

SURF: sharing experience: shaping practice: celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2019









The 2019 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, and Skills Development Scotland.

"The 21st year of the SURF Awards demonstrates ably, once again, the skill of communities from across Scotland to work together to address local need. Our panel of independent judges travelled the length and breadth of the country meeting with enthusiasm, integrity and innovation across location, scale and activity. Despite the many challenges facing our communities the SURF Awards show, when the right resources and support is in place, people can achieve remarkable things."



Kate Wi<mark>mp</mark>ress Chair, SURF

The 2019 SURF Awards



2019 marks 21 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 have 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 2019 SURF Awards. Projects range in scale, activity and geography, from smaller scale community hubs in East Ayrshire and Dumfries, transformative music programmes in Govan to large scale investment in Glasgow and New Cumnock. We hope all 15 will inspire those working in regeneration projects throughout Scotland, and provide opportunities for learning.

Shared Learning

The SURF Awards have always been about more than just a presentation dinner and certificate. The follow on Shared Learning workshops provide an opportunity for the projects to share information on their journey, highlighting successes and challenges, and providing an opportunity for those working in regeneration to learn, network and collaborate.

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:

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

This year, our 20-member panel of expert judges considered 63 category applications over an intensive two-month process of assessments and 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 Achieving the Right Transferable Skills for Todays Job Market! (see p6), Ochiltree Community Hub (p8), the Glenurquhart Care Project (p10), WHALE Arts (p12) and the Calton Barras in Glasgow (p14). Our judging panel was 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 p5), and the additional support from our category partners: Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Scotland's Towns Partnership, 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 2020 events featuring the winning projects and the outcomes of past processes, please visit: www.surf.scot/surf-awards





2019

Contents & Category Results

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. This category is supported by Skills Development Scotland.

Winner: Achieving the Right Transferable Skills for Todays Job Market! - page 6

Also shortlisted: Community Renewal Trust's Employment Safety Net, Young Enterprise Scotland: Pathways Programme – page 7

Community Led Regeneration

Purpose: to reward best practice in a regeneration project that features representatives of a community of place or theme in a leading role. This category is supported by Highlands & Islands Enterprise.



Winner: Ochiltree Community Hub - page 8

Also shortlisted: Barholm Enterprise Centre, Strathard: People at the Heart of Regeneration – page $9\,$

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.



Winner: Glenurquhart Care Project – page 10

Also shortlisted: Fraser Avenue, Inverkeithing, Shawbridge Street, Pollokshaws – page 11

Creative Regeneration

Purpose: to reward best practice in placing the arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts by demonstrating effective partnership working with artists. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.



Winner: WHALE Arts - page 12

Also shortlisted: The Glasgow Barons, Inverness Creative Academy – page 13

Scotland's Most Improved Place

Purpose: to identify, celebrate and share the positive impacts of participative planning and regeneration processes in Scottish places. This category is supported by Architecture & Design Scotland and Scotland's Towns Partnership.



Winner: Calton Barras - page 14

Also shortlisted: New Cumnock, Blackhill and Provanmill (St Paul's Youth Forum) – page 15



"Much like community regeneration projects, bumblebees play an essential role in helping the communities we live in to thrive."



Recognising good practice acrosss the country

Glenurquhart Care Project

Inverness Creative Academy

Blackhill & Provanmill (St Paul's Youth Forum)

Calton Barras, Glasgow

Young Enterprise Scotland: Pathways Programme

The Glasgow Barons

Shawbridge Street, Pollokshaws

Achieving the Right Transferable Skills for Todays Job Market!

Strathard: People at the Heart of Regeneration

Fraser Avenue, Inverkeithing

Community Renewal Trust's Employment Safety Net

WHALE Arts

Ochiltree Community Hub

New Cumnock

Barholm Enterprise Centre

"In recognising the importance of community engagement in regeneration, it's a humbling and inspiring experience to witness the range and depth of activity being undertaken by communities across Scotland; to improve their place, enhance quality of life and to build resilience. The SURF Awards streng is a fantastic medium for promoting this work."



Margaret McSporran Strengthening Communities & Place, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Independent judging panel - and the projects they assessed

The 2019 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.

Supporting Youth Employability

Ian Bruce (Skills Development Scotland)
Arthur McNeaney (DRC Youth Project)
Amelia Morgan (Third Sector Employability Forum)
Dennis Murphy (WorkingRite)

Community Led Regeneration

Evelyn Boyd (The National Lottery Community Fund)
Maggie Broadley (CoCreate)
Anna Fowlie (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations)
Margaret McSporran (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)

Housing and Regeneration

Maureen Esplin (Scottish Government)
Polly Jones (Scottish Fed. of Housing Associations)
Euan Leitch (Built Environment Forum Scotland)
David Stewart (Scottish Land Commission)

Creative Regeneration

Laura Black (Creative Scotland)
Peter McCaughey (WAVEparticle)
Donnie Nicolson (Bellsmyre Development Trust)
Eleanor Stanley (Scottish Government)

Scotland's Most Improved Town

Mhairi Donaghy (Scotland's Towns Partnership)
Jim MacDonald (Architecture & Design Scotland)
lain Murray (Scottish Government)
Alison Turnbull (Historic Environment Scotland)

63 regeneration initiatives were nominated for the 2019 SURF Awards, highlighting the wide range of interventions that are addressing social and economic problems in communities throughout Scotland.

