

Community Engagement Programme

An important part of the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project is education and awareness raising of the history and heritage of Penicuik. Contact has been made with a number of groups.

Work continues with the Penicuik Historical Society to make their valuable collection more accessible. Sean Watson, the Project Archivist, has been working with their volunteers to scan and digitise the collection.

Due to Covid-19 and Scottish Government guidelines, there has had to be a significant recent difference in approach to education, training and community engagement in the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project.

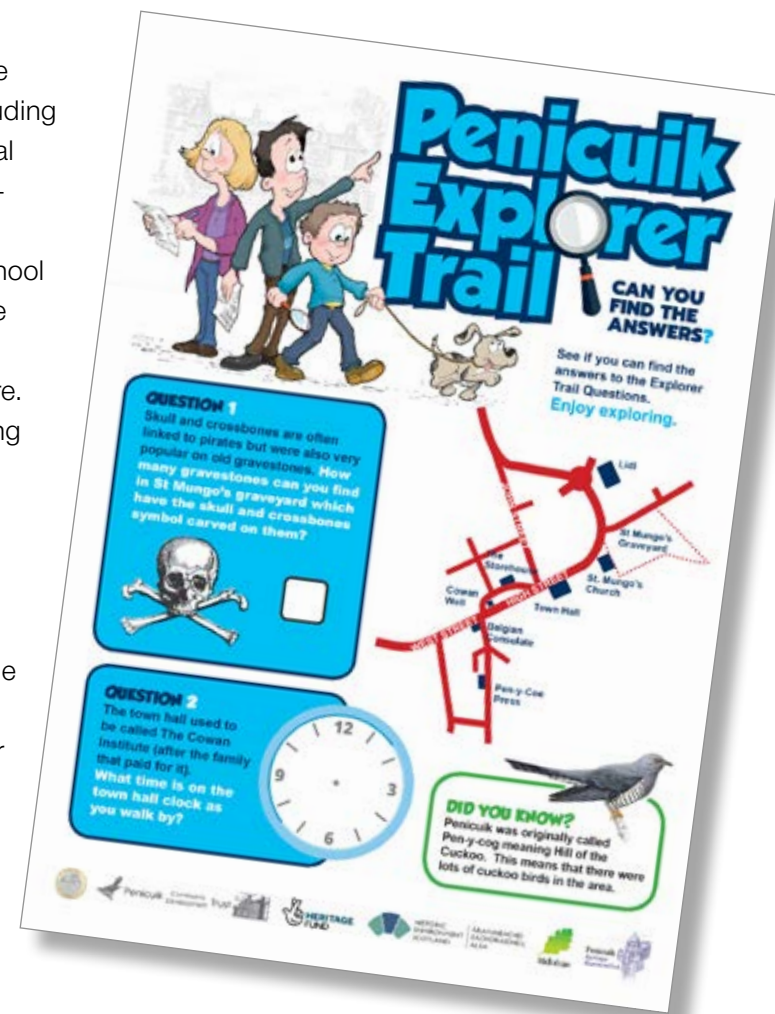
Due to restrictions of movement the focus within the Penicuik community turned to local places and green spaces.

A heritage trail aimed at families was designed and produced relating to the historic Town Centre. This was available from the project's website (www.penicuikheritage.org.uk) and also from two collection points in the Town Centre: – the Pen-y-Coe Press run by the Community Development Trust, and the Storehouse, a Penicuik Alliance initiative. Both are community partners to the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project. The trail has been popular, providing interest for families exploring their local environment, discovering points of interest often overlooked.

The Penicuik Storehouse remained open to serve the community, providing a wide range of groceries including fresh vegetables, fruit, bread and milk. This traditional grocery service, in a building that was the original co-operative store, provided opportunities to produce traditional style advertising chalk boards. Several school 5th year students, volunteering, quickly picked up the creative skill after a quick tutorial and have produced traditional lettering boards, displayed outside the store. This has drawn attention to the heritage of the building and also to how the town centre once met all the shopping needs of the community. An exhibition on the heritage of the building is displayed in the shop window.

The project's attention is on producing online heritage themed teaching materials for schools that can support the blended learning approach proposed for schools' return in August. Hopefully the materials will provide support to teachers and students alike. It is hoped that a programme of working with smaller groups can be delivered for Archaeology Scotland's Heritage Hero Awards.

