

SURF

SURF Awards

2012



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SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2012



The SURF Awards are delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government with additional support from Creative Scotland

“The SURF Awards present a unique opportunity to acknowledge the hard work, resolve and dedication that exists at the front-line of efforts to improve and regenerate disadvantaged communities throughout urban and rural Scotland.”



Brian MacDonald,
Chair of SURF

The 2012 SURF Awards

For nearly a decade now, SURF and the Scottish Government have been working in partnership through the SURF Awards to highlight, celebrate and share best practice in regeneration efforts throughout Scotland.

This publication profiles 15 initiatives that were short-listed for the 2012 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

We hope the examples of success presented here provide some more encouragement and new ideas for all who are working or volunteering in support of regeneration activities across the country.

Take five

This year we have introduced a new suite of SURF Award categories to better reflect the full range of regeneration activity; from multi-million pound infrastructure projects to more modestly resourced community-run processes. The five categories were:

- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Sustainable Place**
- **Infrastructure and Regeneration**
- **Creative Regeneration**
- **YESS to Jobs (Youth Employability and Skills Services)**

Over 50 project applications were considered by our 20-member independent judging panel over an intensive six-week process of assessment and visits. Four judges in each of the five category teams were tasked with selecting three short-listed initiatives in each category and ultimately selecting just one winner.

Themes and Trends

Extensive partnership working is evident in all of the regeneration initiatives featured here. An ambitious and sustainable regeneration project will typically bring together community members with local businesses, local authority partners and other important stakeholders such as schools, colleges, and relevant national agencies. Our judging panel recognised that the tact, time and effort required for both short and long term partnership processes is extensive but also vital.

Heritage has been another strong trend in this year's SURF Awards. When financial support is restricted, identifying and developing the value of existing local assets – whether an unused pub (see p3), a historic World War II site (see p4), or traditional regional crafts (see p6) – can present an excellent platform for generating enthusiasm, enterprise, and wider action. The prominence of social enterprise as a flexible and engaging model for the business of regeneration (including ng2 – see p7) was also noticeable.

True Teamwork

SURF is grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003.

This year we were delighted to receive additional formal support from Creative Scotland, which sponsored our new Creative Regeneration award category, and from Architecture + Design Scotland, which supported the Sustainable Place one.

We are also highly appreciative of the efforts of our judging panel. They gave their time freely to travel across Scotland and visit all of the shortlisted projects. The panel members were drawn from national regeneration-related organisations and community groups; you can find out who they are on p15.

Lastly, SURF could not succeed as Scotland's Independent Regeneration Network without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 250+ member organisations; especially our 13 key delivery partners, who are listed on p16.

For more on the SURF Awards and other SURF activities, please visit our website: www.scotregen.co.uk.

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SURF Winner

Community Led Regeneration Winner Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise – 'The Playz'

What is the aim of the project?

To renovate a derelict public house and local eyesore into a modern community hub developed and managed by local young people.



Where is it taking place?

The neighbourhood of Pennyburn in Kilwinning, North Ayrshire.



What has been achieved?

The local community group, Pennyburn Community Association, had aspired to develop a community hub since as early as 2002, when a comprehensive community study was undertaken. Following discussion with local partner agencies and funding bodies, a plan to take over, develop and maintain the pub building as a community asset took shape.

These discussions were led by Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise (PRYDE), which is operated by a Board of Directors comprising local teenagers and adults.

The community hub, named 'The Playz', was first opened to the public in March 2012 in advance of a launch event at the end of the year. It now provides an energy efficient meeting place for the community and a range of innovative activities, such as adult learning, youth groups, music tuition and music production classes.

The Playz operates as a social enterprise to generate income that is reinvested in its further development. The facility also offers an

accessible and low cost café employing local people and offering training places for young people.

As well as being a community facility, The Playz aspires to raise educational attainment, to support vulnerable local residents, and to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved in the regeneration of their community.

Who is running it?

The project has a Board of Directors comprising Pennyburn community representatives, business people, and as well as local politicians. The work of the Board is directed by a Shadow Board of local young people.

Strategically, the project is supported by a range of partner agencies including Irvine Housing Association (whose Project Manager is seconded to the project), North Ayrshire Council and 1st Alliance Credit Union. In 2010, a £450k grant was provided by the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland's Growing Community Assets programme.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The Playz was selected as the winner of the 2012 SURF award for the Community Led Regeneration category as it demonstrates all of the characteristics of a truly community-led initiative. The initiative has successfully transformed a former 'no go' area in the shadow of a derelict public house into a welcoming hub at the heart of the community.

The scale of local engagement concerning the design and sustainable use of the refurbished hub was impressive, the consequence of which is an expressed sense of community ownership and pride. There is a high level of youth participation in all aspects of the project's development and operation, from involvement in – and running of – activities in addition to the key management role.

The judging panel were further impressed by the excellent practice in partnership working; on occasion, the project has engaged in barter arrangements to ensure best use of all local assets.



Further Information:

Please contact [Joan McTurk](mailto:joan.mcturk@irvineha.co.uk), Community Involvement Assistant, Irvine Housing Association, on 01294 316785 or www.facebook.com/prydetheplayz

SUREF

Sustainable Place

Winner

Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme



What is the aim of the project?

To bring together over 50 organisations to better enhance and promote the diverse heritage of a historic rural area of north east Scotland. The ultimate goal is to provide an increase in investment and local capacity to create a sustainable and lasting benefit for local people and visitors.



Where is it taking place?

Across the Scapa Flow area of south Orkney. As a popular shipping point, the area has witnessed a wealth of remarkable events in trading, conflict and travel from pre-history to World War II.

