



We have had a massive response to our MAKE IT HAPPEN award scheme. We have already received more than 100 applications from all over Dundee, Angus, Perthshire and Fife. Over the coming weeks, the awards panel will be making the difficult decision on who will be successful in getting shares of the £10,000 fund, sponsored by Combined Insurance. Here is one of the latest applicants:

Making plans for Perth group



Members of the MAD House group.



PERTH'S young people are bursting with talent, and one group of youngsters aims to lead the way by creating a space for talent to flourish.

For more than a decade, a succession of volunteers have been working to find a venue where the Fair City's young people can meet and take part in activities.

Now that dream is closer than ever, with premises in two buildings in George Inn Lane promised to the Music, Art and Drama (MAD) House group by Perth and Kinross Council.

The committee behind the ambitious scheme — which has the youth of Perth at its core — is poised to submit a planning application and has asked Make It Happen to cover the fees involved.

MAD House chairman Sandy Davidson explained, "There is a long-standing need in Perth area for an alcohol-free venue where young

people can meet up, relax and have the opportunity to take up or develop skills in music, art and drama outwith school hours.

"The demand for this project is consistently high, as has been noted by youth workers assisting us who give school talks and receive feedback from young people on a regular basis."

The venue is planned with a youth cafe, a music room, where tuition in a variety of instruments will be offered, or bands can practise, and multi-purpose room suitable for drama activities.

This space involved also has good natural light, making it ideal for art classes or exhibitions.

Sandy added, "What makes this project unique is that young people form the core of the project,

injecting their own ideas and meeting their own demands.

"This will allow the project to continually stay relevant to young people, offer an opportunity to be involved in the organisation — with adult support — of a major business/community project and, most importantly, offer a facility that young people will feel ownership of and take a pride in.

"The MAD House has been informed by the council that the buildings we wish to occupy are available. However, the group still needs to submit a planning permission proposal for the two buildings, which will cost £280.

"The group is also currently engaged in planning a pool competition to raise funds and promote the group."