

# SURF



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# SURF Awards



## 2020

# Awards



SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

# The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2020



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Architecture & Design Scotland  
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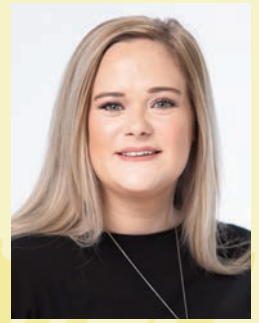


LOTTERY FUNDED



The 2020 SURF Awards is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, and with additional support from Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland's Towns Partnership, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Skills Development Scotland.

“In a year that has seen organisations and groups across Scotland facing unprecedented challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is particularly apt to celebrate the achievements of those working in our communities. Your work not only supports our communities – it improves people's lives – and SFHA would like to congratulate the winners of the 2020 SURF Awards as well as the nominees.”



Sara Jackson  
Head of Business Services,  
SFHA

## The 2020 SURF Awards

2020 marks 22 years of the SURF Awards, showcasing, promoting and sharing the learning from best practice examples of ‘what works’ within Scotland’s places. Each year the SURF Awards has celebrated some of the most impressive outcomes in tackling physical, social and economic decline in communities throughout the country.

This publication profiles the 15 projects shortlisted in the 2020 SURF Awards, plus an additional project that received special recognition for impact during the Covid lockdown period. Projects range in scale, activity and geography, from smaller scale community hubs in Paisley and Edinburgh and arts and wellbeing programmes in Govan to large scale investment in Argyll and Bute and South Lanarkshire. We hope all 16 will inspire those working in regeneration projects throughout Scotland, and provide opportunities for learning.

### Covid-19 and the SURF Awards

2020 has been an unprecedented year for organisations and communities across Scotland, and the world. We have witnessed first-hand the collective efforts of community groups and organisations as they pulled together to support those most in need within their communities.

The SURF Awards have always rewarded, and celebrated, best practice examples of collaborative working which support place-based regeneration. 2020 has highlighted what can be achieved when communities come together, collaborate and share resources, to achieve innovative, creative solutions to addressing the impacts of Covid-19. SURF thanks all of the communities and organisations across Scotland that have shown resilience and determination in facing an unparalleled challenge, by delivering remarkable outcomes for Scotland’s people and communities.

### Themes and Outcomes

The SURF Awards has five categories, which reflect regeneration activity at all scales, from community led initiatives to large-scale partnership investments. They are:

- **Housing and Regeneration**
- **Creative Regeneration**
- **Community Led Regeneration**
- **Supporting Youth Employability**
- **Scotland’s Most Improved Place**



This year, our 20-member panel of expert judges independently considered 52 category applications over an intensive two-month process of assessments and virtual site visits. Working in category teams, the judges were tasked with narrowing down all nominees to a shortlist of 15, and ultimately selecting just one winner per category.

These winners were Nith Valley Leaf Trust Community-Owned Passivhaus Project (see p6), The Glasgow Barons (p8), The Tannahill Centre (p10), Street League: Head, Body, Future (p12) and Campbeltown Town Centre (p14). There was also an additional Special Recognition Award for Ambitious Partnership for Improvement in Larkhall (p5). Our judging panel were highly impressed with the outcomes all initiatives achieved, and in the commitment, thoughtfulness and community-centred vision behind their respective planning and development journeys.

### Special Thanks

SURF is grateful to the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003. On pages 18-19, you can learn about what SURF and the Scottish Government are doing to support improved policy and practice in regeneration.

We appreciate the time and effort of our judges (you can see who they are on p4), and the additional support from our category partners: Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland’s Towns Partnership, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and Skills Development Scotland.

SURF could not operate as Scotland’s Regeneration Forum without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 300+ member organisations: especially our 10 key delivery partners, who are listed on p20.

Finally, we are grateful to everyone involved in the SURF Awards since its inception, for helping us to better understand and promote ‘what works’ in what has largely been a turbulent and challenging period for Scottish community regeneration.

If you would like to know more about the SURF Awards, including a series of free 2021 events featuring the winning projects and the outcomes of past processes, please visit: [www.surf.scot/surf-awards](http://www.surf.scot/surf-awards)

# Results

## Contents & Category Results

### Housing and Regeneration



*Purpose:* to recognise and promote the achievements of all housing providers in ensuring that their investments are planned and delivered in a way which produces substantial, lasting benefits to resident communities and the shared aims of wider regeneration partners. This category is supported by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

*Winner:* **Nith Valley Leaf Trust Community-Owned Passivhaus Project** – page 6

*Also shortlisted:* Gairloch and Dunarn Street, Newtyle – page 7

### Community Led Regeneration



*Purpose:* to reward projects which have been dynamic in their response to the impacts of Covid-19 on their community, and which feature representatives of a community of place or theme in a leading role. This category is supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

*Winner:* **The Tannahill Centre** – page 10

*Also shortlisted:* Bridgend Farmhouse Community Hub and Rom Romeha – page 11

### Scotland's Most Improved Place



*Purpose:* to identify, celebrate and share the positive impacts of participative planning and regeneration processes in Scottish places. It will also celebrate collaborative approaches taken by communities across Scotland in response to Covid19. This category is supported by Architecture & Design Scotland and Scotland's Towns Partnership.

*Winner:* **Campbeltown Town Centre** – page 14

*Also shortlisted:* New Cumnock and Fernbrae Meadows – page 15

### Creative Regeneration



*Purpose:* to reward best practice in placing artists, arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts. This includes highlighting creative organisations and projects which have adapted to support communities during the Covid-19 crisis, and plans to support the recovery and rebuilding of their communities in future. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.

*Winner:* **The Glasgow Barons** – page 8

*Also shortlisted:* Creative Steps to Positive Mental Health and Toonspeak Young People's Theatre – page 9

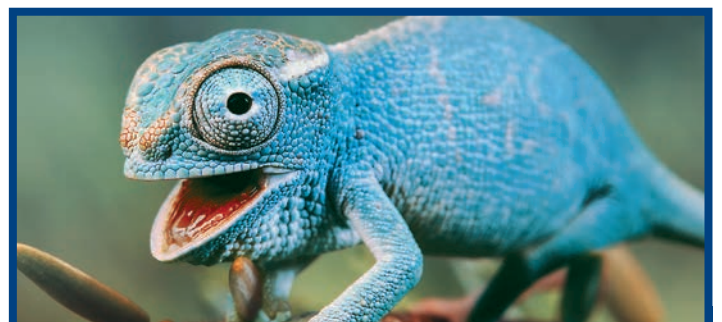
### Supporting Youth Employability



*Purpose:* to recognise a project that supports community regeneration by providing skills and employability support to help young people aged 16-29 years fulfil their potential. It celebrates innovative approaches to transforming services and continual provision of support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

*Winner:* **Street League: Head, Body, Future** – page 12

*Also shortlisted:* Move On: Employability Fund and Community Renewal Trust: Youth Employability Team – page 13



*"Just as chameleons have the ability to adapt their colour to match their surroundings, organisations and community groups across Scotland have adapted their services to support their communities during the Covid crisis."*