From Dumfries and Galloway to Inverness and Drumnadrochit, 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 15 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.



Supporting Youth Employability





Achieving the Right Transferable Skills for Todays Job Market!

What is the aim of the project?

To help young people bridge the gap between education and employment.

Where is it taking place?

Across Dumfries and Galloway.



What has been achieved?

The Dumfries and Galloway Workplace Skills Award supports young people in the region to develop skills and experience to make positive and sustainable next steps. The award offers work experience with a range of employers and accreditation, with qualifications at SQCF levels 3 and 4. Importantly, skills are developed and assessed in the workplace rather than in classrooms.

Over 30 young people have completed the award and been supported into employment so far, while 100 are currently working towards it. Central to the awards success has been its adaptability; each award is tailored to the individual and their chosen field. Emphasis is placed on gaining the transferable skills required in the workplace and in wider life, building a solid foundation for future success.

Participants who face additional barriers to accessing employment are given enhanced support to achieve the award. One strand of



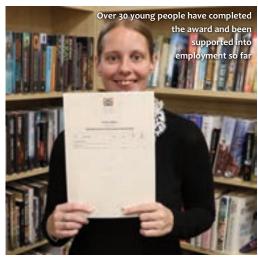
this is Project SEARCH, an intensive yearlong employer-led programme for young people with learning difficulties and autistic spectrum conditions. Another programme is specifically focussed on care-experienced young people.

The creation of the Land-Based Employability Award, in partnership with Scotland's Rural College, Tarff Valley and local farmers, has seen significant success. This offers a clear pathway to employment for young people interested in a career in farming. The success of this model has led to interest from national partners, and funding has been granted to expand the award into the Scottish Borders.

Who is running it?

The programme is delivered by the Dumfries and Galloway Council through a shared Employability Partnership Forum between the

Employer Engagement Officers from across the employability partnership, including officers from Dumfries and **Galloway Council Employability** and Skills Service, DWP, Skills Development Scotland, CEIS, D&G College, DYW, Third Sector Interface and SRUC.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the project's ability to integrate several different strands in its quest to support youth employability and employment in an extremely rural area. It has used both local labour market information and the needs of the local industry, resulting in the development of a certificated award in employability.

The project demonstrated a significant and collaborative partnership approach, with relevant training providers and support organisations, which has ensured that a clear and progressive journey for learners now exists. Their learners were able to fully articulate the purpose of the project, the positive impact it has made to their employment prospects, and how the additional support the project has provided has enabled them to progress into employment.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.dgtap.co.uk/youth-guarantee

Contact: Lynne Burgess, Employability and Skills Manager, Dumfries and Galloway Council: 01387 260600, lynne.burgess2@dumgal.gov.uk







Community Renewal Trust's Employment Safety Net

What is the aim of the project?

To engage school-leavers aged 14-24, who are disengaged from learning, training, work and support services, in a holistic employability programme.

Where is it taking place?

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

What has been achieved?

It is common for youth and employment support organisations to connect with young people in the 12-month period after they have left school without a positive destination. The Employment Safety Net initiative targets those who are missed by, or left behind after, these initial approaches.

This often includes young people with substance dependency and/or mental health issues, and/or those leaving the care or justice systems. The project team use a variety of non-traditional tactics – such as streetwork, pizza parties and setting up a gym and boxing club – to build a relationship with prospective participants, never mentioning positive destinations or employment.

The initial emphasis is on an 18-month action plan to improve their lives, which might focus on housing security, addiction support, mental health issues, relationship issues or financial stability. If a participant asks about training or work opportunities, the team help them reach their goal. The project has helped 70 young people into secure jobs, and 67 into education, training or volunteering, since 2011. For many of the people they help the positive result doesn't tick any box on a funding sheet, yet completely transforms the life of the young person.

Who is running it?

Community Renewal Trust, a charity that pilots new approaches to tackling poverty in deprived places.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges acknowledged that through their use of creative and innovative engagement within the community, disengaged young people now have a place they can meet, engage and socialise in, whilst they consider employability and employment. Their success lies is their strong, well connected network of people spreading their message to widen their reach. Their creative approach has flexed support to accommodate the needs of the individual, widening their focus on areas such as young mums. Their learners described what the project means to them in terms of considering new opportunities in relation to the world of work.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.communityrenewal.org.uk/projects/

Contact: Jon Mennie, Service Manager, Community Renewal Trust: 0131 629 9858, jon.mennie@communityrenewal.org.uk

Young Enterprise Scotland: Pathways Programme

What is the aim of the project?

The Pathways Programme uses exciting enterprise experiences and access to successful young entrepreneurs to inspire and support disengaged young people aged 14-21 into formal education and/ or employment.

Where is it taking place?

The programme is delivered across Greater Glasgow, in the bottom 15% of the SIMD.

What has been achieved?

The programme is designed to give participants a unique insight into college and work life. It comprises a mix of classroom learning, practical training and work experience at their Rouken Glen Park Training Centre, and various community and business locations.

The latest Pathway evaluation highlighted some of the following outcomes:

- Attendance across the project was over 95%;
- All young people learned a new practical skill;
- 45 young people continued on to a positive destination post project, including college, employment or continuing onto S5 at school;
- 27 young people gained at least 1 unit from the accredited SQA Employability Award; and
- Over 80% of family members surveyed said the project had given their relative a clear idea of what they wanted to do in the future.