To capture the story of the time, recordings are being made outdoors with local people sharing their views, thoughts and aspirations for the future community of Penicuik. This will be ongoing to collate information for the local and also national archive.



Traditional Construction Skills Training Plan



The training plan brochure was produced this spring and the first phase of the training with Penicuik High School and Beeslack School were delivered on the 11th and 12th of March at the schools. This involved demonstrations and taster sessions in stone repair, roofing and sign writing.

90 pupils, 45 pupils from each school, attended and feedback both from the pupils and the schools was very positive.

Due to Covid-19 the next phases of the plan, follow up workshops on stone and roof repairs at Edinburgh College and on site stone wall repair and repointing in St Mungo's churchyard, have been postponed. It is hoped that this can be reprogrammed next year when things can return to some degree of normality.

The other part of the training plan has also been postponed due to Covid-19. This was a programme of seminars and workshops for building professionals, home owners, apprentices and others interested in traditional construction skills. The workshops and training was to be delivered by Craig Frew Conservation Ltd. Again it is hoped that this can be reprogrammed for next year.

In the meantime some online training has been delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh Traditional Building Forum.



How do I find out more about the scheme?

For more information about the scheme contact:

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Lasswade Room, Penicuik Town Hall, 33 High Street,
Penicuik, EH26 8HS.

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Penicuik Townscape Heritage (TH) and
Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme
(CARS)

Penicuik
Heritage
Regeneration



NEWSLETTER #3

This newsletter gives a brief update and highlights some of the issues that are affecting the project due to Covid-19. It also invites comments and suggestions as to how we can raise the profile of the project and assist with a greater take up of the building grants.

Grant approved for the Pilkington Buildings



No 22 – 30 Bridge Street

This grant award is for roof repairs and restoration, including chimneys and rain water goods, stone repairs and where required replacement, and also window and door repairs and replacement. The Pilkington Buildings, 22-30 Bridge Street and 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 Park End are high priority projects within the scheme.



