

The voice of communities
in regeneration

Judging the best in regeneration

Every year the Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) highlights projects and initiatives which have made outstanding contributions to community regeneration by making awards for 'Best Practice in Urban Regeneration'.

This year, four members of the Community Voices Network were invited to sit on the judging panel for the SURF Awards to identify the projects which had made the biggest difference to their communities.

"It was invaluable to have the input of people with real community based experience and knowledge of what works in regeneration, on the judging panel" said Andy Milne, Chief Executive of SURF

Emilie Devlin, a Network member from Glasgow who has been involved in her own community in Castlemilk for over 20 years was one of the judges. Emile was inspired by the commitment of local people involved in the regeneration of their communities. *"It was fascinating finding out about new initiatives and talking to people who had made a difference. In every place, the priorities and the projects were different, but the common factor between all the entries I visited was that everyone was set on improving their own community"*



Jim Hendry another Community Voices Network member from Ayr who sat on the judging panel was also impressed by the quality of the projects which he had to assess.

"It was hard work being a judge. We visited all the projects shortlisted. It was incredibly difficult to pick a clear winner between so many excellent examples of regeneration."

The winners of the SURF awards for 2006 were announced at an awards ceremony at the Radisson Hotel in Glasgow in early December. The award ceremony was attended by around 30 members of the Community Voices Network, all keen to find out about the shortlisted and winning projects included in this years SURF Awards for Best Practice in Urban Regeneration.

Following the awards ceremony, members of the Network got the chance to visit one of the winning projects, the Auchmoutain Community Resource Centre. Members were inspired by the commitment of the local people who had set up the project. Other award winners were the West Kilbride Craft & Design Initiative and Community Block, a wider role funded initiative in Dundee.

For more information on SURF call 0141 585 6848 or visit www.scotregen.co.uk

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December 2006

Community regeneration policy - What's it all about?

23 members of the Community Voices Network met in Edinburgh to find out more about regeneration policy and to meet the policy makers who are responsible for regeneration policy.

Richard Rollison from the Regeneration Unit at the Scottish Executive explained the Scottish Executive's priorities for regeneration. Members were pleased to hear that community engagement is recognised as a priority in regeneration policy, but felt strongly that this element of regeneration policy was not being implemented in all areas. Jill Mullholland from the Community Regeneration Unit in Communities Scotland explained the process for ensuring that national priorities were being delivered at the local level. Each Community Planning Partnership has drawn up a Regeneration Outcomes Agreement (ROA) which identifies how the partners aim to address these priorities in their area.

This event was aimed at increasing members understanding of how policy is made and was the first in a series of events designed to develop the role of the Community Voices Network in enabling communities to influence policy and practice. A follow up event in March will bring together members and policy makers again to look at how regeneration policy is being delivered in communities across Scotland.

To read the ROA for your area, visit the the Communities Scotland website www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

News for members

Progress on reviewing the Network

Thanks to all the members who took part in the interim evaluation on the progress of the network. Thanks also to those members who took the time to let us know they didn't want to be contacted by the consultants. The consultants will publish their findings in the New Year. We know you will be interested to see what they have found, so all members of the Network will be informed of an event next year to consider the findings of the interim evaluation and discuss options for future development of the network. We will make sure members are the first to know about when and where this will happen.

How are communities engaged in regeneration across Scotland?

Community engagement is a priority for regeneration policy in Scotland. The Scottish Executive wants communities to be at the heart of decisions made to improve public services, and contribute to a better quality of life. Communities Scotland, the Scottish Executive's housing and regeneration agency monitors how Scotland's communities have been engaged in regeneration by assessing Community Planning Partnerships' Regeneration Outcome Agreements and their Annual Reports on progress.

With input from members of the Community Voices Network, a report has been published highlighting what is happening in Community Engagement across Scotland. As a result of this

work, Communities Scotland will improve how community engagement is reported by Community Planning Partnerships in future years. New guidance from Communities Scotland will make it clear that active community members must be involved in the process of assessing community engagement for the 2006/07 Annual Reports.