Who is running it?

The programme is delivered by Young Enterprise Scotland in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College, and in collaboration with local authorities, Skills Development Scotland, the Princes Trust, and supportive employers.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges thought the project utilises excellent facilities, with the garden and outdoor environment. It demonstrated a clear ambition to engage and be driven by individuals who have disengaged with the educational environment, through creative and innovative work experience opportunities and placements. Their community engagement and holistic approach to support was excellent. Their plans for future expansion showed a drive to continue and develop the services they currently offer. Their learners described an array of activities they have been able to undertake, and are thinking about their ambitions for the future.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.yes.org.uk/programmes.php?sid=16

Contact: Emily Bennett, Fundraising Manager, Young Enterprise Scotland: 0141 406 7722, emily.bennett@yes.org.uk



Community Led Regeneration





Ochiltree Community Hub

What is the aim of the project?

To save a rural area's community centre by taking it into community ownership and expanding its service provision.

Where is it taking place?

In Ochiltree, an East Ayrshire village with a population of just over 1000.



What has been achieved?

A 2013 village survey, arranged after East Ayrshire Council announced plans to close the community centre and library, demonstrated overwhelming demand for a rebuild or refurbishment of the facilities.

A dedicated community group was formed in 2014 to establish a new multi-purpose, community-owned facility. The community raised £1.8m to develop the project. The existing facilities were demolished in 2016, and the land was purchased by the community.

The new hub was designed and constructed from January 2018, and launched in July 2019. It provides a community café, five versatile spaces for community events, disabled access, Wi-Fi, training and volunteering opportunities, and a range of social activities including cinema nights, indoor sports and dances. Income generated from the



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café and event hires supports its long-term sustainability. It has successfully re-energised village life, and the wider Ochiltree and Skares rural area.

Who is running it?

Ochiltree Community Hub, a charity with 13 local residents on its Board of Trustees. East Ayrshire Council, the National Lottery Community Fund and the Scottish Land Fund supported the asset transfer process.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the building, which they described as, "a catalyst for change in the community". It demonstrated tangible evidence of growing community spirit through multiple, complementary strands of activity, increasing the wellbeing of the inhabitants of the village and its environs. The project team has clearly listened to the community, constantly revaluating their needs and identifying opportunities.

Trustees describe "maxing out community empowerment" to foster change. The Hub has a low carbon footprint, maximum flexibility and adaptability. The organisation's focus is now on expanding community use, establishing service provision, governance and operational matters, and exploiting the value the Community Hub can bring by increasing participation across all ages.



Sustainability is seen in several areas: in building design, with solar panels to reduce energy bills and bring future income; by expanding income streams through national partnership contracts; sustaining leadership by developing new Trustees; and developing links through the Local Action Plan, Active Schools and Alzheimer's Scotland.

They have maximised the skills and resources available to establish a Hub that has revived a previously declining environment. Trustees, staff and members' unflagging commitment and drive make it a sustainable facility with maximal function as a catalyst for community growth.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.ochiltreehub.com

Contact: Alex Baird, Chair, Ochiltree Community Hub: 01290 558 314, alexbaird9@outlook.com







Barholm Enterprise Centre

What is the aim of the project?

To re-develop a prominent derelict building and create a new multipurpose

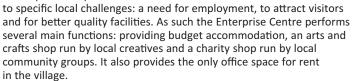
community asset.

Where is it taking place?

Creetown, in Dumfries and Galloway.

What has been achieved?

The project was developed in response



The centre's development was based on extensive community consultation. It has been designed to fill a gap in the village, not competing with other local businesses. Long-term sustainability has also been a priority, with multiple income streams ensuring that the centre is not over reliant on seasonal business. To date the community shop has generated £4,500, shared between six community groups, supporting a range of activities and services for local people.

The centre has strengthened the villages position as a visitor destination, working in partnership with local tourist attractions and events. Since opening two years ago, they have sold over 8000 nights of accommodation. This alone has provided a significant boost to the area's fragile economy, with visitors spending money around the village and local businesses taking on new staff as a result.

Who is running it?

The Creetown Initiative is a Development Trust with more than 100 members and a voluntary Board.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The Creetown Initiative has brought significant external funding into the area, creating employment and supporting local businesses.

They were impressed by the vision developed by The Creetown Initiative to address the challenge of a key property in the village becoming increasingly dilapidated, whilst focussing on increasing social and employment opportunities. Generating economic growth was admired by the judges for its ambition, the contribution it is now providing in the area, and the customer focus the operating team are applying.

This is an impressive, inventive facility structured to be financially selfsustaining and contribute to community growth.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.barolm-centre.co.uk

Contact: Andrew Ward, Manager, Creetown Initiative: 01671 820654, creetown@creetowninitiativeltd.co.uk

Strathard: People at the Heart of Regeneration

What is the aim of the project?

To use community-driven regeneration to deliver benefits that improve local employment opportunities, influence spatial development-planning decisions, boost tourism, improve health/wellbeing, and community confidence.



Where is it taking place?

Strathard Community Council ward comprises the large village of Aberfoyle, and smaller rural communities of Braeval, Inversnaid, Stronachlachar and Kinlochard.

What has been achieved?

Despite the area's potential as a vibrant place to live, work and visit, by 2016 there were significant threats to the socioeconomic regeneration and sustainability of its rural communities. During 2017/18 voluntary action grew community confidence, attracted new businesses and fuelled momentum.