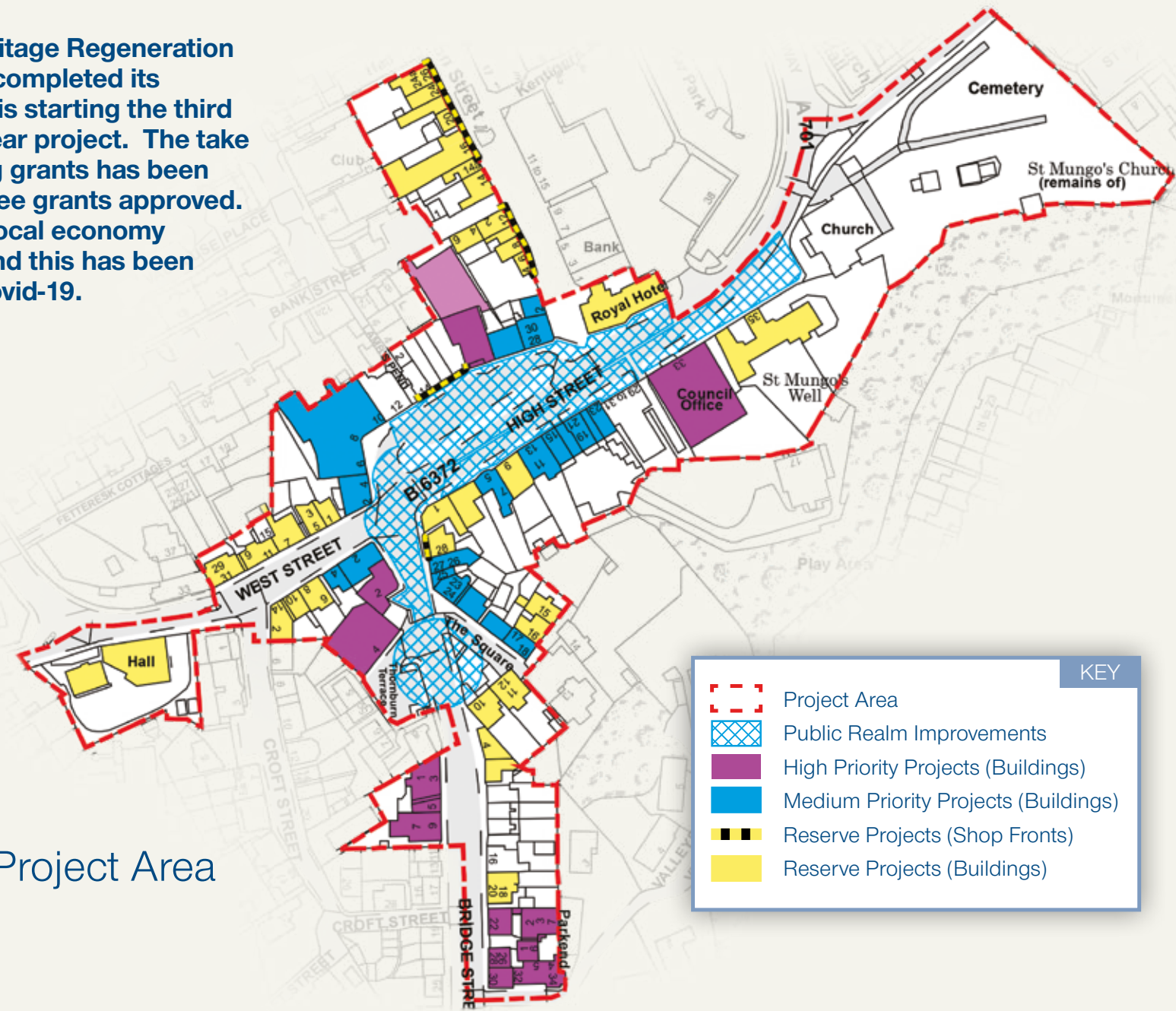
No 10 The Square

Progress on 4-6a Bridge Street (window and door replacement) and No 10 The Square (roof and stone repairs) have been affected by the current Covid-19 crisis but work has now recommenced.



A grant application for stone and roof enhancement and restoration is due for the Town Hall. Other work which is not subject to the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project grant will be carried out at the Town Hall as well. This includes provision of solar panels on the roof, a new combined heat and power boiler and the provision of WIFI throughout the building. This this work is grant aided through the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Fund.

The Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project has now completed its second year and is starting the third year of the five year project. The take up of the building grants has been low, with only three grants approved. The state of the local economy has not helped and this has been aggravated by Covid-19.



The Project Area

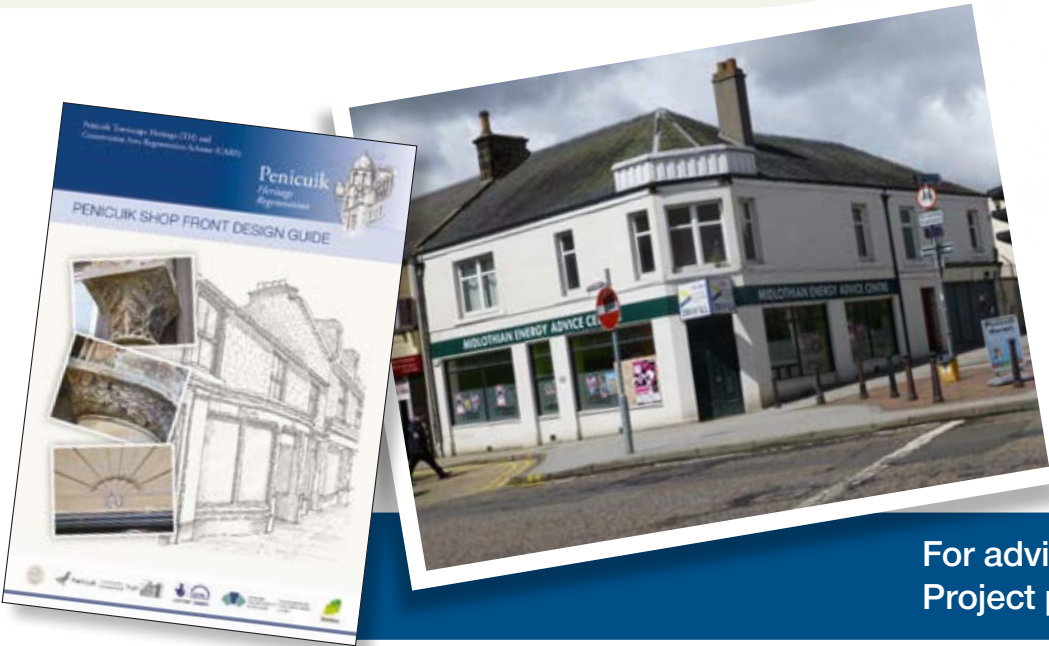
Shop Front Improvement

No shop front grants have yet been awarded through the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project.