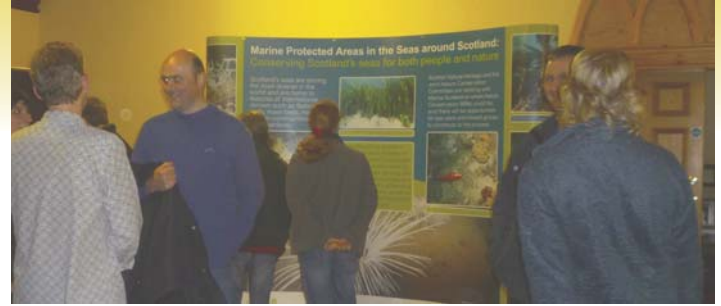
What has been achieved?

The initiative has successfully brought the area's communities together to explore positive opportunities and address some long-standing challenges around the recognition of local history and deterioration of buildings.



The development of a wide variety of heritage projects as part of a holistic process has resulted in substantial investment that has played its part in helping Orkney weather the recent economic recession. The restoration and opening of the WWII Ness Battery, in particular, has provided a major new tourism and local heritage resource.

Among many other developments, local museums have been transformed to aid their long term viability and make them more attractive to tourists. Educational opportunities have been enhanced through resources for schools, school trips and an extensive programme of lifelong learning and training. New access has also been provided for coastal walks.



A buzz has been created around Scapa Flow, with the area having received extensive media coverage. Local communities have reported a considerable number of beneficial outcomes.

Who is running it?

The project is managed by the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme. The managing partnership is made up of representatives of Orkney Islands Council, RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage, and they are supported by a much wider partnership including local Community Councils and Development Trusts. Funding agencies include Heritage Lottery Fund (Scotland).

Why did the judging panel like it?

Managing big landscapes is difficult. Communities share a passion for the place but have different local priorities. You have to be strategic and responsive, exactly like this project.

It has a single purpose; build a landscape we are all proud of. The partnership adopt a wide strategy to achieve it. They build projects by listening to communities, and by working with them on issues that matter in their place.



The judging panel was impressed by the sensitivity and skill used in managing people to build a sustainable legacy for this beautiful place. They were unanimous in confirming Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme as the overall winner of the Sustainable Place category for the 2012 SURF Awards.

Further Information:

Please contact Julian Branscombe, SFLPS Manager, Orkney Islands Council, on 01856 852 037 or julian.branscombe@orkney.gov.uk www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/scapafLOW/

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Infrastructure and Regeneration Winner Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

What is the aim of the project?

To reverse a long-term decline in the social and economic fabric of an island community through the successful procurement and management of its infrastructure and assets.

Where is it taking place?

The Isle of Gigha is located just off the Kintyre peninsula in Argyll on Scotland's west coast.



What has been achieved?

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust was formed in 2002 to enable a buy-out by the local community. The buy-out was prompted by the risk of a sale to another party resulting in the population being evicted and the need to address a lack of investment over a number of years.

2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the successful community buy-out. There have been significant successes in the delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects, specifically housing, which has improved island life for existing residents and attracted new ones.

Since the buy-out, the community has maximised the potential of community owned assets like the Achamore Gardens, preserved heritage assets like Kilchatten Chapel, and developed the first community-owned, grid-connected wind farm in Scotland. The cornerstone for the success of these projects has been the regeneration of affordable and appropriate rented housing – a factor affecting depopulation.

This has drawn people back to the island.



The Trust has overseen the redevelopment of 26 properties in the past 10 years; and an expansion both of the population (to over 150 – a 50% increase) and the school roll (to 19 – a 200% increase). The increase in population has improved the viability

of essential services including the ferry connection, primary school, NHS amenities, and public transport. The Trust's work to date has led to a general energy and enthusiasm for further improvements.

Who is running it?

The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust is run by a Board of Directors drawn from the local community. The Trust works in partnership with a range of bodies including the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government, and Argyll & Bute Council.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the community led nature of the regeneration of Gigha following the 2002 buy-out. It was clear that the community's approach was highly successful in optimising the community regeneration benefits out of the investments in island infrastructure.

Efforts to make the project – and, ultimately, the island community itself – sustainable have helped ensure the legacy of investments by creating a platform to maintain and build upon success in attracting new residents over the longer term.



The judges found the final decision of choosing a winner in the Infrastructure and Regeneration category difficult. However, the community's sheer determination and enthusiasm in taking control of their own fate led to their selecting the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust as the 2012 SURF Award category winner.

Further Information:

Please contact Andy Oliver, Director at the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, on 01583 505 390 or andy@gigha.org.uk
www.gigha.org.uk

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Creative Regeneration **Winner** **Kirkton Woodland and** **Heritage Group**

What is the aim of the project?

To revitalise a rural community with an ageing, elderly population and declining school rolls and provide long-term economic and social sustainability using approaches based on local arts, heritage and culture.



Where is it taking place?

The Highland community encompasses the areas of Lochcarron, Strathcarron and Kishorn in Wester Ross.

What has been achieved?

The Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group was formed in 2009 to advance community education about the area's environment, its culture and history; and to manage community land and associated assets for community and public benefit.

The Group has established a number of creative projects to meet its aims. These include the construction of a community treehouse that functions as a unique venue for meetings, cultural events, music sessions, and educational opportunities for local residents of all ages. The Strathcarron Treehouse was profiled on a Sky TV documentary in December 2011.

Another key project is the development of two multi-use workshop units that are leased to local craft and heritage businesses. Among other things, these businesses deliver training workshops in traditional and environmental skills across a myriad of areas such as spinning, quilting, basket-weaving, eco-sculpture, bracken spraying, and timber fencing. In addition to providing useful skills to local residents, these courses improve community networking and address social exclusion by providing new opportunities for marginalised groups.