# SURF

Recognising good practice  
across the country

# Awards



Street League: Head, Body, Future, Throughout Scotland

Gairloch, Gairloch

Move On: Employability Fund, Glasgow  
Toonspeak Young People's Theatre, Glasgow

Ambitious Partnership  
for Improvement, Larkhall

Dunarn Street,  
Newtyle, Angus

Creative Steps to Positive Mental Health, Govan  
The Glasgow Barons, Govan

Bridgend Farmhouse  
Community Hub, Edinburgh

The Tannahill Centre, Paisley

Community Renewal  
Trust: Youth  
Employability Team,  
South east Edinburgh

Campbeltown Town Centre,  
Campbeltown

Fernbrae Meadows,  
South Lanarkshire

Rom Romeha, Govanhill

New Cumnock,  
East Ayrshire

Nith Valley Leaf Trust Community-  
Owned Passivhaus Project, Closeburn

## Independent judging panel – and the projects they assessed

The 2020 SURF Awards were independently judged by a panel of 20 representatives drawn from national regeneration-related bodies and community groups. Each panel member, listed below, gave their time freely to evaluate, shortlist, make visits to, and agree a winner from, project nominees in the respective categories. SURF is grateful for the extensive time and effort they contributed.

### Housing and Regeneration

**Pauline Gilroy** (Scottish Government)  
**Sara Jackson** (Scottish Fed. of Housing Associations)  
**Julie Watson** (Kingdom Housing Association)  
**Alisdair Clements** (INCH Architecture)

### Creative Regeneration

**Jenny Tipton** (Creative Scotland)  
**Leah Black** (WHALE Arts)  
**Donnie Nicolson** (Bellsmyre Development Trust)  
**Karen Orr** (RIG Arts)

### Community Led Regeneration

**Allison Matthews** (The National Lottery Community Fund)  
**George Findlater** (Historic Environment Scotland)  
**Kirsty Fowler** (Ochiltree Community Hub)  
**Rhona Fraser** (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

### Supporting Youth Employability

**Elaine Walls** (Skills Development Scotland)  
**Arthur McNeaney** (DRC Youth Project)  
**Fiona Doring** (Impact Arts)  
**Blyth Deans** (The Lennox Partnership)

### Scotland's Most Improved Town

**Mhairi Donaghy** (Scotland's Towns Partnership)  
**Kirsty Macari** (Architecture & Design Scotland)  
**Iain Murray** (Scottish Government)  
**Kirsty Tait** (Scottish Land Commission)

52 regeneration initiatives were nominated for the 2020 SURF Awards, highlighting the wide range of interventions that are addressing social and economic problems in communities throughout Scotland.

From Dumfries and Galloway to Wester Ross, these projects represent a wide spread of sectors and scales, with diverse public, private and third sector delivery models, and budgets that range from under £50k to tens of millions.

While only 16 shortlisted projects are featured in this publication, SURF appreciated the opportunity to learn about the important community regeneration work evident in every initiative that was put forward for consideration.

Please note that many of the photos featuring in this publication were taken before social distancing restrictions.

“2020 challenged us all in ways largely unimaginable at the start of the year, with the global pandemic hitting those least resourced hardest. SURF's key objective is to improve the lives and opportunities of residents in Scotland's disadvantaged communities with our Annual Awards recognising and rewarding best practice and innovation. In this strangest of years it is fitting that the Awards highlight responses to Covid-19 alongside ongoing regeneration efforts. Sincere commendations to this year's nominees and winners facing unprecedented times head on, and to the judges for bringing their enthusiasm and expertise to the table, virtual as it has had to be.”



Kate Wimpres  
Chair,  
SURF

## Special Recognition Award

### Ambitious Partnership for Improvement (Larkhall)

#### What is the aim of the project?

To co-ordinate the local response to the Covid-19 crisis.

#### Where is it taking place?

In Larkhall, South Lanarkshire.

#### What has been achieved?

Larkhall has two areas of high deprivation, with residents experiencing issues around health, access to local services and transport. Covid-19 compounded existing issues and brought an immediate need for services such as shopping and prescription collection, as well as having a severe impact on mental health. The Covid-19 Rainbows project



built upon the existing Larkhall Plan Partnership approach and partners mobilised quickly to plan and coordinate the local response.

The Larkhall Plan Partnership is made up of community groups and organisations, including Larkhall Community Council, Larkhall District Volunteer Group and Community Links. The Covid-19 Rainbows project coordinated these organisations to find emerging issues, secure funds and reach the community through social media and leafleting, as well as providing a phonenumber for requests. Through making use of existing partnerships, the project was able to effectively cascade information through community networks and support people in a range of ways, including delivering 5457 free hot meals, more than 1000 activity packs, food vouchers and 'pick me up' baskets for key workers. Local suppliers and businesses were used wherever possible to widen the impact of funding and reinvest in the local area.

Although the Covid-19 Rainbows project came to an end in October, the groups involved in the partnership are now working on a Terms of Reference to continue to develop joint projects and make best use of shared knowledge and resources, under the newly formed Larkhall Community Network.



#### Who is running it?

The Partnership includes organisations from across the public, third and private sectors. Funding came from the local community, businesses and national emergency funds.

#### Why did the judging panel like it?

Ambitious Partnership for Improvement truly united the community by combining multiple local groups and businesses to deliver essential support. The judges particularly valued the local empowerment created from the effective use of a community asset to pull together volunteers from a cross-section of the community, and the drive to continue the support beyond the pandemic. The judges will be following the progress of Larkhall Community Network, and will not be surprised to see their work feature in future SURF Awards.

#### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.larkhallcommunitygrowers.com/events/](http://www.larkhallcommunitygrowers.com/events/)

Contact: Nancy Barr, Chairperson, Larkhall Community Growers:  
01698 888365, [lcgnancybarr@gmail.com](mailto:lcgnancybarr@gmail.com)

**Feldy-Roo** in Aberfeldy and **“We Stand Better When We Stand Together”** in Glenrothes were highly commended by the judging panel for their efforts to support their communities through the impacts of the Covid-19 lockdown period.

# Housing and Regeneration

# Winner



## Nith Valley Leaf Trust Community-Owned Passivhaus Project

### What is the aim of the project?

To construct Scotland's first community-owned homes built to 'Passivhaus' ultra-low energy standards.



Scotland's first community-owned passive homes

### Where is it taking place?

Closeburn, Upper Nithsdale, Dumfries and Galloway.

### What has been achieved?

Nith Valley Leaf Trust (NVLT) worked alongside Dumfries and Galloway Small Communities Housing Trust (DGSCHT) to undertake a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, which demonstrated that a lack of affordable housing and fuel poverty are two of the main issues facing the community. This underpinned the strategy to build Passivhaus-standard homes. Heating the new homes is only expected to cost around £300 per house per year, decreasing spending on fuel while also producing significantly less carbon emissions.

Local people were engaged through an initial consultation, open sessions during the feasibility study and business planning phases, and a range of community events. NVLT also worked with Community Land Scotland during the tenant selection process, which took into account applicants' existing relationships with the local community as well as individual housing needs. Through meeting the needs identified in the initial assessment, and taking connections with the community into account, the NVLT homes enable young working families to remain in the area, and it is hoped that savings from energy-efficiency will alleviate hardship for the tenants.

