

A POSITIVE VISION FOR AN ICONIC COMMUNITY LANDMARK

[THE
G E O R G E]

We know many local people are interested in what's happening with the campaign to **"Save The George"** - the former cinema on Bath Street, Portobello - and are keen to know where we are with our plans to try and acquire it, restore it and operate it as a community asset. Our updated Vision document is on the website **thegeorge.org.uk**

Here's a brief update.

In September we

- reinforced the Friends of The George Steering Group. The 12-strong group now comprises arts management professionals, accountants, architects, communications and design specialists, community cinema consultants, actors, screenwriters and other allied professionals.
- set up a Limited Company to receive funds and to pay for services including legal advice. We will apply for Charitable Status over the next few months, with help from our legal advisors.
- had the building formally valued by a firm of professional surveyors and made an offer to purchase it based on that valuation, as a restoring purchaser. Funds for purchase were very generously offered by a private benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous for now.

Our offer was turned down but our aim remains to try and purchase the building and to restore it as a community asset in line with the Vision we've outlined and so we will continue to look at how this may be achieved.

In October we

- successfully applied for some for funding from The Scottish Land Fund to cover consultancy costs including a feasibility report from a specialist, community cinema consultancy that will inform next steps.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) published their decision notice on the application by the current owner to have The George 'delisted'. HES confirmed that the building continues to meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest and there will be no statutory change to the current 'C' listing designation. See <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB26818>