The Group's work to date has resulted in positive impacts in 'pride of place', increased tourism, and more entrepreneurial opportunities for

local people. The achievements of these initiatives are expected to pave the way for future community buy-out of the woodland in early 2013.

The refurbishment of a 19th century 'Smithy', or barn, into an attractive visitor centre is planned for the same year.



Who is running it?

Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group consists of 140 local community members. The Group works in close partnership with Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

Why did the judging panel like it?

Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group were selected as the winner of the Creative Regeneration of the 2012 SURF Awards because the project demonstrated a strong creative focus, is driven by the community, and is focused on long term sustainability.

The community, despite facing significant challenges, are forging ahead with developments using long term creative solutions through traditional skills and crafts. The project ideas and delivery are community led, working together to achieve a range of objectives, and make full use of the valuable resource present in the skills and knowledge among members of the community.

The Group demonstrated productive partnership working with both public and private interests. The project is building connections between a dispersed community, and bringing people together in social and economic settings, creating a strong, sustainable foundation for the future. The 'can do' attitude was obvious to the judging panel, and there was clear recognition of the wide range of benefits for individuals and the community together.



Further Information:

Please contact Kristine MacKenzie, Lochcarron Development Officer in Kirkton Woodland & Heritage Group, on 01520 722 882 or kristinestrathcarron@gmail.com <http://lctreehouse.wix.com/kwhgroup>

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YESS to Jobs (Youth Employability and Skills Services)

Winner
ng2 Ltd

What is the aim of the project?

To establish a community-led social enterprise that improves the training and employment prospects for young adults across several city neighbourhoods that are characterised by high levels of socio-economic deprivation.



Where is it taking place?

The project serves the G20, G21 and G22 postcodes in north Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

The ng homes housing association has been involved in a number of wider role activities in recent years with the goal of achieving successful employment – rather than training – outcomes for local people. Noting the considerable challenges that had been encountered, the association's members devised a more inventive approach that involved the creation of the ng2 Ltd social enterprise.

ng2 Ltd specialises in facilities management. Its main aim is to integrate the interests of residents and business owners in north Glasgow regarding their physical and living environment with the needs of unemployed young adults. It does so by providing a professional environmental and facilities management service to clients that



incorporates a training programme and full-time employment opportunities for younger adults.

It has achieved a 60% job success rate for young unemployed adults, a turnover of £100,000 per month, a surplus of £25,000 per annum and a very satisfied and extensive client-customer base. It has recruited 47 trainees, including 13 referred by another organisation for work experience. More than 50% of trainees recruited since Sept 2012 have either gained full-time employment directly with ng2 Ltd, gone onto other employers or have gone back into full-time education.

ng2 Ltd now has a visible profile in the community, and its benefits are direct and quantifiable with a high number of young adults securing jobs in facilities management with opportunities to progress, extend their skills and earn a reasonable salary.

Who is running it?

ng2 Ltd is a community-led organisation managed by a board of volunteers. As well as ng homes, other partners include Glasgow City Council, City Building LLP, the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, Celtic Football Club, and the Scottish Government. Each partner contributes expertise to different aspects of training and business development.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the quality of training offered to local unemployed people and the wide range of estate services jobs that they moved into. They also liked the range of partner organisations that the social enterprise has developed to ensure job opportunities both within ng2 and elsewhere.

The judges saw that the company continually promoted development of its employees, including helping them to achieve membership of professional associations. Also impressive was the development of ownership and pride that the young people took in carrying out their duties. This was evidenced in the positive feedback from local people.



The judges noted that this project had also instilled pride and social responsibility in the trainees and that the community as a whole had benefited from this project. They were pleased to confirm ng2 as the winning project in the YESS to Jobs category of the 2012 SURF Awards.

Further Information:

Please contact John Devine, Head of Regeneration at ng homes, on 0141 630 4277 or jdevine@nghomes.net
<http://nghomes.net/ng2>

Community Led Regeneration: shortlisted Camglen Radio



What is the aim of the project?

To promote local health and health improvement services, increase community cohesion, tackle social isolation, and break down social barriers through the development of a volunteer-led local radio station.

Where is it taking place?

The radio station serves communities in Cambuslang and Rutherglen in South Lanarkshire.

What has been achieved?

Camglen Radio has operated ten short-term FM and internet broadcasts, of 28 days duration six months apart, since May 2007. It has successfully provided a platform for local discussion and debate, and a hub for local news and radio. It has also established a number of youth groups to tackle anti-social behaviour.

While its central role has been as a portal for information and feedback on community health services, it has grown to become a vehicle for delivering accessible and relevant educational and training opportunities. To date, 51 different courses with 612 participants and 7 SQA-accredited courses with 36 participants have been delivered on top of 170 informal training sessions. 1467 pupils from all 21 local schools have participated in programme production. A support structure is in place for volunteers with additional support needs.

It was recently awarded a full FM 5-year continuous broadcast license and is planning for full-time operation from 2014.

Who is running it?

The project has a governance and committee structure involving 34 local people, and operational support is provided by over 70 volunteers. Its parent organisation is the local Healthy 'n' Happy Community Development Trust.

Why did the judging panel like it?

For the judging panel, Camglen Radio presented an excellent example of a locally managed project that has creatively maximised community participation and involvement through training in all aspects of radio presentation and technical skills.

The judges were impressed at the high quality broadcasting service, the range of community groups and agencies it involves in the station's programming and delivery, and the cascade model for the delivery of training and volunteering.

Further Information:

Please contact Tam Currie, Camglen Radio Station Coordinator, on 0141 646 0123 or tamcamglen@googlemail.com.
www.camglenradio.org

Community Led Regeneration: shortlisted Loanhead Community Learning Centre / The Kabin

What is the aim of the project?