The families living within the houses all have young children who attend the local primary school or playgroup, in turn supporting the future of the local community. The specific tenancies have also directly addressed issues of homelessness.

The community ownership model allows NVLT to re-invest rent revenue into community projects and contributes to long-term housing solutions in the area.

### Who is running it?

The NVLT worked in partnership with public and private sectors throughout the process, in particular the DGSCHT, Community Council and the design team at John Gilbert Architects.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were particularly impressed by the Trust's vision to provide highly energy efficient homes to tackle fuel poverty and climate change, and the partnership approach adopted to turn this vision into a reality.

Strong community engagement demonstrated the need for family housing and a lettings initiative ensured allocations were made to local people in greatest housing need. Tenant feedback on how their new homes had changed their lives was inspiring and a reminder of the difference that affordable quality homes can make.

The families living within the houses all have young children



The community ownership model allows NVLT to re-invest rent revenue into community projects



The project team's commitment to carry out a Post Occupancy Evaluation study and share the findings from this to help promote good practice and knowledge transfer was very impressive. Overall the judges felt that the team should be proud of what they've achieved in delivering a project which will help sustain the community for years to come.

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.nithvalley.org](http://www.nithvalley.org)

Contact: Jakob Kaye, Community Housing Officer,  
Nith Valley Leaf Trust: 07757 144369, [jakob.nvlt@yahoo.com](mailto:jakob.nvlt@yahoo.com)

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# Shortlisted

## Dunarn Street, Newtyle

### What is the aim of the project?

To work with the local community to provide much-needed social housing in a rural area.

### Where is it taking place?

On a vacant lot next to a primary school in the village of Newtyle, Angus.

### What has been achieved?

The project used vacant land, a legacy of the development of a primary school in 2009, to build 12 new energy-efficient council houses, including four units suitable for people with additional needs. The development provides an important population boost for the area, in turn benefitting local shops and businesses.

The local community, in particular pupils from the neighbouring school, were involved in the project from the outset. Following consultation with the community, it became clear that an area of community-owned land, included in the initial proposal, wasn't a priority for local people, and the proposal was amended to include four additional housing units.

The project has a strong focus on sustainability and biodiversity. The homes are air-tight, energy-efficient and include solar power, meaning lower bills for tenants and a legacy of sustainable design in the area. Simple measures such as bird boxes and hedgehog-friendly design were also included.

The success of the Newtyle project, in particular the level of community participation and commitment to biodiversity, now informs other developments at Angus Council.

### Who is running it?

Angus Council Housing, Assets, Planning and Parks departments worked alongside partners, such as Newtyle Community Council and Primary School and Bancon Construction, to deliver the project.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were particularly impressed with the excellent working relationships between the various Council officials and departments, the contractor, the local community and importantly, the adjacent primary school throughout the planning and building process.

Built to a very high standard with placemaking at its heart, the houses comprise a mixture of wheelchair accessible and mainstream family homes with high levels of energy efficiency. These houses will have a significant and positive impact on the lives of the tenants as well as providing for the socio-economic wellbeing of the village itself.



## Gairloch

### What is the aim of the project?

To redevelop a derelict former hotel into a mixed-use site with affordable housing alongside better opportunities to be socially and economically active.

### Where is it taking place?

On a centrally-located derelict site in Gairloch, north-west Scotland.

### What has been achieved?

The project succeeded in redeveloping a site which had been left derelict following a fire, as well as providing affordable housing and new opportunities for young people. The completed redevelopment features 19 affordable homes for rent, 6 low-cost homes for purchase, a farm, a garden store and cafe, tourist information hub, a University of the Highlands & Islands facility, an award winning Museum and a training facility.

The project was developed in collaboration with the local community from an early stage. High levels of community participation were ensured through consultations, events and surveys, which revealed the need for varied tenures and a mixed-use development, as well as education and training opportunities for younger people. This resulted in a development which goes beyond housing to meet the wider needs of the community, and in turn create opportunities which encourage people to remain in this rural area.

Potential for further development was built into plans through opening up access to more land.

### Who is running it?

The local community formed the Achtercairn Development Group (ADC) to lead the project. ADC included relevant community groups, local businesses and the local authority. The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust chaired the ADC and helped guide the project.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges loved the holistic, multi-partner and forward looking proposals, demonstrating how housing, when delivered in partnership with other compatible functions can unlock development sites and provide wider socio-economic benefits to local communities.

The patience and perseverance of the various organisations involved in the project was recognised, alongside the foresight of the development trust in banking land for non-housing sites, which supported this wider benefit to the community.

It is hoped that the worthy project ambitions and outcomes can be replicated across other rural areas.



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.angus.gov.uk/directories/housing\\_developments/newtyle\\_dunarn\\_street](http://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/housing_developments/newtyle_dunarn_street)

Contact: Jamie Ross, Housing Policy Officer,

Angus Council: 07786 198404, [Rossj1@angus.gov.uk](mailto:Rossj1@angus.gov.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.hscht.co.uk/gairloch.html](http://www.hscht.co.uk/gairloch.html)

Contact: John Forbes, Community Led Housing Coordinator,  
The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust:  
[john.forbes@communityhousingscotland.co.uk](mailto:john.forbes@communityhousingscotland.co.uk)

# Creative Regeneration

# Winner



## The Glasgow Barons

### What is the aim of the project?

To bring the community together for musical performances, showcase local talent and highlight Govan's historical architecture.



### Where is it taking place?

Live events are held in a range of Govan's historical buildings, with other projects taking place online, on radio or in public spaces.

### What has been achieved?

The Glasgow Barons hold a range of musical performances and arts events in historical under-utilised buildings across Govan. These events provide music for enjoyment's sake and many of the participants and performers come from some of Scotland's most marginalised groups.



In addition to bringing disparate groups together and reaching vulnerable and isolated members of the community through the use of FM radio, the Glasgow Barons are instrumental in telling the stories of Govan and marginalised groups to a wider audience.

Glasgow Barons has been active throughout the pandemic and have played a key role in providing information, reducing isolation and above all lifting community spirits with a range of projects, such as the 'Quarantine Classics' weekly radio programme and weekly Zoom courses. After examination of regulations, Glasgow Barons hired one musician, wearing a facemask, in a gazebo and a two metre chalk circle to play whilst people stood waiting for food provision, provided by a consortium of key Govan organisations.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Glasgow Barons project has continued to adapt and help bring fresh optimism to the Govan area. The project has a range of plans for the future, including flashmob orchestras and efforts to promote digital inclusion.

### Who is running it?

The Glasgow Barons is a charitable organisation set up by Artistic Director Paul MacAlinden.

Cooperation with a range of local organisations, such as schools and Sunny Govan FM Radio, has been essential to their success.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judging panel were particularly impressed with the unique and innovative approaches designed and delivered by a relatively new orchestra initiative and how they adapted the medium of music to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of a community. They were also struck by the enthusiasm, and passion of participants to share music through multilingual and multicultural themed performance, which was both impressive and genuinely inspirational.

