hill and Jessie Mann in Watergate, where they were both born and one for Magnus Jackson at 60 Princes Street where he built his Studio and shop.



The Trust have benefitted from publicity arising from articles in both The Perthshire Advertiser and The Courier when submitting Listed Building Applications and when plaques have been erected.

The next phase of plaques we are seeking to provide, celebrate the Perthshire Society of Natural Sciences, their original Museum and a founder member and the Women's Freedom League in the run up to the centenary of the Equal Franchise Act of 1928. Consent from the building's owners is being sought prior to submitting Listed Building Applications.

Website

After a major update last year the website continues to be updated incrementally to reflect our activities. While our social media presence is still modest, it is growing. Our Facebook posts and comments in popular groups, made by our official account, have led to increased visits and comments on the website itself.

All the information the Trust generates along with visual presentations and notes from talks can be accessed on the website along with links to content from other partner providers, PSNS, Friends of P&K Archives, St John's Kirk and so on.

Regular newsletters are sent to members, informing them of our latest plans, advertising upcoming PCT events and giving them priority booking at reduced prices. Thereafter, we seek their feedback to help shape future events.

Annual Report

Perth Civic Trust, along with all other Scottish charities, are required to submit an annual report to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, O.S.C.R. noting activities undertaken, future intentions and annual accounts to demonstrate compliance with the term of our Constitution. Our Report for 2024-25 was submitted by the due date, in December 2025. OSCR noted that we had no induction process for new Trustees. This has been addressed by adopting the Guidance from the Third Sector Interface (P&K) "Training for Charity Trustees" lecture.

Guided Walks

The Trust hosted a very successful walk, led by Sabrina Willekens, on Perth in Medieval Times on 20th July 2025. The walk attracted maximum attendance (20) with mostly visitors and proved very informative on the activities and events of the period and the impact these had on the local people.



Plans for future walks are in preparation. See "New dates for your diary" above.

Planning

We will continue to monitor Planning Applications for Perth, particularly in the Conservation Areas, responding to areas of concern when such applications arise. The majority of recent applications have been relatively minor, but the increasing number of Change of Use application from houses/

flats/ offices to short-term let accommodation is of concern, particularly as we seem to have a shortage of housing for residents, although there seems to be more activity converting offices into residential property as there is reportedly less and less demand for office space.

We will continue to participate in the Planning Users Forum, particularly in the run-up to LDP 3.

There is to be a Conservation Area Review of Perth's two Conservation Areas this year and the Trust will be involved in discussions.

We had our annual meeting with the new Strategic Lead for Planning, Serge Merone and his Officers in October 2025, which was very interesting and informative.

We continue to press the Council for improvements to areas of Perth which badly require rejuvenation. While the demolition of the Clachan bar / Quality Cafe and Whitehorse Hotel sites has opened up opportunities for housing in the city centre, nothing appears to be happening.

The recent fire at Scott Street / South Street and the subsequent demolition of the building now presents another gaping wound in the city centre fabric which needs to be urgently addressed, as does the state of the city centre and its many vacant shops and upper floor properties.

While not in favour of PKC's Leisure proposals for Thimble Row, Glover Street and Bell's Sports Centre, we continue to monitor progress with these widely unpopular proposals which will not be delivered in their entirety until at least 2030.

While we welcome Capability Scotland's integration into the city centre, would they not be better located at Thimble Row, where construction could start sooner.

We have also engaged with the various public "consultations" and await developments arising from PKC's Perth City Development and Design Framework - although we understand the ambitious plans for an integrated transport interchange which was to be funded from the Tay Cities Deal monies are having to be watered down due to Network Rail's unwillingness to address their technical issues for some time, or ever.

Membership and involvement of the public

Our Membership are aging and it is proving very difficult to find new members or members willing to join the Committee. This is unsustainable and if new members and Committee members are not found by the end of the current Committee's tenure in 2028, the Trust will fold.

It is therefore imperative that we do all we can to encourage more, ideally younger, members as we approach our 60th anniversary in 2027.

We would like to engage more with our members and the public, partly through public meetings, lectures and guided walks. But, we would like more feedback from events held and more interaction from members over what aspects of Perth's heritage interests them, to inform future events. A Members' Survey is being considered.

Willie Wilson, Chairman

26 February 2026