To establish a community-led learning centre and hub that operates as a social enterprise and supports people of all ages and abilities in the local community to learn, socialise and volunteer.



Where is it taking place?

The town of Loanhead in Midlothian.

What has been achieved?

Loanhead Community Learning Centre has operated as a successful social enterprise since 2003. As it developed, it outgrew the existing building, and following extensive community engagement in 2007 it was agreed to explore opportunities for expansion.

This resulted in 'The Kabin' – a specially constructed second building on a nearby site - being opened in May 2011. A new community hub, it comprises the Honeypot Café, Amazone Soft Play, Play it Again Charity shop and launderette, the Hive recording studio and rehearsal room, a community cinema and a community garden.

The Kabin has approximately 2000 users per week – double the pre-opening estimate. Among many other functions, it provides a welcoming social hub, support for vulnerable residents, affordable childcare and after-school groups for working families, and training & volunteering opportunities. It has also enabled the creation of six new social enterprises and 25 jobs for the local community.

Who is running it?

The enterprise is community led, with the directors drawn from local residents and facility users. The Kabin was built with a grant from the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland on land donated by Midlothian Council.

Why did the judging panel like it?

As a new, modern facility in the heart of the local community, The Kabin provides a creative and well-considered range of activities. The judges particularly liked the variety of facilities and opportunities offered to all age groups, and the use of the building in accommodating a number of other subsidiary trading enterprises to provide income via letting charges. The judging panel also saw evidence of the extensive positive partnership processes the community led project have developed with local partner agencies and networks.

Further Information:

Please contact Irene Hogg, Loanhead Community Learning Centre's Head of Establishment, on 0131 440 2541 or irene@lasc.org.uk www.lclc.org.uk

Sustainable Place: shortlisted Govanhill Transitional Employment & Environmental Sustainability Initiative



What is the aim of the project?

To address the social and physical problems that have arisen following a period of high immigration concentrated into traditional housing stock in a city neighbourhood. The central approach is to link environmental improvements with targeted training and employment opportunities.

Where is it taking place?

The area of south west Govanhill in Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

The community's tenement flats have attracted a considerable number of economic migrants from eastern Europe in recent years. Many of the properties were privately owned, and a number were let out to immigrants by landlords who did not operate to required standards. This resulted in a number of issues including overcrowding, fly-tipping and physical decline, developments that were highlighted by local and national media.

The Govanhill Transitional Employment and Environmental Sustainability Initiative brought together a partnership of public, private and third sector agencies to respond to the challenges. The project attracted capital investment to improve the tenement back-courts and gardens, and this was tied in with a training and employment programme and an outreach element that targeted the local Roma ethnic community population.

The project has proved successful in: making environmental improvements that have benefited 500 households across the community; providing access to employability support for 300 residents; and engaging 60 local unemployed people, including 20 of Roma ethnicity, as trainees. It has also received positive media coverage, promoted integration, encouraged recycling and improved property maintenance, and challenged negative perceptions of the Roma population.

Who is running it?

The partnership includes, among others, Govanhill Housing Association, Glasgow City Council, Govanhill Community Development Trust, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency and the Scottish Government.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed at the extensive partnership approach, which effectively levered in considerable external funding to create a project that blended environment improvement with employment placements to both support the needs of the community and create opportunities for residents.

For the judges, effective community engagement that embraced the many different local cultures was key to the success of the project. They also valued the approach to balance the provision of support with the need for residents to take personal responsibility of their environment.

Further Information:

Please contact Ken MacDougall, Development Manager at Govanhill Housing Association, on 0141 636 3675 or kmacdougall@govanhillha.org.

Sustainable Place: shortlisted

Lochgelly Short Term Initiatives



What is the aim of the project?

To deliver, in the short term, a collection of initiatives to support the long-term growth aspirations of a small town.

Where is it taking place?

Lochgelly, a former mining town in Fife with a population of around 6500.

What has been achieved?

In 2008, Lochgelly was selected to receive five Strategic Land Allocations, which will see the town grow substantially over the next 40 years. In 2010, the Scottish Government organised a six-day design charette to involve community members and other stakeholders in the development of the town's growth strategy.

Since the charette, a number of community proposals and work programmes have been put into action. These initiatives addressed, in the first instance, the revitalisation of the town centre, and have proved successful in improving the external image of Lochgelly as well as quality facilities for local businesses and the wider community. Achievements include:

- Creation of the New Lochgelly Centre community hub
- Development of a new business centre & shopping parade
- Enhanced living accommodation for local authority tenants
- Improved public realm and traffic-calming measures
- Successful "Shop Local" and "I Love Lochgelly" marketing campaigns
- Upgrades to shop fronts, fixtures and fittings

Who is running it?

The initiative is driven by the Lochgelly Charette Short Term Initiatives Board, whose members include local elected members and representatives of regeneration partners such as Ore Valley Housing Association. The main funding agencies are Fife Council and the Scottish Government.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The project is an impressive coalition of local agencies and voluntary groups working together to restore pride in the area, support local businesses and improve the local town centre through a series of targeted initiatives.

The judges were impressed with the scope of the project, the nature of partnership working and collaboration, and the way in which the organisations worked with the community to efficiently identify the key problems and develop initiatives – and build capacity – to address them.

Further Information:

Please contact Hazel Cross, Lochgelly STI Project Manager in Fife Council, on 08451 555 555 (ext 471 853) or hazel.cross@fife.gov.uk.

Infrastructure and Regeneration: shortlisted

Fauldhouse Partnership Centre

What is the aim of the project?