The project particularly highlighted and evidenced both the strength and diversification of new partnerships, created and developed locally, to counter the issues created by lockdown, and the spontaneous reaction to challenges and the effectiveness of interventions were both admirable and obviously valued within the local community.

The overall vision of using the Barons project to play a multi-faceted and fluid part in the continued regeneration of Govan was very obvious and highly encouraging.



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.glasgowbarons.com](http://www.glasgowbarons.com)

Contact: Paul MacAlinden, Artistic Director, The Glasgow Barons:  
07464 669972, [theglasgowbarons@gmail.com](mailto:theglasgowbarons@gmail.com)



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# Shortlisted

## Creative Steps to Positive Mental Health

### What is the aim of the project?

To provide creative peer support to people experiencing poor mental health and isolation.

### Where is it taking place?

Participants come from across the Southside of Glasgow, particularly Govan.

### What has been achieved?

Compared to wider Glasgow, residents of Govan have poorer life outcomes, including life expectancy and frequency of long-term health conditions. The Creative Steps programme addresses a recognised need for an alternative form of wellbeing support. The project uses creativity to facilitate peer support groups which give participants structure and the opportunity to socialise and connect with the community. Last year, Creative Steps delivered 438 creative groups to 201 local people.

Creative Steps uses a 3 Step method to help participants progress. Step 1 provides individuals with eight week blocks of creative classes, delivered at 6 NHS locations across the Southside, reaching individuals with severe and enduring mental health conditions. Step 2 invites participants to engage in weekly community arts groups based at the Portal in Govan, and Step 3 focusses on wider community participation through courses, volunteering and activities.

Creative Steps advocates for the role of the arts and creative participation in addressing mental health. The project has already gathered data showing a social return of £7.55 for every £1 invested in the programme.

### Who is running it?

The Creative Steps programme was developed by Plantation Productions, an established community arts organisation based in Govan.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The panel of judges were particularly impressed by the innovative 3 Step programme of development for clients with complex and varied mental health issues and difficulties, and by the new approach of taking the service to the point of clinical delivery as an initial means of engagement. There were an impressive range of creative opportunities and extensive support options to positively transform people's lives whilst adding substantial social value benefits. The innovation of using existing participants to subsequently attract, provide comfort and lead skills on specific initiatives was very impressive, as was the high level of referrals from healthcare partners who so obviously valued the opportunities offered by the project.



## Toonspeak Young People's Theatre

### What is the aim of the project?

To empower young people, provide a space to explore creativity and raise skills and confidence.

### Where is it taking place?

Toonspeak is active in some of Glasgow's most deprived communities

### What has been achieved?

Toonspeak provides young people with the opportunity to build wider support networks, engage in the arts, be mentally and physically active, and to develop skills which contribute towards positive outcomes.

Much of Toonspeak's work takes place through 'Hello Barmulloch', a multi-generational, multi-art programme which helps raise the skills, confidence and aspirations of vulnerable members of the community. 'Hello Barmulloch' has provided much-needed informal learning for primary-age children, with sessions resulting in parents feeling more confident in playing with their children. Furthermore, the Toonspeak Young Company provides talented young people with a forum to produce and perform their own works.

After successfully applying for emergency funding, Toonspeak were able to help families access technology and provide new digital creativity sessions, creative therapy and professional development for existing participants. The organisation is currently developing the Toonspeak Recovery Programme, which aims to blend digital and physical delivery, and continue to develop through digital safeguarding procedures and new resources for teachers.

### Who is running it?

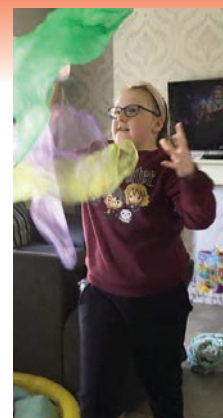
Toonspeak is a youth-led organisation. There are six spaces for young people on Toonspeak's Board and many of the volunteers are former participants. They work with a range of partner organisations, including the NHS, mental health organisations and other theatres.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were struck by strong evidence of a trusted relationship with the community and by the successful extension of new services offered to clients referred by partners.

The approach of individually assessing both need and capacity for children to participate and benefit from new digital based activities has proved successful in developing talent and increasing interest in creative opportunities.

The judges were enthused by the enthusiasm and cohesive approach of the staff to ensure regular meaningful engagement throughout lockdown, and the commitment to extend new solutions into future mainstream planning. It was terrific to witness young people whose participation and involvement with creative arts was highly evident.



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.creativesteps.org.uk](http://www.creativesteps.org.uk)

Contact: Moya Crowley, Creative Director, Plantation Productions:  
0141 445 1666, [moya@plantation.org.uk](mailto:moya@plantation.org.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.toonspeak.co.uk](http://www.toonspeak.co.uk)

Contact: Alex Bewley, Funding Officer, Toonspeak Young People's Theatre:  
[alex@toonspeak.co.uk](mailto:alex@toonspeak.co.uk)

# Community Led Regeneration

# Winner



## The Tannahill Centre

### What is the aim of the project?

To reform the role of a community hub and the services it provides, to better engage with the local community.



It was asked to coordinate the community response to Covid-19 and act as an emergency food distribution hub

### Where is it taking place?

The Tannahill Centre is located in Ferguslie Park, Paisley, one of Scotland's most impoverished communities.

### What has been achieved?

In 2017, a community consultation found that local people felt that the Tannahill Centre was an unwelcoming space with nothing to offer. At the time, the centre offered just three regular services and had a historically bad relationship with key stakeholders, including the Community Council. Since then, the Tannahill Centre has taken action to reverse this trend and has become a trusted hub for the community, with 45 organisations providing regular services. In testament to the centre's improved services and central role in the community, it was asked to coordinate the community response to Covid-19 and act as an emergency food distribution hub for all of Renfrewshire.

The centre's participatory budgeting approach has led to £40,000 of funding being distributed to organisations



The centre has helped people to establish Self-Reliant Groups where people come together to learn skills and generate income through micro-businesses, such as upcycling and bike repairs, in turn addressing the lack of businesses and choice in the area.

Furthermore, the centre's participatory budgeting approach has led to £40,000 of funding being distributed to organisations and services unable to access traditional funding, resulting in 17 new services and activities reaching 3000 local people. These include supporting young women to undertake training to enable them manage the dance school and intergenerational activities between a seniors group and the local school.

### Who is running it?

The Board is made up of community representatives and 80% of staff are local. Local people are supported to lead the development and delivery of many of the centre's services.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The Tannahill Centre utilised volunteers and community activists, who joined with the staff team, to improve local people's lives. The centre demonstrated the strength of the programmes developed by the community, high levels of community engagement, and a commitment to create local jobs, training, and volunteering opportunities.

The Tannahill Centre was once seen as an unwelcoming space with nothing to offer



The judges enjoyed hearing about future opportunities and community anticipation to be involved in new services and activities. Further opportunities being developed by the community include a men's club for wellbeing and sharing resources to inspire others to lead. When the Covid pandemic started the community responded quickly, in partnership with the Tannahill Centre, before they had even received any form of support aid.