Achievements included:

- Main Street shop occupancy increasing, with several vacant premises newly purchased/rented, providing new jobs;
- A thriving new Business Hub with co-working space, meeting rooms and broadband connectivity;
- A community-benefit scheme using Hydro Scheme income;
- Community Life Plans, a local vision for sustainable development in Kinlochard and Stronachlachar/Inversnaid;
- Publishing 'The Enchantment of the Trossachs' by Louis Stott, a mini-series
 of classical films and a Doon-Hill litter pick;
- Improved health/wellbeing with seasonal fairs/events, path clearances and re-instating the kids' fairy trail; and
- Town wifi is now available supporting businesses and visitors.

Who is running it?

Strathard Community Trust led on the project, but various people, groups, circumstances and aspirations coalesced to generate the community led regeneration they are currently witnessing.

Why did the judging panel like it?

Strathard tells the story of community, its inhabitants and partners, coming together to energise and influence change, despite constraints.

The organic approach has enabled people of all ages to participate in the wellbeing and growth of the community. The ambition of a vibrant place to live, work and visit has engaged young people in a range of activities. There's a growing entrepreneurial mindset (particularly in women) resulting in private investment, nurturing the reinvention of Aberfoyle's high street.

Through monetising walking, cycling and culture, there's now a palpable vibrancy on the High Street. Strathard's people are at the heart of its regeneration.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.dukesweekender.com/dukes-latest/2019/8/23/aberfoyle-village

Contact: Katinka Dalglish, Convenor, Strathard Community Trust: 07876 452 785, dalglishes@live.co.uk

Housing and Regeneration





Glenurquhart Care Project

What is the aim of the project?

To develop suitable housing and facilities in Drumnadrochit that enable elderly people to remain in the community and be cared for locally.



Where is it taking place?

Glenurquhart is located in the Highlands of Scotland, some 15 miles from Inverness. It is a rural community with the main village, Drumnadrochit.

What has been achieved?

In 2000 the Glenurquhart Care Project (GCP) purpose-built community day care centre opened. Clients attending the centre are from Drumnadrochit and surrounding areas. GCP provide a transport service to and from the centre.

GCP began their most ambitious project in 2015, building 12 community owned houses that are accessible and adaptable to the individual needs of residents. Funding for this development was raised by grants, donations and a loan from Social Investment Scotland. The houses are all two bedroomed, with adaptable floor space that could accommodate a hospital bed, medical equipment and a carer if need be. This was an important aspect as all residents interviewed, as part of an extensive community consultation, wished to remain in the community, and if need be, be cared for by family and support workers they already knew.

The new housing development is fully occupied, and this has enabled some mainstream two and three-bedroom social houses in Drumnadrochit to be re-allocated to families and working age people.

The additional income from the housing will make the Glenurquhart Care Project more financially sustainability and allow for the development of new services.

Who is running it?

The project is run by the GCP, who set up a subsidiary company with a skilled board to deliver on the build. They work in partnership with organisations such as Highland Small Community Housing Trust,

Friends of Glenurquhart Care Project, Glenurquhart Community Association and the Community Council.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by how the community had taken advantage of the expansion of the village and new private housing development to secure an essential asset and service – housing that allows older people to remain at home, whilst providing care and support.

Volunteers running the project negotiated a complex development process, securing access to land and funding from multiple sources.



The project addresses two significant national problems – providing housing and support for an ageing population and securing community buy-in for new housing development. It is innovative - the housing is



community owned and the project managed by a private letting agent, yet rent costs are pegged to a social rent equivalent.

Developing the community housing allows people to have a better quality of life whilst remaining at home, frees up larger homes when older people move, and helps support and sustain the existing care centre.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.glenurquhartcentre.org.uk

Contact: Nigel Fraser, Chair, Glenurquhart Care Project: 01456 459077, manager@glenurquhartcareproject.org





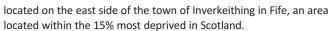
Fraser Avenue, Inverkeithing

What is the aim of the project?

To demolish a failed housing estate in a deprived area, and replace it with an attractive new development featuring high quality, affordable homes.



The Fraser Avenue estate is





The original Fraser Avenue estate, built in 1956, comprised 236 social rented flats. By the 2000s, the estate suffered from a host of issues, including poor quality flats and severe social problems. From 2011, a local community group called Inverkeithing Community Initiative lobbied Fife Council for sweeping changes.

The Council agreed, and the site was demolished in 2016, with the land then transferred to Kingdom Housing Association for a new-build programme. Phase 1 was completed in March 2019, delivering 53 new homes and three new shops from a £7.9m investment.

Featuring a mix of cottage flats, bungalows and houses of 2-6 bedrooms, the new development has proved highly popular with returning and new residents. All housing units have innovative energy efficiency measures and design principles that promote safety and enjoyment.

Who is running it?

Kingdom Housing Association, in close partnership with Fife Council. The masterplan was created with extensive consultation from the local community.

Why did the judging panel like it?

This first phase of the regeneration of Fraser Avenue has successfully kick-started the transformation of a stigmatised area with poor quality housing into an attractive and vibrant community.