To contribute to the regeneration of a disadvantaged small town by creating an innovative new building to house community, council and health services.

Where is it taking place?

Fauldhouse, a town in West Lothian with a population of around 5000.



What has been achieved?

Having identified Fauldhouse as a priority regeneration area, West Lothian Council initiated a process that led to the opening of the Fauldhouse Partnership Centre in 2010. The Centre provides:

- An attractive community space and community café
- A library and learning suite
- A playgroup and gym
- A swimming pool, sauna and steam room
- Council Information services
- Lothian & Borders Police services
- Outreach services including employment surgeries and learning opportunities
- Service delivery from two GP practices, a dentist and pharmacy

A number of these services, such as dental facilities, were not previously available in the community. Poor dental health was a significant community issue and 642 new patients registered in the first month.

The Partnership Centre has acted as a catalyst for further regeneration in the area with new retail facilities, parks and housing developments following its launch. This has all helped Fauldhouse become a significantly more attractive place to live and work in.

Who is running it?

A steering group of partners led by West Lothian Community Health and Care Partnership has managed the project from its inception. West Lothian Council contributed most of the £7.2m funding, which also included a £1m Big Lottery Fund in Scotland grant.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges saw the Fauldhouse Partnership Centre as an innovative way of bringing together a range of important services for the community to a single point of delivery. Importantly, the judges heard that lessons from similar investments by the local authority have been used to inform the Centre's development. They were pleased to hear that there are plans to build on the success of the Centre through further planned improvements.

Further Information:

Please contact Laura Machnik, West Lothian Council Community Regeneration Officer, on 01506 281 085 or laura.machnik@westlothian.gov.uk.

Infrastructure and Regeneration: *shortlisted* Lomondgate

What is the aim of the project?

To deliver, without any public capital funding, an ambitious 120 acre mixed use development project in response to the closure of a major local employer.



Where is it taking place?

The Lomondgate site is located in Dumbarton in west central Scotland. The project primarily serves the wider Vale of Leven area between the River Clyde and Loch Lomond.

What has been achieved?

The closure of the Diageo J&B Scotch Whisky bottling plant in 2000 resulted in a loss of 470 jobs and a considerable economic and psychological blow for the local region. A task force was set up to mitigate the effects of the closure.

This led to the creation of Strathleven Regeneration Company, a special purpose vehicle tasked with facilitating physical and economic regeneration, and the development of the Lomondgate initiative. Among other things, the partnership's work has resulted in:

- The creation of a major new employment centre, which includes BBC Scotland studios and an Aggreko manufacturing facility
- The further development of Loch Lomond visitor infrastructure, including new hotels and restaurants
- The construction of three new housing developments, with 100 new homes built or underway with a further 200 planned
- An estimated £133m of gross value added to the local economy (to April 2012; a 2019 forecast estimates £529m)

There are now more jobs in the area than there had been prior to the closure. The development has proved highly successful in diversifying the local economy, enhancing its infrastructure and instilling a sense of optimism for the area's future; all achieved without a dependence on public resources.

Who is running it?

In 2004, Strathleven Regeneration Company – which was formed with the support of Diageo – entered into a partnership with Walker Group (Scotland) Ltd to lead the Lomondgate development. Key project partners include West Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Enterprise.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges recognised the scale of the regeneration that was required following the closure of the Diageo plant. The blueprint for that regeneration included a mix of residential, business, commercial, leisure and tourism infrastructure. It was clear to the judges that successfully pulling all of this together required dedicated long-term partnership working.

The judges were particularly impressed by the remarkable absence of public sector capital funding, and the high-calibre businesses that have been successfully attracted to the area.

Further Information:

Please contact David Hastings, Chief Executive at Strathleven Regeneration Company, on 01389 714 480, or email info@strathleven.org www.lomondgate.com

Creative Regeneration: *shortlisted* DightyConnect

What is the aim of the project?

To bring together volunteers and creative processes to make better use of a neglected green space for the benefit of local communities and area biodiversity.



Where is it taking place?

The green space runs alongside The Dighty Burn, which flows near several disadvantaged communities in east Dundee.

What has been achieved?

Over recent years, some areas in this green space have been perceived as unsafe, run-down, frequented by drug users, and beleaguered by littering and dog fouling. The DightyConnect initiative was formed to address these issues by using the enthusiasm and ideas of local people to revitalise a valued natural asset.

Project volunteers have used a wide variety of creative processes – including drama, writing and film-making – and practical craft skills to deliver environmental improvements and community events. Among the completed activities are the use of drystane dyking to create a habitat for amphibians, the production of outdoor drama performances based on local myths, interactive sessions enabling school-children to develop traditional skills, community sessions on topics including art and history, and the installation 'Gaudi style' mosaic benches and art works.

The legacy of these collective projects is increased community cohesion, a safer and more pleasant natural environment, positive health and wellbeing outcomes and wide improvements in community image.

Who is running it?

A Project Coordinator works with local volunteers, community groups and stakeholder organisations to plan and deliver activities. The Dighty Burn land is owned and managed by Dundee City Council.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The place-based project was shortlisted by the judging panel because it demonstrated a wide range of creative approaches, originating from and driven by people in the community, to preserve and enhance an important natural asset. Through a less structured approach, the project responds to people's needs and interests and delivers practical activities, combined with creative expression, creating new skills and confidence across members of the local communities.

Further Information:

Please contact Ann Lolley, DightyConnect Project Coordinator, on 01382 436 932 or dightyconnectann@yahoo.co.uk www.spanglefish.com/dightyconnect/

Creative Regeneration: *shortlisted* Govan Waymarkers

What is the aim of the project?