The defining moment for the judges came when the group outlined that the community sought to look after neighbours, where support was no longer available within The Tannahill Centre. They took the ethos of the centre to the streets to continue the vibrant work being carried out by all involved.

### Where can I find out more?

[www.facebook.com/tannahillcentre/](https://www.facebook.com/tannahillcentre/)

Contact: Jamie Mallan, Business Transformation Manager,  
The Tannahill Centre: 07480 367326, [jamiemallan@fpha.org.uk](mailto:jamiemallan@fpha.org.uk)

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# Shortlisted

## Bridgend Farmhouse Community Hub

### What is the aim of the project?

To address social inequalities and isolation, and build local health, skills and resilience through a range of activities.

### Where is it taking place?

Between two neighbourhoods in south Edinburgh, which fall into the 20% most deprived in Scotland.

### What has been achieved?

Bridgend Farmhouse serves as a community hub where local people can share skills and knowledge through creative, practical and physical activity. Since three local people had the vision of transforming the derelict farmhouse into a community hub in 2010, Bridgend Farmhouse has been a community led initiative.

The community led approach has given local people the confidence and agency to get things done, and ensures facilities and activities are developed directly from the decisions made by members. Furthermore, a participatory budgeting initiative means that new projects or groups with community priorities can access funding through the 'Acorn Fund'.

Facilities and projects include a training kitchen and cafe, workshops, bike maintenance and hire, an outdoor classroom, and a soon-to-be-completed 'eco-bothy' for children and families. The range of activities also provides vital employment and skills development opportunities in the area; for example, 40 volunteers were trained to construct the new eco-bothy. During the Covid-19 crisis, community groups continued online and Bridgend Farmhouse played a key role in cooking and delivering up to 1380 meals per day to vulnerable local people.

### Who is running it?

The Farmhouse is owned and run by its 406 members using a co-operative structure, with equal shares and voting rights. The Board of Trustees are also volunteers.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

The combination of outdoor space and indoor facilities at Bridgend Farmhouse was fantastic to see. The building created to showcase the history of the venue boasts sustainability and a strong community feel with its training kitchen and community cafe. The judges enjoyed speaking with a variety of volunteers to understand the true nature of the facility. A family approach in working at the farm and socialising together really came across. Their response to the Covid crisis showed real creativity. The Farmhouse shone in its plans for the future driven by the commitment of a highly skilled group of trustees.



## Rom Romeha

### What is the aim of the project?

To support the vulnerable Roma community during the Covid-19 crisis through a range of Roma-led projects.

### Where is it taking place?

Govanhill, Glasgow, home to more than 4000 Roma people.

### What has been achieved?

Roma people were initially extremely vulnerable to coronavirus and the impacts of lockdown. This was due to factors such as limited English literacy, distrust of government institutions, sudden job losses and loss of school support networks for young people.

The Community Renewal Trust (CRT) has been active in the Govanhill Roma community since 2008, and was able to draw on a network of 11 Roma staff and 50 volunteers. The success of the lockdown community response has enabled CRT to achieve its long-term aim of a new Roma-led development trust - Rom Romeha or 'For Roma, by Roma'. This new trust has secured funding for the next three years and will build on the community confidence and resilience gained during lockdown.

Local priorities were identified through the Roma community forum and Rom Romeha was able to support local people to deliver their own ideas for support, such as public health messaging in Roma languages and dialects, over 5000 emergency food parcels and benefits advice over social media and video chat. Local people took the lead; for example, the Govanhill Roma Youth Group who documented lockdown using videos and banners.

### Who is running it?

The Community Renewal Trust's Rom Romeha project is delivered by Roma staff and 50 regular volunteers. The charity works with a range of partners, including Govanhill Housing Association, Govanhill Baths and the Clutha Trust.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

For Roma, by Roma is a vision that encapsulates the aspiration and empowerment of creating positive change for the community. The judges were really impressed by the enthusiastic involvement of the Roma people as staff and volunteers. A passionate partnership ethos clearly came across. Increasing the visibility and presence of Roma people on partnerships in wider community groups is a key benefit of the evolving nature of Rom Romeha. They are at a pivotal moment in their journey to being the empowered voice of local regeneration. We are excited to see the future of the group and where they will place in future SURF Awards as they continue to grow.



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk](http://www.bridgendfarmhouse.org.uk)

Contact: William Golding, Trustee, Bridgend Farmhouse:  
07949 230245, [will.g.bridgendfarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:will.g.bridgendfarmhouse@gmail.com)

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.communityrenewal.org.uk/newdevelopments/roma-life-cic/](http://www.communityrenewal.org.uk/newdevelopments/roma-life-cic/)

Contact: Marek Balog, Project Lead, Community Renewal:  
0141 423 7111, [Marek.balog@communityrenewal.org.uk](mailto:Marek.balog@communityrenewal.org.uk)

# Supporting Youth Employability

# Winner



## Street League: Head, Body, Future

### What is the aim of the project?

To safeguard vulnerable young people and give them the skills and opportunities to step out of poverty.



204 young people have gained employment, education or training

### Where is it taking place?

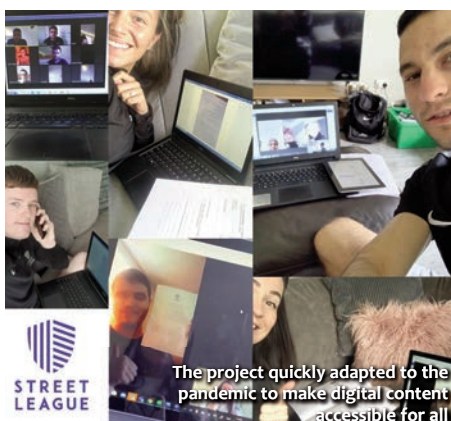
Delivered throughout Scotland, half of all participants live in the 20% most deprived areas. This year, the programme has been delivered using Zoom.

### What has been achieved?

Head Body Future (HBF) is Street League's online youth employment service, which works with young people who face insecurity every day. Many have problems with literacy and money management, and come from families who may be unable to heat their homes, buy essentials or access technology. The HBF approach focuses on the three success factors for gaining employment; head (mental health), body (fitness) and future (access to opportunities).

The reality of these young people's living situations means barriers to engaging through not having the technology or adequate living supplies. In order to ensure the success of HBF, Street League made iPads, data 'bolt ons' and supermarket vouchers available to young people, as they wanted to ensure they could engage regardless of their living situation.

Young people joining the programme complete a learning plan with key goals and barriers, and progression is tracked with one-to-one



reviews. Furthermore, both young people and employers are supported for 12 months after the young person finishes the employability programme.

The project quickly adapted to the pandemic to make digital content accessible for all, and deliver workouts, personal development workshops and qualifications via Zoom. During lockdown, the project particularly focused on safeguarding participants' mental health with one-to-one support and mentoring, and personalised fitness plans. Street League also introduced a new wellbeing log to monitor key issues such as access to food and digital technologies.

Since April, 616 young people have participated in HBF, with 204 gaining employment, education or training and 113 people gaining a qualification. Street League's work helps young people feel 'connected' whilst online and become digitally savvy. Street League's staff, will continue to support young people through the impending youth unemployment crisis.

