

# Raploch Urban Regeneration Company

## 'Your Place or Mine'?

Ownership: Using community-led evaluation evidence to complement regeneration plans



## Raploch URC Key Outcomes

- A choice and quality of **PROPERTY** that can cater for diverse lifestyles, business and leisure needs
- An enhanced sense of **PLACE** felt by those living, working and visiting Raploch
- Effective **PARTNERSHIP** with the community, other public sector agencies and the private sector
- Improved Economic **PROSPECTS** and opportunities for the Raploch community
- High quality of life for all our **PEOPLE**



# The Regeneration: Raploch URC Masterplan

- 900 new homes
- Education & health campus
- Homezones
- 19 hectares of green spaces
- Road re-alignment
- Economic, social, physical outcomes
- Increasing the population to 6,000 +





## Rationale

### Local pride takes a dent:

Long term deprivation and lack of prospects/classified for regeneration/sense of being regarded as a depressed area

### Community:

Is seeking a 'soft' regeneration project that gives a sense of the what residents feel about Raploch - - which is not the Raploch constantly presented as the 'notorious estate'.

### Objective:

Evaluate how people feel about living in Raploch to establish a baseline perception of Raploch's identity and culture. From this, develop a community-led regeneration project to show the wider community that "We aren't 'bad' people living in a 'bad' area"..

## Evaluation : What does Raploch mean to residents and others?

With support from the URC's Enhanced Community Support Team, residents conducted their research:

- Hosted open meetings on specific subjects
- Stakeholder interviews including practitioners in the URC
- Door to door 'Animateurs' - "What do you like/don't like about Raploch?"
- History and story telling groups
- Children's poetry competition
- Art exhibition - visions of Raploch
- Talking: river users, pigeon hutters, poachers, post office queue, chippie
- Lunch clubs, after school clubs
- Businesses and retailers
- Representative Groups, the RCP



## What they evaluated:

- What are the perceptions of Raploch outwith the area and what is the impact of bad press on the wider community?
- What don't we like/like about Raploch?
- What matters to us? Raploch has a strong history going back to the 1100's and is on the site of the Battle of Stirling Bridge
- What is the potential for a specific project that encapsulates the civic pride of Raploch, its history and culture?
- How would this fit with the regeneration?
- Who will use, maintain, pay for our ideas and proposals?



## Adding Value: The final data is used to good effect

- The evaluation evidenced the need for a bespoke cultural and history project, in the form of a visitor attraction. The residents had identified a site by the derelict riverside path, gave costings, designs, recommended funding sources and a methodology for implementation
- The costings and designs are included in the URC's Riverwalk Plan; funders commit to the community led elements
- 'Creative Spaces' method is adopted to include local people in the implementation of the areas, acting as 'Mentees' working with public artist
- The URC will benefit as it will attain its 2007 target of turning derelict land into usable spaces at the Riverwalk
- The community members become confident in their ability to influence the overall Masterplan during the ten year programme



## The Outcomes:

- ✓ 1200 people participated overall
- ✓ 10 mentees took part in making the public art
- ✓ 2 mentees went on to further training
- ✓ The Old Bridge Interpretation Space
- ✓ The Ochil Play Area reinstated
- ✓ Practical workshops with stone carving and wood
- ✓ The Path - writing Timeline Stories
- ✓ The Big Poem - all school children collaborate
- ✓ Funding - resources found based on evidence
- ✓ A plethora of good press stories on the community
- ✓ Change in others attitude - not just a place of notoriety
- ✓ Increase of visitors to Raploch as a place of interest



As I left Stirling I spotted the Wallace Monument on my left high up on Abbey Craig. I felt raindrops falling on my surface. It was evening, the sun had set. I was entering 'The Links' I remembered the old trap. Watching the men working at the forges, the ironies the weaving mills and the distilleries. I remembered the fishing boats passing over me, and the big silver grey salmon leaping out of the water. I remembered the rainbow trout admiring the oyster beds and the Kingfisher diving for sticklebacks. I drifted on by Dingyweath and on between Culross and 126 nets all the way to the two lowering bridges the Forth Rail Bridge and the Forth Road Bridge I had arrived at Queensferry.





**Sustainability:** Making sure it has a lasting effect

**Shared implementation:** local people have learned to gather evidence, cost a project, to plan and design public spaces, as well as hands on skills such as stonemasonry. These skills will support their ability to inform future projects such as the Design of the new housing and the Pocket Park

**Shared aftercare:** a Community Enterprise made up of local people to support and maintain the works, and continue the evaluation process working with the URC project team