Govan Waymarkers is an artist-led initiative designed to engage a local community in creative activities and the delivery of public art to complement physical regeneration efforts.



Where is it taking place?

The Riverside area of Govan in Glasgow, which has around 350 households.

What has been achieved?

In recent years, Govan waterfront has been perceived by residents of the local housing estate as a derelict and intimidating area frequented by problem drinkers and drug users. The recent establishment of the Glasgow Riverside Museum and Tall Ship on the opposite side of the River Clyde prompted Glasgow Housing Association (GHA), in consultation with the local community, to consider fresh approaches to their existing regeneration plans for Govan Riverside.

GHA appointed an artist to work alongside an environmental greenspace contractor as part of a holistic approach to improve the waterfront on the Govan side. A number of community open days were held, resulting in a "wish list" of public artworks and events, many of which were based upon the area's history and heritage, from Viking invasions to ship-building.

The subsequent delivery of art features and innovative, popular community events – including a reconvening of ‘Govan Parliament’ and a Viking-style ‘Govan Raid’ led by local schoolchildren – has received positive feedback from residents. Local GHA teams have reported marked reductions in environmental maintenance and tenant complaints, and the police have reported fewer calls being received from the area to report anti-social behaviour, graffiti and vandalism.

Who is running it?

The project is operated by GHA and local artist Matt Baker. Key partner organisations include Glasgow City Council, Glasgow’s Regeneration Agency, and Govan Old Heritage Group.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The project was shortlisted because it was responding to a clear need for new approaches in this area, and in doing so it engaged a notably wide range of local organisations and individuals in activities beyond standard environmental improvements. In engaging all sections of the Govan Riverside community through collaborative activities, it demonstrated substantial creativity, innovation and effective partnership working.

Further Information:

For more information, please contact David Fletcher, Assistant Director of Regeneration at Glasgow Housing Association, on 0141 274 6413 or david.fletcher@gha.org.uk.

YESS to Jobs (Youth Employability & Skills Services): shortlisted Creative Pathways Programme

What is the aim of the project?

To provide a creative youth employability programme for young people aged 16-19 who are not currently involved in education, employment or training. The goal is to provide participants with artistic and technical skills to enable them to make original products for sale in specialist retail outlet, enabling the initiative to run as a sustainable social enterprise.



Where is it taking place?

The programme runs across Scotland, and the ‘Eco-Chic Boutique’ retail space is located in the Merchant City area of central Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

Since 2009, 368 young people have taken part in the Creative Pathways programme. Participants are engaged full-time with dedicated art tutors for a period of 12-24 weeks, focusing on one of two main areas: sustainable fashion, and furniture design & production.

In addition to learning technical skills such as sewing and upholstery, the programme also focuses on improving general employability skills such as communication, team-work and problem solving. The items produced, from handmade fashion accessories to specially restored wardrobes, are then sold in the Eco-Chic Boutique, which opened in 2011.

The programme participants are also supported to develop their CVs, take part in cultural trips and team-building retail challenges, and helped into subsequent training. To date, upon completing the programme 106 of the young people have been supported back into education (29%), 72 into employment (20%), 95 into training (26%) and 43 into voluntary placements (12%). 85% of participants also reported significant improvements in their self esteem and confidence.

Who is running it?

The initiative is operated by the Impact Arts social enterprise. They work closely with a wide range of partners including Glasgow’s Regeneration Agency, Glasgow Life, Rathbone UK, Glasgow Caledonian University and local colleges.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the forward-thinking nature of this project in opening a retail unit where goods were ‘up-cycled’. The young people developed a range of transferrable skills from research and design to manufacturing and retail. The project has excellent links with academic institutions, with many participants progressing into college courses and employment. The judges felt this was a particularly strong example of using the arts to engage with young people.

Further Information:

Please contact Katie Smith, Impact Arts Communications Coordinator, on 0141 575 3001 or ksmith@impactarts.co.uk www.impactarts.co.uk/content/projects_creative_pathways/

YESS to Jobs (Youth Employability & Skills Services): shortlisted DEAP Ltd



What is the aim of the project?

To develop a small community initiative that addresses unemployment in one area of a city into a large-scale operation that helps individuals in two local authority regions into work.

Where is it taking place?

Throughout Dundee and Angus.

What has been achieved?

DEAP Ltd originated from a Business Support Group set up in 1989 to tackle unemployment and support regeneration in the Whitfield area of Dundee. In 1996, a Board of Directors was established and it expanded its services into other deprived areas of the city. Today, it operates across the whole city and the nearby Angus region, working with employers to provide young people with employment, volunteer and youth work placement opportunities and an aftercare service.

In the past two years, DEAP Ltd supported approximately 2600 clients, helping 900 (35%) into sustainable employment. The average unit cost of supporting an individual into a job has been approximately £400, which compares with the £5400-£16,000 per annum public sector cost of a young person on unemployment benefits.

The project has reduced the proportion of young people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training across the service areas. The initiative also provides specialist support for those with health barriers and eastern European immigrants. Service users from such groups have reported improved levels of confidence, motivation and mental wellbeing.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges found this project to be an excellent example of delivery of outreach employability services to local areas using community venues. DEAP Ltd offer a wide range of services to support young people and the judges noted with interest the development of young people into the role of recruitment advisers, in turn providing assistance to other young people. The project is effectively integrated into the local Dundee Employability Pipeline and has developed good relationships with partners to increase project referrals.

Who is running it?

DEAP Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation with a large team of staff and volunteers. Funding is provided by various agencies, including Dundee City Council, the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, the European Social Fund and Skills Development Scotland.