This year the programme has been delivered using Zoom



### Who is running it?

The project, led by national sport for employment charity Street League, receives referrals from a range of local and corporate partners.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

This year Street League has taken the barrier of Covid and turned it into an opportunity, accessing wider groups of young people, and developing new ways to develop skills for life and work. Moving away from their core sport - football - has encouraged more girls to engage. Using apps and social media allows clients to show skills that previously they couldn't, while opening new engagement avenues.

Street League has provided digital access for clients and widened their employer partnerships. Three significant employers are now on board providing a pipeline to Modern Apprenticeships for some.

Beyond employability, staff developed skills to safeguard vulnerable clients and are now working with children's charity NSPCC in this area.

Street League have changed their delivery radically, creating innovations which have value as shared learning, not just for their own programmes, but for the entire sector.

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.streetleague.co.uk/head-body-future](http://www.streetleague.co.uk/head-body-future)

Contact: Douglas Stevenson, Managing Director, Street League:  
07369 08748, [douglas.stevenson@streetleague.co.uk](mailto:douglas.stevenson@streetleague.co.uk)

category sponsored by



# Shortlisted

## Community Renewal Trust: Youth Employability Team

### What is the aim of the project?

To find disengaged young people and provide them with long-term, holistic employability support.

### Where is it taking place?

In deprived neighbourhoods in south east Edinburgh, including Bingham, Magdalene, Niddrie and Morden.

### What has been achieved?

The Youth Employability Team works with school leavers who are often missed by traditional top-down support approaches, many of whom face multiple disadvantages. The team take a grassroots approach to finding disengaged young people, for example through running a gym and streetwork. During lockdown, the team increased engagement through use of phone and social-media based support and online learning.

Since 2011, the project has secured more than 100 jobs, including 18 in the last two years, and supported broader positive outcomes, such as a new community gym, a support group for young mums and helping young offenders avoid prison.

Each case starts with a 'Holistic Assessment' of areas including accommodation, family situation and income, which is used to produce an action plan. Finding employment is not the focus until a young person expresses the desire to work, and support continues after employment to make sure people have the skills and resilience to continue with work/training, and to manage challenges such as addiction or mental health issues.

The team's success has led to the creation of a new system-change programme, 'Lifting Neighbourhoods Together Bingham & Magdalene.'

### Who is running it?

The Community Renewal Trust (CRT) is a charity who work with local and national partners, including local schools and housing associations.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

This enterprise inspired the judges. The Youth Employability Team have a real grafter's approach to finding young people to work with. Their stories of how they reached into communities made the judging team realise how brave and innovative they are in their recruitment.

Oliver, their young person spokesperson, spoke confidently and with enormous affection and gratitude for the intervention CRT has made in his life at a difficult time.

It is clear that CRT go way beyond simply progressing young people through employability courses – they help to stabilise the lives of their clients.



## Move On: Employability Fund

### What is the aim of the project?

To give vulnerable young people practical work experience, whilst helping them to develop broader skills and confidence.

### Where is it taking place?

Participants come from across Glasgow and work placements take place at the FareShare Warehouse in Scotstoun.

### What has been achieved?

The Move On Employability Fund programme is open to 16 - 17 year olds who are not in employment, education or training. Many participants face difficulties such as poor mental health, substance misuse or lack of positive social networks. Participants on the programme go through a period of upskilling and training, followed by work experience in the FareShare Training and Food Depot. This combination approach enables young people to develop new skills such as improved literacy and personal finance, while gaining practical work experience, confidence and experience of working within a team.

Young people on the programme collaborate with staff to create an individual training plan where they set their own training goals and priorities. This collaborative, participant-led approach helps young people from unstable backgrounds build good work habits and develop confidence and aspirations. Progression into a job is not linear for many young people facing additional barriers, so the programme is structured to be flexible and offers a link to other services such as mental health and addiction support.

The programme adapted during lockdown to continue to provide wellbeing support via calls and messaging, alongside ensuring young people had access to the internet.

### Who is running it?

Move On work closely with other Employability Fund providers throughout Glasgow, as well as referral agencies and Skills Development Scotland.

### Why did the judging panel like it?

Move On blew the judges away with the quality of experience and their strong aftercare. The young people who spoke showed the judging team how important the project has been in their lives. The way they spoke showed remarkable confidence and communication skills, which have grown from being involved in the programme. The range of skills learned and utilised by the young people was phenomenal and clearly will be transferrable to good quality jobs in the future. The judges were also impressed by their creativity, developing a tailor-made SVQ qualification for their clients.



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.communityrenewal.org.uk/projects/](http://www.communityrenewal.org.uk/projects/)

Contact: Craig Anderson, Project Lead, Community Renewal Trust:  
078507 08925, [Craig.anderson@communityrenewal.org.uk](mailto:Craig.anderson@communityrenewal.org.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.moveon.org.uk/employability/employability-fund](http://www.moveon.org.uk/employability/employability-fund)

Contact: Natalie Gray, Development Worker, Move On:  
0141 958 1133, [natalie@moveon.org.uk](mailto:natalie@moveon.org.uk)

# Scotland's Most Improved Place

# Winner



## Campbeltown Town Centre

With a population of just 4556, a remote location in Argyll and Bute, and limited transport and employment opportunities, most areas of Campbeltown are within the 15% most deprived in Scotland. In response to these challenges, a combination of community-led regeneration and a multi-million pound renovation project have produced a thriving town centre, and Campbeltown is becoming an increasingly attractive place to live, work and invest.

The physical improvements have been dramatic. Over £13m was spent reinstating the historic town centre and involved over 60 local contractors, supported by traditional skills training. This included repairing over 40 buildings and returning over 2000m<sup>2</sup> of vacant and derelict floorspace to use as both commercial and residential space. This investment has safeguarded existing homes, jobs and businesses, whilst creating opportunities for new businesses. Highlights include the restoration of the world-famous Picture House and Campbeltown Town Hall.

The newly regenerated historic centre has been showcased through an architecture exhibition, held in Glasgow and Campbeltown, and a new 'Discover Campbeltown' app. Furthermore, a range of other community-led initiatives ran alongside the project, including enhancements to the Quarry Green area and cycling route, installation of superfast broadband and relocation of the Council Customer Service Centre. All of this has made the town centre more attractive, helping reduce both commercial and residential vacancy rates, increasing footfall and proving that people still want to live and use the town centre.



The Council established a strong local presence and worked with a range of local partners

Central to the project's success was Argyll and Bute Council's bottom-up approach. The Council established a strong local presence and worked with a range of local partners, including Campbeltown Community Council and local business and tenement owner associations. Additionally, the Council has worked with the community to ensure the long-term sustainability of the town centre regeneration

initiatives, for example through training courses for businesses and regular events such as markets and Shop Local campaigns. These activities have supported the redevelopment project and improved the town for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

The sustainability and resilience of the town centre has already been demonstrated by the rapid development of a fast-track permit system for outdoor trade and seating to help businesses adapt to the pandemic.

The judges were struck with the wide ranging programme of activity that has secured the participation of public, private, community and third sector organisations, all working together from the start. A shared vision based on trust and perseverance has helped to transfer ownership from the local authority into the community who are now empowered to shape and deliver projects that respond to local circumstances.