Shop front improvements can help to make the town centre more attractive and help encourage people back into the shops in the High Street.

A number of design ideas have been produced for key shop fronts in the High Street. The Penicuik Shop front Design Guide is available as a download on the website - www.penicuikheritage.org.uk

If you own or are a tenant in any of the grant eligible shops/businesses in the project area, we would like to hear from you and to assist you to access the available grant fund for shopfront improvements.



For advice and guidance on the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project please contact Rod Lugg (contact details above).

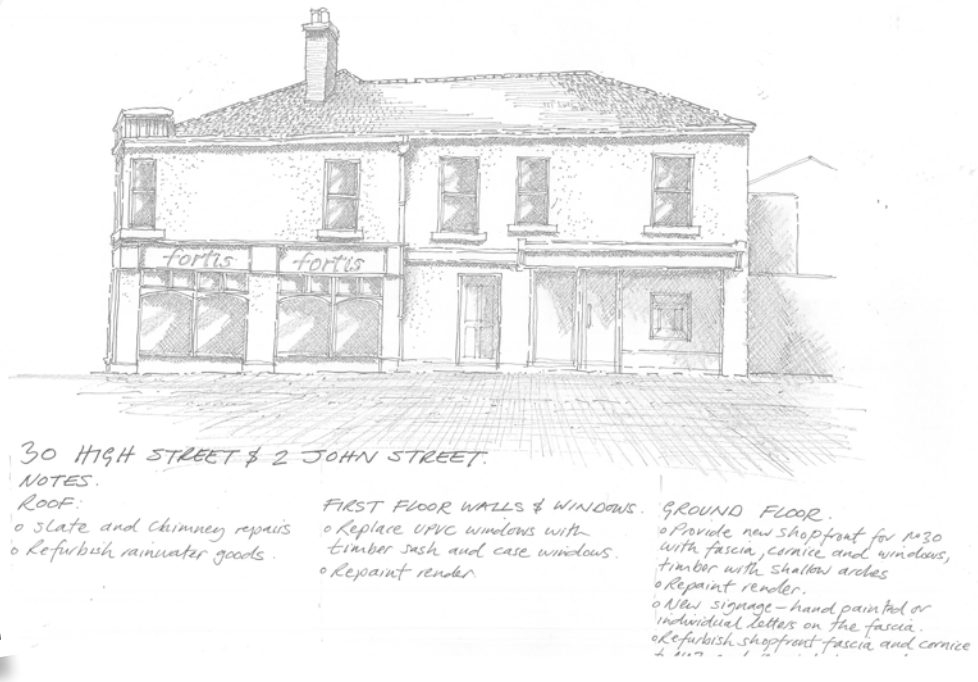
Year 3. Detailed Scheme Plan and Action Plan

As we are now entering year three of the Project, the Action Plan needs to be updated in the light of the experience of the last two years and of Covid-19 in recent months..

We would like to hear from you with comments and suggestions as to how we could improve the performance of the project and encourage more grant take up by completing the short questionnaire here or fill in our survey monkey online at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5RGY6RK>.

Please feedback comments to:
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Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project
Penicuik Town Hall
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Mob: 07545 557356 Tel: 01968 664041

For details of how to apply for grant aid and obtain the application form and guidance notes visit
www.penicuikheritage.org.uk



1

Are you aware of the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project and its aims and objectives?

Y

N

If not why do you think that is?

2

What could be done to improve its profile in your opinion?

3

What could be done to improve the town centre to help it to be used more by local people?

4

How do you think the Penicuik Heritage Regeneration Project could more effectively engage with the local community?

5

If you are the owner of a residential building within the project area (see plan of project area opposite), would a higher amount of grant help you to go ahead with the repair work? The current grant rate is 75%.

6

If you are the owner/occupier of a shop or commercial premises within the project area, would a higher amount of grant help you to go ahead with repair/improvement work? The current grant rate is 75%.

7

Are there any other issues, apart from financial ones, which are putting you off applying for a grant?

How could we help?

8

Have you any suggestions about training & education in relation to the history and heritage of the town?

9

Any suggestions/comments would be appreciated as to how we can improve the town centre both in physical terms i.e. its attractiveness and appearance, and its economic viability.

The form can be also be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5RGY6RK>