Further Information:

Please contact Mary Hamilton, Director of DEAP Ltd, on 01382 457 575 or mhamilton@deap.co.uk www.deap.co.uk

SURF AwardsNo

Each December, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a We asked each of last year's award-winning projects to give us an update on

The 2011 SURF Award winner in the People category was **The Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project (GEAAP)**.

Since winning the SURF Award in 2011, GEAAP has continued to develop its level of service user involvement. It has recently employed two former service users in full-time positions within its Befriending Service, and it has continued to support and train service users to deliver its innovative 'Young Booze Busters' schools programme in primary schools across the east of Glasgow.



Over the last year, the project has been piloting new ways of interacting with young people online in relation to alcohol issues. One such pilot service is "Becky Booze Buster", a service that

enables young people to engage in instant online chat with a qualified alcohol counsellor.

The learning gained from the last year has led to a bid being submitted to a new "Thinking Differently – Young People and Alcohol" opportunity presented by a consortium of funding agencies. We have just reached the second stage of this competitive process. In the last month, the project has also been announced as a finalist in the Glaxo Smith Kline Impact Awards, progressing to a short-list of 20 from the 419 projects who originally applied UK - wide.



A highlight of the last year was the raising of a motion in the Scottish Parliament commending the project on its work and its success in winning the SURF Award. The project is presently waiting to find out if it is to receive continued funding from Glasgow City Council beyond March 2013.

Stewart McKay, Project Manager, GEAAP
Tel: 0141 773 1222, Email: geaap1@btconnect.com.

The 2011 SURF Award winner in the Place category was the **Dedridge Environment Ecology Project (DEEP)**.

The DEEP group were pleased to host a SURF Awards study visit to Livingston in early 2012, and to show the completed work at the Big Pond and the Dedridge Burn Plantation. Since then, we have carried out a project located further down the Dedridge Burn at the Wave Pond, now known as the Jubilee Ponds.

This builds on the work that has already taken place and has created a wetland feature on the site of a former pond, which suffered from accelerated sedimentation and was nothing more than a ditch. Also, the habitat value of the surrounding area had been eroded by the loss of this feature. The work carried out has restored the pond area, which now consists of four small ponds and four weirs with a water sculpture as the main feature.

The woodland was also thinned, thus making the area safer for the community. Funding was sourced from West Lothian Council, Central Scotland Forest Trust, and GE Energy. The money we won from another awards process, Scotland Finest Woods, was also used to fund aspects of this development.



The DEEP group also held volunteer days, where members of the community helped to cut down bushes and branches of overhanging trees, while schoolchildren planted bulbs and carried out litter picks. The opening day was a great success, and the ribbon was cut by pupils from every school in the area.

DEEP is now concentrating on the Lanthorn Pond. Work is being carried out by Water Gems; the silt has been removed and will be used to plant flag irises and other water plants, while wildflower turf will be used on the banks of the pond near the path.

There will be a new spillway and a boardwalk leading to a viewing platform. The island where the resident swans nest has been made safer as the water is now deeper since the silt has been removed. An opening day is planned for April 12th 2012 at noon, with the Head of West Lothian Council, John McGinty, doing the honours.

Wilma Shearer, Secretary, DEEP
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t just for Christmas

deserved boost by receiving a SURF Award; but what happens after that? their progress since their success in 2011. Here are their stories.

The 2011 SURF Award winner in the Partnership category was **Community Power Orkney**

Since winning a SURF Award in 2011, **Community Power Orkney's** most significant development has been the installation of a sixth community-owned wind turbine on the **Eday island** (pictured here).



Energy generated by the new 900 kilowatt turbine will be sold into the National Grid and is expected to generate at least £2.5m over the next 20 years for the remote island's population of 150. A community consultation and postal vote will be

held to ensure that funds are distributed in accordance with the community's wishes. The project was funded with a combination of private and public funding, including the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme.

Eday now joins the islands of Westray, Stronsay, Shapinsay, Hoy and Rousay, which have now had their community-owned revenue generating turbines for over a year. The Orkney Islands have long struggled with depopulation and an aging population, but revenue from the turbines is now really helping to revitalise these island communities – which is more vital than ever in a period of high youth unemployment and squeezed council budgets.

The Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust, which administers the revenue generated by the turbine on Rousay, recently conducted a door-to-door survey of the islands' 260 residents to decide where best to spend the money. A water taxi, homecare for the elderly, support for a community swimming pool and investment to improve broadband facilities were earmarked as priority areas. Rousay turbine revenue also funds a bursary scheme to support young people to pursue training and employment opportunities.



The 2011 SURF Award winner in the Employability for All category was **The Coalyard.**

South Lanarkshire Council were delighted to receive the 2011 SURF Award in the category of Employability for All for The Coalyard initiative.

The Coalyard has operated as a South Lanarkshire Council Social Work Services project since 2007, offering supported transitions to employment for young people with learning disabilities through its tearoom and laundry. It is a meeting place and community hub for local groups and clubs, educating and changing attitudes towards disability.



The last year has seen expansion of the project through the opening of another satellite café in Douglas, with our sixth café planned to open in East Kilbride early in the New Year, creating job opportunities for students and local people alike. Our catering business continues to develop and expand, and we have secured a number of contracts from external companies, such as NHS Lanarkshire, to provide catering for their training days.



Our links with key partner Motherwell College have grown stronger, providing skills and accredited training to our students as they progress along the employment pathway. They have developed a

'Buddying and Mentoring' course for students who wish to provide ongoing support to their peers.

As a direct result of winning the SURF Award, we secured funding from the Scottish Government to evaluate the project. The Training and Employment Research Unit (TERU) at the University of Glasgow hope to complete this next month, providing us with:

- An evaluation of the current model (including a 3-year Business Plan and a shorter term Action Plan)
- An assessment of the potential for transforming The Coalyard into a social enterprise
- A Social Return on Investment
- The development of a toolkit to aid replication

The project recognises the potential for the existing model to support further developments planned. We envisage many challenges but hope to celebrate our success by sharing our experience and shaping future practice.