The judges were impressed at the scope and scale of activity, and the extent to which this has transformed the town. There is no doubt that the physical environment is substantially improved, but the return of confidence from businesses, owners and investors, struck the judges as the key change. With local businesses growing and new ones opening, the town is thriving, reflected in demand for housing from young people who see a positive future for themselves and their town.

Transforming the historic town centre included repairing over 40 buildings



The physical improvements to the town centre have been dramatic



### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/campbeltown-regeneration](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/campbeltown-regeneration)

Contact: James Lafferty, Project Officer, Argyll and Bute Council: 01586 559049, [james.lafferty@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:james.lafferty@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

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SITIP SCOTLAND'S  
TOWNS  
PARTNERSHIP



# Shortlisted

## Fernbrae Meadows

The Fernbrae Meadows project transformed a derelict, fenced-off golf course in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire into an inviting community greenspace with areas for play, education and exercise. Many of the surrounding neighbourhoods are rated in the 5% most deprived nationally, with figures as low as 1% for certain indicators, including health. This informed the project's central aim of creating a space for healthy activity for all ages.



The project was designed to be as inclusive as possible in order to create a feeling of ownership, prevent anti-social behaviour and vandalism and ensure the long-term sustainability of Fernbrae. The Council worked with a local social enterprise, Community Links, to create a new Community Officer position. The Officer worked to involve the local community at all stages through meetings, raising awareness in the community and on social media, and established the 'Friends of Fernbrae' group to support the area in the longer term.

The high levels of community involvement and ownership have produced a greenspace that meets the needs of the community. The key aim of creating space for healthy activities has been met through the creation of varied walking routes for all abilities, regular community activities such as health walks and litter picks, and outdoor classrooms used by approximately 12 local schools. In addition, the redevelopment has also produced considerable benefits for the wider natural environment through enhancing biodiversity with wildflower meadows and wetlands, re-routing the burn to take pressure off downstream drainage, and creating 50 allotments for local food production.

The demand for the greenspace and the success of the design has been clearly visible over lockdown, where an average of 370 people used the area each day.

The judges were impressed at how quickly Fernbrae Meadows has become an integral part of the local place, evidenced by the growing number of people visiting, volunteering and caring for the site.

This project demonstrates innovative re-purposing of a problem site. Rather than sell for development, the Council created "a walk in the country in the middle of the town" with health and wellbeing as central drivers. Physical and community elements ran in parallel from the start, translating into strong local ownership. Activities are varied with interaction across all ages and abilities building strong social bonds.

## New Cumnock

Located in the south of East Ayrshire, New Cumnock faces multiple challenges of depopulation, an isolated location and the decline of mining in the area. The New Cumnock Masterplan for urban regeneration was commissioned by the New Cumnock Development Trust (NCDT) following a series of community consultations in 2018. The heritage-led plan has transformed the town centre, attracting visitors to the area and making New Cumnock a desirable place to live and work.



The Masterplan has taken a community led approach since inception and has involved a wide range of local stakeholders. A quarterly newsletter offers free publicity for local businesses and organisations, as well as being a forum for wider engagement. The community, NCDT and East Ayrshire Council have also collaborated on complementary regeneration and resilience programmes, including new assisted-living housing on the site of a former hotel, flood prevention works and a community first-responder team for flooding emergencies.

The success of the regeneration plan is evident in both the physical transformation of the town centre and its broader economic and social impact. The plan saw the renovation of New Cumnock Town Hall, providing free public Wi-Fi. New Cumnock outdoor swimming pool was refurbished, attracting more than 10,000 visitors in one month during summer 2018. The increased visitor numbers helped to support the expansion of local businesses. Local people have engaged with projects such as a community garden and community clean-ups. There are further plans for a community sports hub.

During the Covid-19 crisis, NCDT administered business and community resilience funds and helped volunteers to create a community larder. Local businesses played a key role in providing donations and offering free deliveries.

The judges were impressed at the strong and enduring partnerships, with local people of all ages involved in a wide range of physical, social and community activities. The community is clearly in the driving seat, working alongside businesses and public bodies to shape a local response to immediate and long-term opportunities that will deliver benefits long into the future.

Building on successful refurbishment of the Town Hall and the outdoor swimming pool, the community continues to drive improvement through asset transfer, participatory budgeting and a focus on pride and resilience, creating a "can do, rather than cannae" attitude.

### Where can I find out more?

[www.greeninfrastructurescotland.scot/node/656](http://www.greeninfrastructurescotland.scot/node/656)

Contact: Mel Millar, Project Development Officer, South Lanarkshire  
Council: 07720562130, [mel.millar@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:mel.millar@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

### Where can I find out more?

Web: [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/  
CouncilAndGovernment/CommunityCouncilsAndAssemblies/  
CommunityCouncils-Information/Community-Led-Action-Plans.aspx](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/CouncilAndGovernment/CommunityCouncilsAndAssemblies/CommunityCouncils-Information/Community-Led-Action-Plans.aspx)

Contact: Sheena Boyd, Development Worker, New Cumnock  
Development Trust: 01290 338887, [sheena.ncdt@outlook.com](mailto:sheena.ncdt@outlook.com)

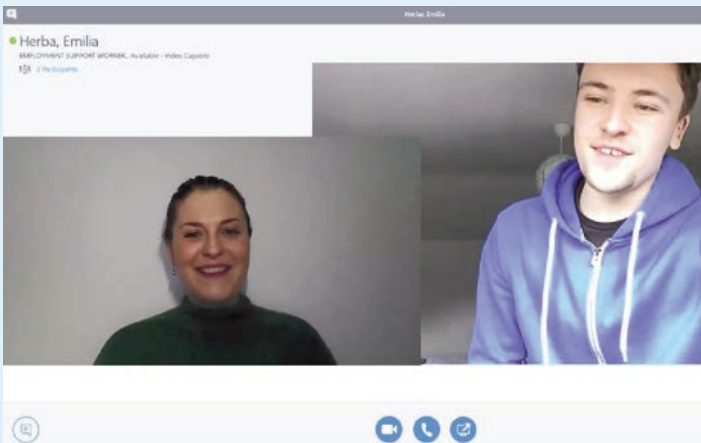
# SURF Awards...

Every year, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a well-earned boost by receiving a SURF Award. But what happens next? We asked each of the 2019 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

## Supporting Youth Employability:

2019 category winner: **Achieving the Right Transferable Skills for Today's Job Market!**

Dumfries and Galloway Council were delighted to win a SURF Award. It was a real boost to our Employability and Skills team and provided a platform to share the model more widely.



We continue to deliver workplace skills in flexible, individualised programmes. 29 young people are on the award currently, some via Youth Guarantee Agreements, others as part of their school curriculum. We are now approved to deliver at SCQF 5 & 6, giving workplace skills added currency within the existing system and ensuring skills gained by young people in the workplace are recognised and valued.

Our service has become remote due to Covid-19, but we see workplace skills as a vital part of the package to help young people with the huge challenges facing them to secure employment and gain skills. Our Local Employability and Skills Partnership are considering using the framework to underpin high quality employability support e.g. in Kickstart placements.

