

A Community Creative Arts Centre for Dunfermline

Background

In May 2009, Dunfermline Arts and Media (DAM) commissioned a feasibility study for a Community Visual Arts Centre for Dunfermline, funded by the National Lottery "Investing in Ideas" The Interim Report for the Feasibility Study was circulated in October 2009. The research identified:

- A demand for artist's studios in Dunfermline
- A demand for a contemporary visual arts gallery in Dunfermline
- A demand for community arts workspace amongst local Dunfermline groups
- Support for a "cultural hub" with café and retail facilities
- A need for a public arts venue which is accessible to the disabled
- The Dunfermline Fire Station is the most suitable available venue option for further investigation
- An arts venue would bring social, cultural and economic benefits to Dunfermline

The response to the Interim Report demonstrated support for the further investigation of the Fire Station option from a wide range of organisations and individuals. The potential large scale of the project now required a partnership approach to ensure the proposal was properly investigated and supported, providing an arts centre model which is appropriate for Dunfermline. The core group who have been working on the concept are willing to continue within a wider steering group:

Andrew Walker	Fife Council Development Services
Ian Moir	Dunfermline Arts and Media
Andrew McRae	Simon Laird Architects
John Mark Di Ciacca	Jef Developments Ltd
Margaret Matthew	Marketing Consultant

Public Meeting Thursday January 28th 7pm City Chambers

A public meeting will be held to allow public consultation on the project and facilitate the formation of an interim steering group. The format of the meeting is:

- Introduction from Ian Moir of DAM
- Presentation from Andrew McRae on the potential adaption of the Fire Station accommodation
- Presentations from Scarborough Renaissance on how a focus on the arts and creative industries helped regenerate Scarborough – see links below for further information
- Questions and answer session
- Formation of an interim steering group

The interim steering group will manage the formation of a business plan which will include:

- Research to establish a management model which best fits the Fire Station accommodation, the needs of the local arts community and offers financial sustainability.
- A detailed proposal for the uses and conversion of the accommodation
- Capital and development costs
- Funding sources and support
- Organisation and management
- Programming
- Financial appraisal and viability
- Economic Impact of the project

Scarborough Renaissance Links:

http://www.enterpriseuk.org/inspiring_stories/the_scarborough_renaissance_partnership_pioneers_the_renaissance_and_regeneration_of_scarborough
<http://www.woodendcreative.co.uk/whatwedo.htm>