The judges were impressed by the proactive partnership approach between Kingdom Housing Association, Fife Council and Campion Homes, and their engagement with the local community. This approach ensured that tenants needs were met, whilst linking the physical regeneration with key community involvement. The project has demonstrated benefits from major investment through securing jobs and creating a catalyst for continued community development. A regeneration project that isn't just physical, but is clearly sustainable into the future.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.kingdomhousing.org.uk/development/home/fraser-avenue-regeneration/

Contact: Julie Watson, Capital Investment Manager, Kingdom Housing Association: 01383 515 949, j.watson@kingdomhousing.org.uk

Shawbridge Street, Pollokshaws

What is the aim of the project?

To provide high quality, affordable housing in a Transformational Regeneration Area (TRA).

Where is it taking place? The Pollokshaws area of Glasgow.

What has been achieved? The project has delivered

42 affordable homes on a formerly vacant and



derelict site, and created a new civic square in front of the historic Pollokshaws Parish Church. Significant efforts have been made to ensure that the new homes are suitable for all residents, with social work and older people's teams consulted extensively during their design and construction.

The project team engaged with the local community at each stage of the design process. With the TRA Delivery Group, made of up of local residents and other stakeholders, heavily involved. This relationship resulted in the return of the historic Auldfield Bell to the area, housed in a specially designed structure at the heart of the civic square.

As well as making a vital contribution to the wider regeneration of the area, the project has acted as a catalyst for the redevelopment of Shawbridge Street. Previously vacant and derelict sites surrounding the civic square are now in the process of being assembled for development; re-establishing the areas historic street pattern.

Who is running it?

The project was delivered by the Wheatley Group and its Lorretto Housing subsidiary.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were most impressed by the dedication of the Housing Officer to support and enable the residents, and the difference this has made to their lives. The common 'deck access' areas are already being personalised by the residents, who now socialise there together.

The new buildings have begun to create a civic square around the historic Pollokshaws Parish Church, with the returned Auldfield Church Bell at its heart. Wheatley Group and Loretto Housing clearly worked closely with the local community, not only on the layout of the site but to successfully minimise disruption throughout the construction process.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.lorettoha.co.uk/about-us/media/latest-news/geraldine-new-shawbridge-home

Contact: Kevin Chavner, Development Coordinator, Wheatley Group: 0141 2746674, kevin.chavner@wheatley-group.com

Creative Regeneration





WHALE Arts

What is the aim of the project?

To create the conditions for a community to work alongside artists and cultural practitioners to become agents for change.



Where is it taking place?

In the Wester Hailes community in west Edinburgh.

What has been achieved?

WHALE Arts was founded by local community members in 1992. They operate from a unique community asset with a range of creative spaces including an arts workshop, performance space, and a community garden.



Across all of WHALE Arts activities in 2018/19 there were a total of 12,104 participations over the year, and an estimated individual 7165 participants. Approximately 678 people participated in 21 regular sessions; 3810 people participated in 80 holiday projects and events at WHALE Arts and other spaces; and 2677 people participated in 32 one-

off activities. Of the registered participants attending regularly this year: 92% lived locally, 50 % were under 16, and 16% were over 55 years of age; 11% of participants identify as disabled; and 22% were from the BME community.

Examples of recent projects include:

- The My Edinburgh Project saw the primary age smARTies art group document their environment, producing an exhibition in the Museum of Edinburgh and at The Scottish Parliament;
- Wester Hailes first *Open Exhibition* provides opportunity for anyone living or working in Wester Hailes to submit one piece of work to be hung at WHALE Arts; and
- Changing Perspectives: Wester Hailes first Film and Moving Image Festival showcased films made by, and about, the community in a series of screenings, workshops and outdoor projections.

Who is running it?

WHALE Arts is a community led arts charity and social enterprise. Partners include City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, SCOREScotland and Wester Hailes Community Trust.

Why did the judging panel like it?

This project impressed the panel with the range of activities and creative opportunities available to the community.

The judges were particularly struck by the scale of individual and collective partnerships that had been launched, nurtured, adapted and promoted over time,



with fantastic examples of long running activities and events including Street Art, Therapeutic Art classes and Performance classes.

This is a positive, forward thinking environment where innovation and originality is encouraged and the ethos of "taking the building to the community" was both refreshing and innovative.

By hosting the Chief Architect for the Scottish Government, Ian Gilzean, in residency it offers the potential for WHALE Arts to contribute to a new Wester Hailes Place Plan, and in doing so explore how an arts centre can inform and drive creative regeneration.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.whalearts.co.uk

Contact: Leah Black, Chief Executive, WHALE Arts: 0131 458 3267, leah@whalearts.co.uk







Inverness Creative Academy

What is the aim of the project?

To establish a regional cultural hub in a vacant, historically significant school building.

Where is it taking place?

The category B listed building is located in Inverness city centre, and the hub serves the Highland region.

What has been achieved?

Consultation activity conducted over 2014-16 in the Highlands demonstrated strong demand for a regional arts facility that would enable the region's artists to collaborate, exhibit, develop as businesses and social enterprises, and engage with the public.

Completed in November 2018, a £2.2m conversion of the former Inverness Royal Academy saved the iconic school building's 1913 arts and science extension from dereliction and brought 1500 square metres of floorspace into productive cultural use.

The new hub, Inverness Creative Academy, is now fully occupied, providing creative studio space for 44 artists and craftspeople. It is also home to two cultural bodies, and offers two community workshop spaces, an exhibition space in the former gym hall, and a photographic darkroom.

