

# TAYPORT COMMUNITY TRUST – REGENERATING INDUSTRIAL SITE TO BENEFIT LOCAL AREA

## DERELICT STEEL WORKS WILL BE CLEANED UP AND TURNED INTO COMMUNITY BASE FOR ARTS, SPORTS AND BUSINESS

### OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Although the former steel fabrication works in Tayport have lain derelict for two decades, the land has significant potential to provide leisure facilities as well as modern business space. Tayport Community Trust, established in 2008, took on the task of transforming the former industrial site into a new centre. The group prepared plans for a community hub featuring a mix of community, sports, arts, tourism and business elements.

### HOW THE COMMUNITY ACQUIRED THE ASSET

The current site owner Fife Council agreed to clean up the site (the soil was badly polluted) and sell it at a reduced price to the community group who will then develop it for the benefit of local people and businesses.

In 2014, the plans moved to stage 2 of a £1.2 million application to the Big Lottery's Growing Community Assets Fund. As part of this, the Trust received £119,023 in development funding from Big Lottery to support the necessary design and site survey work required. This on-going application will account for a large slice of the initial £2.2 million needed to get this project up and running.

With help from advisers at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), the group also secured £42,000 from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for the purchase of the site from Fife Council. This followed the approval from the Fife Council Executive committee of the sale at a reduced price.

### HOW HIE HELPED

HIE's advisers helped Tayport Community Trust to negotiate the purchase of the land from Fife Council and apply successfully to the Scottish Land Fund for funding to purchase the site.

Scottish Land Fund advisor Munro Gauld said: "Tayport Community Trust is a very well-resourced community group so we advised them on some of the legal issues they encountered when purchasing the site. This project has huge potential and it will be exciting to see the outcome of the group's efforts to regenerate the site into a hub of community and business activity."



### IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

The derelict former steel fabrication works are set to be transformed into a bright and vibrant new community facility, featuring a mix of sports, arts, tourism and business elements, as well as space for local people to meet and socialise. The Trust has great aspirations, which it hopes to fulfil in a series of build stages.

A spokesman for Tayport Community Trust said: "The hub will offer something for everyone. Casual recreation for all the family, dedicated facilities for sports enthusiasts, a pop up venue for community policing and health outreach, space for business development and another really great café! This venture will create jobs, improve health provision, attract visitors, foster sustainability, and bring renewed interest to this corner of the North of Fife."