Amy Mackinnon, Media and Communications Officer, Community Energy Scotland Tel: 01349 860 124, Email: amy.macKinnon@communityenergyscotland.org.uk

Liz Brown, Coalyard Manager, South Lanarkshire Council Tel: 01698 889 902, Email: liz.brown@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk

“The significance of this year’s five new SURF Awards categories is not just about the importance of these approaches, but how they complement each other.”



Andy Milne,
Chief Executive, SURF



As Scotland’s independent regeneration network, SURF’s overall objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Scotland’s disadvantaged communities.

SURF aims to be the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, international policy exchanges, annual awards for best practice and the distribution of information and publications.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

SURF was established in 1992 as a not-for-profit social enterprise. It is directed by a board of voluntary directors drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of over 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 250 organisations from all sectors across Scotland.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to large private companies and also include: local authorities, housing associations, health boards, academic institutions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations and charities.

Further information on SURF’s activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk.



“Regeneration of Scotland's disadvantaged and deprived communities transforms people's lives and the communities in which they live.

The SURF awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration recognises this. The experience, expertise and living examples of regeneration practitioners bring about action for the people and communities that need it most. These awards are a great example of empowered communities working together to meet the challenges they face.”



Derek MacKay,
Minister for
Local Government
and Planning

SURF Award Judging Panel

The independent judging panel for the 2012 SURF Awards comprised 13 representatives of key regeneration organisations and seven voluntary community representatives. Each judge gave their time freely to review, select, visit and decide between 52 project applications. SURF is very grateful to them and their organisations for their essential and much appreciated contribution.

The 2012 SURF Awards judging panel comprised the following members:

Community Led category

- David Cleghorn (Community Volunteer)
- Emilie Devlin (Community Volunteer)
- Fiona Garven (Scottish Community Development Centre)
- Douglas McCreath (Community Volunteer)

Sustainable Place category

- Diarmaid Lawlor (Architecture + Design Scotland)
- Chessa Llewellyn-White (Highlands and Islands Enterprise)
- Pamela Maxwell (Community Volunteer)
- David Stewart (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations)

Infrastructure category

- Sheila Beck (NHS Health Scotland)
- Jack Ferguson (Community Volunteer)
- Murdo MacPherson (Scottish Government)
- Robert McDowall (Regeneration Consultant)

Creative Regeneration category

- Raymond Black (Creative Scotland)
- John Cassidy (Community Volunteer)
- Diane Gray (Heritage Lottery Fund (Scotland))
- Kenneth McKinlay (VOCAL Scotland)

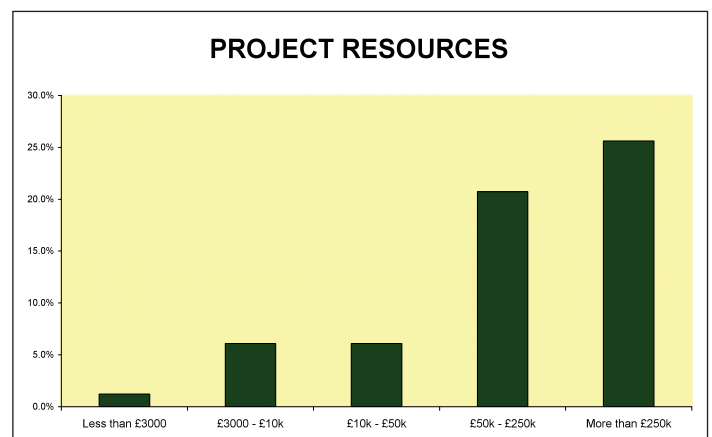
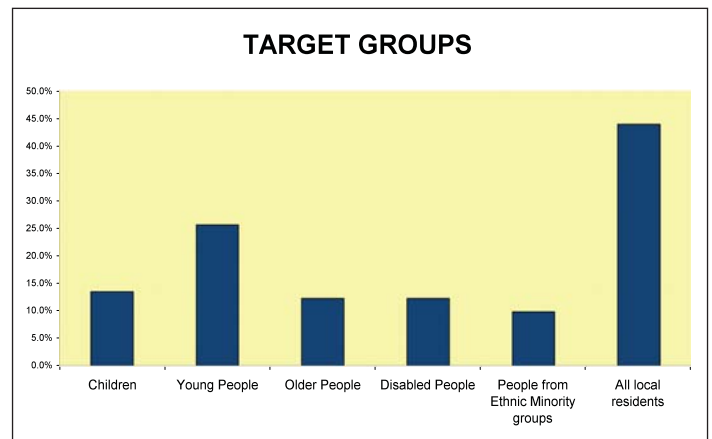
YESS to Jobs category

- Michelle Gibson (Skills Development Scotland)
- Michael Kennedy (JobCentre Plus)
- Tam Munro (Community Volunteer)
- Mike O'Donnell (Skills Development Scotland)

SURF Award Entries in 2012

52 community regeneration initiatives were put forward for a SURF Award this year, representing a wide geographic and cross-sector spread.

As the following charts indicate, a great deal of diversity was also evident in the scale, scope and intended beneficiaries of the nominated projects.



SURF is grateful to the Scottish Government, which funds the SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.



Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 250 member organisations, and in particular from its 13 sponsoring members. Their backing provides the political, administrative and financial independence that helps SURF play a unique role in linking policy and practice across all of the sectors concerned with regenerating Scotland's communities.



Getting together at the 2011 SURF Awards Presentation Dinner