The project has saved an important local building from dereliction and sensitively restored its interior. It has greatly enhanced the region's cultural infrastructure by providing a busy programme of public activities including exhibitions, art classes and health & wellbeing sessions.

Who is running it?

The project is led by Wasps Studios, a social enterprise that provides creative workspaces across Scotland, with support from, among others, Highland Council and the Scottish Cities Alliance.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the collective enthusiasm and positivity amongst the tenants, partners and artists sharing the recently renovated – and now fit for purpose – art and creative medium studio facility.

Highland Council's approach to making this new creative hub a flagship element of an innovative wider housing development was also very impressive. There is a strong, sustainable and economically viable plan for the facility.

There was further evidence that, as well as providing future creative collaborations and partnership opportunities amongst creative individuals and groups, it is also providing a vital opportunity to retain talented, artistic individuals within the Highlands, rather than losing them to other regions of the country.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.invernesscreativeacademy.org.uk

Contact: Audrey Carlin, Chief Executive, Wasps Studios: 0141 553 5890, audrey@waspsstudios.org.uk

The Glasgow Barons

What is the aim of the project? To revitalise an inner city area through music.

Where is it taking place? Govan, in the South West of Glasgow.

What has been achieved?

The Glasgow Barons are a modern

orchestral ensemble founded in 2018. They put on a range of events and workshops in and around Govan, aiming to release creativity within the community and raise the areas profile as a creative hub.

Events have ranged from: a series of concerts in churches and schools across the area; to staging a large scale samba drumming 'flash mob' in central Glasgow. Other projects have included 'The Air Between'; the commissioning and performance of a hip hop album with local rappers, and Musicians in Exile; an ensemble made up entirely of asylum seekers and refugees living in the area.

All aspects of the projects work are embedded in Govan and the surrounding area, focussed on breaking down barriers to cultural participation and building bridges within the community. This summer the Barons were selected as Govan's Artist in Residence by Glasgow Life, allowing them to interview 169 local residents to inform future projects for the wider creative regeneration of Govan.

Who is running it?

The Glasgow Barons is a charitable organisation set up by Artistic Director Paul MacAlindin. Cooperation with numerous other community organisations has been essential to their success.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges thought the project displayed innovation, enthusiasm & determination to bring a programme of orchestral and classical music and performances to a new audience.

The "Musicians in Exile" initiative showed creativity in producing opportunity, involvement and awareness of individuals residing within the community to showcase their individual and collective talent and originality within their new home.

There was lots of evidence of partnership and positive impacts between the project and local organisations, schools and churches, which had resulted in successful performances in many unique environments.

This fledgling project has really captured the soul of Govan and is obviously having an inspirational impact on the community and providing genuine opportunities for previously excluded residents.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.glasgowbarons.com

Contact: Paul MacAlinden, Artistic Director, The Glasgow Barons: 0746 4669972, theglasgowbarons@gmail.com



Scotland's Most Improved Place





Calton Barras, Glasgow

Located between Glasgow city centre and the city's east end, the Calton Barras area has suffered from a range of problems including deprivation, inadequate urban connectivity and poor environment quality. Over the last ten years, Glasgow City Council, in consultation with local residents, traders and other stakeholders, have worked to respond to these challenges through a series of strategies and action plans, including the 2009 East End Local Development Strategy, the 2012 Calton Barras Action Plan and the 2016 Barras Masterplan.

The consultations highlighted that the area's desirable location was being significantly outweighed by the fragmentations and disconnections caused by the existing infrastructure arrangements, a surplus of vacant and derelict land, and a general lack of identity. An asset-based, place-making approach has informed the strategic responses and have led to a targeted investment programme of practical improvements.



These include a property and public space improvement programme, which has attracted new investment into the previously struggling Barras Market by restoring shopfronts and floor spaces, and upgrading the local streetscapes, and developing urban parks and civic squares. A grant programme led to the transformation of cultural and business venues, including St Luke's, Many Studios, the Pipe Factory and Barras Art and Design, which have greatly enhanced the area's identity and visitor offer. Footfall has significantly increased and new businesses and social enterprises such as Vox Liminis, Glasgow Collective and Soul Food Sisters have chosen to locate in the area.

Perceptions of the area have clearly shifted, and Calton Barras has undoubtedly become a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The judges noted that Calton is home to the famous Barras Market, but while the market has continued to trade, changes in habits led to a long-term decline affecting the whole area. They were impressed with the long-term partnership focus by Glasgow City Council, working with local businesses and the community through a comprehensive Action Plan, to re-establish Calton Barras as a successful and attractive place.



Alongside Council investment in a range of improvements, local businesses have responded to the opportunity, investing in a vibrant and growing economy around a revitalised market. With an emphasis on culture and food, the area is now home to a wide range of independent retailers, venues and new housing.



From being a leftover place sandwiched between the vibrant city centre and the Clyde Gateway, the area is once again a destination in its own right. The judges were impressed that the unique character of the place has been retained alongside major physical and economic changes.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/18302/Planning-Regeneration-Areas

Contact: Michael Ward, Principal Planning Officer, Glasgow City Council: 0141 2878657, michael.ward@drs.glasgow.gov.uk









Blackhill & Provanmill (St Paul's Youth Forum)

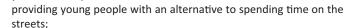
Blackhill/Provanmill in Glasgow is a small community (1,500 people) bound by motorways and railway lines. There has been very little funding or investment into the area, and local people have had to make do themselves. This has led to a project that ensures that local people are at the heart of everything, from management to volunteering and employment.