## Community Led Regeneration:

2019 category winner:

### Ochiltree Community Hub

Receiving an award was such an emotional experience. The recognition for the years of effort by the community was overwhelming. The community is proud of the Hub and the legacy

provided for years to come drives us forward to continue our efforts for the community.



During lockdown the Hub closed its doors to the public. Instead it supported the Mutual Aid Group working within the village, helping with food supplies and befriending. Now that the Hub has reopened work is taking place to reinstate its place in supporting the community. Restarting health and wellbeing activities, within current guidelines, and providing a venue for flu vaccinations is just the start.

Adapting through the pandemic is a challenge, but one worth taking on to bring cohesion to a rural community at such strange times. The Hub hopes to shine for many years to come delivering much needed support to the community to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing.

## Housing and Regeneration:

2019 category winner:

### Glenurquhart Care Project

Winning this award was a real morale boost to all the volunteers and staff involved with Glenurquhart Care Project. We had great plans to utilise the publicity to increase volunteer numbers and recipients of our services. However, like many other organisations our plans had to quickly adapt to the changing needs of our community.

The houses continue to have 100% occupancy rate and many of the residents are recipients of our COVID compliant services. We deliver hot meals, collect shopping and prescriptions and operate the



# What happened next...

community helpline. Staff have come up with ingenious ideas to try and reduce isolation for residents and the wider community, including a visit from the Easter Bunny, phone bingo and baking packs.

We don't know when we will be able to re-open the Day Care Centre, but having this housing development in the heart of the community has allowed us to support some of our most vulnerable residents through a difficult period.



wellbeing packs. We got digital devices out to locals and provided remote IT support. We made regular phone calls to the most vulnerable.

With the support of funders, we were able to expand on this, even in the midst of significant loss of earned income. 2020 has been a rollercoaster, however we are still here and hope over the next few months to recover and rebuild with the community at the heart, as always.

## Creative Regeneration:

2019 category winner:

### WHALE Arts

We were over the moon to win a SURF Award in 2019! 2020 started well with an inspiring residents visit to Liverpool to research creative community enterprise, followed by a community conference linked to the developing Local Place Plan for Wester Hailes.

Then March hit, Covid-19, lockdown and severe restrictions negatively impacting daily

lives in ways no-one could have predicted. We acted quickly - within a week turning our community meal into a takeaway, then a delivery service. We made up and sent out art packs and



## Scotland's Most Improved Place:

2019 category winner:

### Calton Barras

Winning the Most Improved Place award meant a great deal to everyone involved in the regeneration of Calton Barras. It has been a massive team effort, which continues despite the very challenging circumstances we've faced this year.



As befits the nature of this part of Glasgow, business have stepped up alongside the local community, helping deliver services to those most affected by the current situation, whilst facing up to their own challenges sustaining what, in many cases, are relatively new businesses in this part of the city.

In terms of new projects, the second phase of the public realm project is nearing completion. We've also welcomed some exciting new business to the area, such as the Calton Tap Room. Friends of the Pipe Factory community entity has also been established. It is seeking to purchase this important facility, previously funded as part of the regeneration project, to secure its future as a community arts venue.

“The SURF Awards have been a personal regenerative highlight annually in my 18 years with SURF. Real community regeneration is always challenging, perhaps now more than ever, but still, this and every year, it is uplifting to see what can be achieved when people act together for the common good.”



Andy Milne  
Chief Executive,  
SURF



**As Scotland's Regeneration Forum, SURF's overall objective is to address poverty and inequality in Scotland's disadvantaged communities.**

SURF is 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 debates, conferences, place-based initiatives, policy exchanges, research programmes, an annual awards for best practice, responding to policy consultations, and distributing 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 is a registered charity founded in 1992. It is directed by a Board of 20 Trustees drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of over 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 300 organisations from across Scotland.

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

**Further information on SURF's activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: [www.surf.scot](http://www.surf.scot)**



“The SURF Awards are more important than ever. In this exceptionally challenging year, we have seen an unprecedented response from Scotland’s communities. They have supported each other like never before so I am delighted that this year’s awards recognise those who have truly gone above and beyond to support those most in need. The care and compassion shown is inspiring and will support our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic as well as to build fairer and healthier communities across Scotland.”



Aileen Campbell MSP  
Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary  
for Communities and Local Government

## Scotland Loves Local

There has never been a more important time to consider supporting local businesses whether by a visit to your local town centre, sampling what local businesses have to offer online and safely shopping, eating and drinking locally. We are seeing the majority of Scots are keen to do just that, supporting local businesses in their cities, towns and villages, spending money locally which is more likely to stay in the local economy.

That is why we launched the Scotland Loves Local campaign, a national initiative designed to encourage all those who live in Scotland to think local first and support their local town centres and high streets safely and in line with public health guidelines. Led by Scotland’s Towns Partnership, and supported with Scottish Government funding, the campaign has been very well received and has delivered a wide range of content across print, digital, social and broadcast channels. You may have seen the advert on STV!

The Coronavirus pandemic has created unprecedented disruption and many challenges, however this campaign builds on, and consolidates the positive behaviours around localism, resilience in local supply chains and food security, active travel, community wealth, supporting the vulnerable and the creation of safe green spaces.

Our town centres and high streets aren’t just a series of buildings, pavements and streets. The people who run local businesses are our brothers and sisters, our friends, our aunts and uncles and our neighbours. Whether it’s for our groceries, catching up with old friends or offering a lovely coffee close to home, our town centres have always been there for us. Our small businesses, whether a pub, cafe, tailor, butcher or a grocery shop, are the lifeblood of the Scottish economy. They create the jobs and prosperity to maintain our way of life.



As part of the campaign we recognised those who have gone above and beyond to help their communities during the pandemic, through the High Street Heroes Awards. Our hearty congratulations to the winners, and the volume and quality of applications highlights just how many people across Scotland are willing to go the extra mile to help those in their communities.

To build on the momentum of the campaign, Scottish Government launched the Scotland Loves Local £1 million fund.

This fund offers grants to towns, settlements, and community and neighbourhood partnerships to deliver projects to promote their local place, and make small scale local place-based improvements. It builds on £3 million we provided to towns and Business Improvement Districts in 2020/21 to address immediate priorities and assist with Covid-19 recovery and renewal.

Information on Scotland Loves Local can be found at <https://lovelocal.scot/scotland-loves-local/>

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration is delivered by SURF in partnership with the Scottish Government



## SURF Awards Learning Workshops

With support from the Scottish Government, SURF will be arranging workshop events in 2021 to explore transferable lessons from the success of the five winning SURF Awards projects.

To receive information on these free and informal learning exchange events, please sign up for our mailing list at the following link or contact the SURF events team on 0141 440 6392.

[www.surf.scot/stay-informed](http://www.surf.scot/stay-informed)

## Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 300+ member organisations, and in particular from its 10 key delivery partners. 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.



This publication was compiled and edited by Emma Scott.  
A PDF version is available from: [www.surf.scot/surf-awards](http://www.surf.scot/surf-awards)