



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



Best practice approaches to place-based regeneration: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 2nd May 2019

Background

SURF and the Scottish Government work together to identify and highlight excellence and innovation in initiatives that address social and economic challenges in disadvantaged communities through the annual SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

This **free half-day SURF Awards workshop event in the Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh on 2nd May** provides an opportunity to explore successful current approaches towards regenerating Scotland's places with three winning projects from the 'Most Improved Place', 'Housing' and 'Community Led Regeneration' categories highlighted in the 2018 SURF Awards process.



Winners (l-r): Westray in Orkney, the transformational Chapelpark and the Community Co-op on Papa Westray

Workshop guests will firstly hear from project a representative in the 'Most Improved Place' category winner the Orkney island of **Westray**. The community owned Westray Development Trust's mission is to develop the economic, social and cultural sustainability of Westray by harnessing the quality of its resources, people and island environment. It has delivered a number of projects with real practical benefits for the island's diverse demographic and its economy.

This will be followed by input from the 'Housing' winner **Chapelpark: A new beginning**. This Angus Council-led project successfully transformed a B-listed former school into 29 high quality affordable rented homes in the town centre. An eco-minimalist ethos involving high thermal insulation and airtightness, and passive solar gain, was used to provide comfortable and efficient homes, which the Council pre-allocated to existing tenants.

Finally, we will hear from the 'Community Led Regeneration' winner **Papay Community Cooperative**, based on the Orkney island of Papa Westray. In 1979, Papay Community Cooperative was established by local community members in response to an announcement that the island's only shop was set to close. The group's initial aim was to develop a community shop, accommodation for tourists, and a venue for community activities. It delivered these by repurposing a row of empty farm cottages, known as Beltane House, which have helped safeguard the island's future.

Following an open discussion session with the projects attendees will hear from **Scottish Government** representatives who will give an overview of current priorities regarding place based regeneration. This will be followed by a short presentations from **Scotland's Towns Partnership** on the role they provide in helping to regenerate Scotland's towns and **Highlands and Islands Enterprise** on their current focus on place based regeneration. The floor will then be open for wider discussion on national policy.

The SURF Awards 'Most Improved Place' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Scotland's Towns Partnership, Corra Foundation, Architecture & Design Scotland and the Scottish Government – were extremely impressed by the Trust's strategic approach and the quality of projects which have been delivered. The SURF Awards 'Housing' judging panel team – comprising of Scottish Federation for Housing Associations, Built Environment Forum Scotland, a regeneration consultant and the Scottish Government – were impressed by the Council's ability to fully collaborate across departments in bringing about much needed change. Finally, the SURF Awards 'Community Led Regeneration' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Big Lottery Scotland, Heritage Lottery Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Bellsmyre Development Trust – could see the clear difference the Community Cooperative has made, and is making, across the small island community.

Programme

- 10:00am Welcome and Coffee
- 10:30am Introduction: **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF
- 10:40am Presentation, Westray: **Isobel Thompson & Andrew Seatter**, Westray Development Trust
- 10:50am Presentation, Chapelpark: **Lynne Warburton**, Angus Council
- 11:00am Presentation, Papay Community Co-op: **Jennifer Foley**, Papay Community Co-op
- 11:10am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects
- 11:30pm Presentation, Place-Based Regeneration: **Iain Murray**, Scottish Government
- 11:40pm Presentation, Scotland's Towns Partnership: **Phil Prentice**, STP
- 11:50pm Presentation, Highlands and Islands Enterprise: **Neil Ross**, HIE
- 12:00pm Open Discussion on National Policy
- 12:30pm Summary, Thanks and What's Next: **Andy Milne** and **Emma Scott**, Information, Communications & Events Officer, SURF
- 12:40pm Networking Lunch

About the SURF Awards

Please visit www.surf.scot for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2018 process. Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2019 SURF Awards, which launch on Thursday 6th June and close for applications at 5pm on Monday 2nd September.