St Paul's Youth Forum (SPYF) aims to improve the lives of everyone in

their community through a wide range of activities, including:

Bolt FM: giving young people a voice by running radio workshops;

Diversionary Youthwork: reducing youth crime by



On Bikes: a community cycling project that operates from SPYF's base in Provanmill; and

Blackhill's Growing: aims to tackle food poverty in a dignified way by focusing on food growing, cooking, sharing and eating.

SPYF are the second largest employer in the community, after the Health Centre. By focusing on empowering, employing and training local people there is an increase in the local economy.

Due to their Diversity Programme leading to a reduction in crime in the local area, SPYF save the nation £218,882 per year, or 2.18 Million over the last 10 years. This does not include the cost of incarceration. People now have better life chances and choices as they are no longer shackled to the criminal justice system. Young men now grow up knowing that they can play an enhanced role in not only the community, but in their family and children's lives.

The SURF Award judges were complimentary of how the community came together, through the SPYF, after a period of high levels of deprivation to achieve dramatic results over a short time, creating a safe space for young people to engage and learn in.

The judges were impressed by the scope of activity – a community garden that addresses food poverty in a dignified way, regular community sit-down meals, a radio station connecting local people, and a community cycle share/ repair scheme. The focus has been on raising aspirations, creating opportunities to learn and building a strong sense of community through mutual help and support.

Web: www.stpaulsyouthforum.co.uk

Contact: Neil Young, Youth Team Leader, St Paul's Youth Forum: 07748 808488, neil@stpaulsyouthforum.co.uk

New Cumnock

New Cumnock is a small town of just under 3000 in the south of East Ayrshire. With a rich mining heritage in the area, the decline of the industry has led to the sharp loss of jobs and investment in the town. This decline has been compounded by the town's relative isolation, leading to de-population and other social problems.

The 2014 – 2019 New Cumnock Community Action Plan aimed to reverse this decline, seeking the input of all residents and stakeholders in the town. Extensive community engagement took place, with over a third of households successfully surveyed. The town's subsequent regeneration has seen the local authority working in partnership with

numerous community groups and individuals to deliver on the priorities identified by local people, while making the most of existing assets.

Physical improvements have included the renovation of the historic New Cumnock Town Hall, led by Dumfries House Trust, which is now a multipurpose community



facility. The town's outdoor swimming pool, the only heated freshwater outdoor pool in Scotland, has also been refurbished. Significant investment has also been made in the town's appearance, with new green spaces and the recladding of existing housing.

Improvements have also been made to local services, with investment in the local school and doctors surgery. The new developments have attracted many more visitors to the town, benefitting local businesses. Further developments are in the pipeline – with the local Development Trust recently commissioning a new urban masterplan for the area and acquiring a disused local hotel. Plans are also underway for new homes and leisure facilities.

The judges noted the ability of local people to recognise the potential of a Community Action Plan and to control their own future. With support from public and private funders the community has delivered refurbishment programmes for the outdoor heated swimming pool and the Town Hall, building civic pride and transforming the town.

They were impressed at the extent to which the project is rooted in the community. Effective engagement with local people, close partnership with East Ayrshire Council and local businesses, establishing a Development Trust, and residents looking after it all. As the community works to meet further challenges it is clear this whole place approach promises to deliver benefits long into the future.

Web: www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/CouncilAndGovernment/ CommunityCouncilsAndAssemblies/CommunityCouncils-Information/Community-Led-Action-Plans.aspx

Contact: Kieran Wardrop, Community Worker, East Ayrshire Council: 01563 578128, kieran.wardrop@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

SURF Awards...

Each December, 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 2018 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

2018 'Scotland's Most Improved Place'

category winner: Westray

Winning a 2018 SURF Award has been a great morale boost for our island. To have two decades of hard work recognised has helped maintain the island's momentum. It has also connected us with other community groups and projects across Scotland with whom we have been able to exchange knowledge and inspiration.



Since we won the SURF award we've progressed significantly on several projects, completing some and launching more. Recent developments have been the establishment of a public access defibrillator network and launching a Fuel Grant to address fuel poverty among islanders over the winter.

Westray continues to thrive, with its population growing to an estimated 620 and 90 kids in the school and nursery, businesses are expanding, more diverse employment is on offer, and there is growing pride in protecting our island environment. With this, we're confident in the sustainability of our island and way of life for many years to come.

Web: www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk

2018 'Housing' category winner:

Chapelpark

Angus Council were delighted to win a 2018 SURF Award.

Presenting at SURF's Shared Learning Workshop and Annual

Conference Community Marketplace has allowed us to showcase what can be achieved in the development of listed buildings.

An Open Day in July 2018 attracted more than 700 people to see the new Academy Court properties. This demonstrates how the project has been of benefit to the community, by securing the retention and renovation of an important listed building.

The properties have been occupied for over a year now and the

tenants
have
settled in
well. The
sense of
community
is thriving,
so much so
that the
tenants
have
decided to
form their
own tenant
group.



A royal visit in July this year was

the icing on the cake. Prince Edward and his wife Sophie, the Earl and Countess of Forfar, visited Academy Court to meet with the residents and hear about their new homes.

Lynne Warburton, Angus Council: 01307 474 777

2018 'Community Led Regeneration'

category winner:

Papay Community Cooperative

We were delighted to win a 2018 SURF award, which we feel recognised the long-term effort of a small island community in securing its future, through the provision of reliable lifeline services and improving its visitor appeal. Our recent renovations have made a huge difference this year to the island shop and hostel, boosting visitor numbers. We've also organised a wide range of events, focused on creativity and sustainability. These include a series of workshops, with one creating new furniture for the hostel and community school, and one to create a set of 'Reimagining Papay' postcards. We also look forward to the installation of the island's first electric vehicle charging point.

Soffinst for Christmas!



Winning a SURF Award has definitely given us confidence and, whilst we're just a small enterprise on a small island, we recognise that all communities have a story to tell, and we hope that ours is a story that will keep on growing.

Web: www.papawestray.co.uk

2018 'Youth Employability: Overcoming Barriers'

category winner: Pathfinder Programme

Since winning the SURF Award the last year has been a whirlwind of activity for both DRCYP and WorkingRite. The Pathfinder project $\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac$

continues to support young people across the North West of Glasgow, with 92% of the young people supported this year progressing into employment, apprenticeships or further education. Since having the opportunity to speak at the Shared Learning Workshop,



there have been numerous requests for visits, and a real desire to share practice.

The DRCYP opened their new 'Youth Learning Hub' on the 6th June. The new space provides the project with the

perfect platform to offer more meaningful and long-term support to young people throughout the NW of the city.

WorkingRite have been developing new place-based employability initiatives, very much in the mould of Pathfinder, in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The new services will look to replicate the close partnership approach which works so well within the Pathfinder project.

Web: http://workingrite.co.uk/pathfinder-project/

2018 'Creative Regeneration'

category winner: Findhorn Bay Arts

Since receiving the SURF Award we have continued to deliver a creative programme benefiting local people. Our In The Mix project has positively engaged with 271 young people; we have strengthened partnership working with our local council's heritage and culture agenda; secured funding from Creative Scotland to deliver a new programme of artists residencies; and look forward to delivering creative activities as part of Scotland's Year of Coast & Waters 2020.

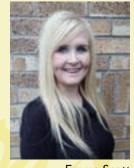


The profile of the work we do has been substantially increased locally and nationally following our SURF win. It has enabled opportunities for us to share our experiences through peer learning, network to build new partnerships, and contribute towards future priorities in the areas of creativity and town centre regeneration. In validating the positive community impact our work has, we have also embarked upon the transition to becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

We are wholly grateful and supportive of the SURF Awards, which has recognised the contribution arts and creativity makes to galvanise and regenerate a community, and this recognition is vital.

Web: https://findhornbayarts.com

"The SURF Awards are an excellent model for highlighting what is really working across Scotland. They showcase real projects striving to make a difference to the lives of the people who live in their communities. They are a vehicle for sharing best practice, and enabling projects to come together and learn from each other."



Information, Communications & Events Officer,
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 17 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



"These awards are a great platform for recognising and showcasing successful community regeneration. With each passing year the exceptional standard of applications and shortlisted projects is even higher. This year's shortlist demonstrates what is possible when communities are empowered to work hard, meet challenges and develop projects to shape their own futures."



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

Tackling Child Poverty

The places where we live and grow up shape our opportunities, health, sense of identity and prosperity. Improving the wellbeing of our communities by delivering inclusive economic growth and putting place at the heart of our policy will help us to tackle poverty and inequality. We want a Scotland which is the best country in the world for children to grow up, one that puts their interests and wellbeing first.

This year we have made significant progress in tackling child poverty. In June I was proud to announce plans for our ambitious and game-changing new Scottish Child Payment, worth £10 per week per child. This will lift 30,000 children out of poverty when rolled out in full by the end of 2022. I was even more pleased to be able to say that we will introduce this early for families with a child under 6, who will be able to get this new support by Christmas 2020, years ahead of our original commitment.

We also published our first annual report on progress made under the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (2018-22). In little over a year 48 of the 58 actions committed have either been delivered or are in progress.

What this means is a range of new support is in place for children and families across Scotland. Our Best Start Grant gives low income two child families £1,900 across the early years to support with the costs of raising a child. Our new Money Talk Team Service has been in place for a year now and has recorded over £6 million in financial gains for households. And Fair Start Scotland, our devolved employability service supported over 13,000 individuals in its first 15 months and helped over 3,000 of those into work.

These actions build on the firm foundations that exist in Scotland and the £1.4 billion we invested to support low income households in 2018-19. And we are going further and clearly focusing on actions that will have the most impact - for example helping parents increase their income from work and earnings, reducing household costs and maximising incomes from social security.



That's why our £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund is supporting innovative work such as our Parental Employment Support Fund and Access to Childcare Fund.

But we know that the best people to decide how to tackle local challenges are the people who live and work in the area. The new £11.5 million Investing in Communities Fund encourages community-led development, design and delivery of sustainable local solutions, addressing local issues, circumstances and aspirations. The introduction of this flexible, multi-year fund is the result of listening to the views of people in many different communities.

It will enable community groups to make sustainable and impactful changes by providing them with the resources they need, when they need them.

It will take all of us, across national and local government, the wider public sector, and the third and private sectors, working together to tackle poverty. Focusing on place to build successful communities, with strong links to employment opportunities and high quality services, will help us to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.

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 May 2020 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

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, Derek Rankine & Christopher Murray.

A PDF version is available from: www.surf.scot/surf-awards