If you are interested in reading the report on community engagement, it is available on the Communities Scotland website www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk. If you haven't got internet access call the team here at the Community Voices Network and we will be delighted to post you a copy of the report.

News from members

Rose Bowie from Carbrain Tenants Association in Cumbernauld invited the Community Voices Networks to see how her group is working to save a local community centre to maintain services for the community. For more information visit www.cta1st.org

Robert Frederick, from the Petersburn and Craigneuk Community Forum (Airdrie) invited the Network to the launch of a new website for the local community. To find out what else is happening in Petersburn visit www.petersburn-online.org.uk

Want to share news from your community or find out how you can learn from other members such as Rose and Robert then contact Lucy and let her know what's happening in your area or what you would like to find out about.

Events

Getting people back to work

Thursday 22 February

11.00am – 3.00pm

Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

Although Scotland currently enjoys the highest employment rates for many years, there are still clusters of high unemployment and areas with large number of people who are unable to work due to poor health.

One of the key targets of the Scottish Executive's regeneration policy is to get more people back into work.

This event will give you the opportunity to find out about successful approaches to getting people back into work. These approaches have targeted people who face multiple barriers to employment, and show that with the right kind of support and training, people who have been out of work for long periods of time can get back to work.

To book a place

Events are open to all members of the Community Voices Network – but please remember that **you must book in advance** as numbers for these events are limited.

To book a place at any of the events, please fill in the enclosed booking form.

If you're not yet a member, it's easy to join the network – just get in contact by phone or e-mail. For further information, contact Biff on **0141 564 7600** or e-mail info@communityvoices.org.uk

Participation fund

The Community Voices Network has a participation fund which can reimburse the cost of your travel or overnight accommodation to any Community Voices Network events and meetings. It can also cover any additional costs you might have – for example, if you need a carer or additional childcare to allow you to attend the event. You need to be a member of the Network to claim from the participation fund. It's easy to join the network – just get in contact by phone or e-mail.

Community Regeneration in Inverclyde

Over the last twenty years, the Inverclyde Community Development Trust has grown from a small community based organisation to an Inverclyde-wide organisation employing over 100 staff and providing a range of services. The organisation now has an annual turnover of £2.5 million, it is the biggest social economy organisation in Inverclyde.

“Creating a Development Trust is about creating wealth in a community and keeping it there, which is exactly what we have done with the Trust” said Jim Bristow the Executive Co-ordinator of the Inverclyde Development Trust.

Members of the Community Voices Network visited the Trust to find out more about how it has tackled regeneration in communities in Inverclyde.

Creating Jobs - The Trust has provided support and training to over 1000 people to help them to get jobs. Training is provided in construction, call centres, and the Trust also runs a ‘community apprenticeship programme’ which trains local people as community development workers.

Providing Services - The Trust provides services such as home shopping and meals delivery to elderly and housebound people and care services for people suffering from dementia. The Trust also supports 50 volunteers who provide befriending services to vulnerable people in the community.

Regeneration - The Trust provides advice, information and support to local people through regeneration centres based in the heart of communities. Paul Bristow the Centre Manager of the Regeneration Centre in Port Glasgow said *“the purpose of the centre is to make sure the existing community aren’t left behind in the process of change”*. At the Centre, the community can find out about the new developments which are planned for Port Glasgow, and get help to apply for jobs which are being created through the new developments.

The Trust also operates business centres which provide space which bring small businesses and job opportunities for local people back into the community. The Trust also earns income through rents which contributes to the financial sustainability of the organisation.

For more information about Inverclyde Community Development Trust call Jim on 01475 553300 or visit www.icdt.org.uk.

Find out more about development trusts

The Development Trust Association Scotland supports communities to establish Development Trusts.

“By taking ownership of local assets such as land or buildings and through a combination of enterprise and voluntary effort, these communities are taking steps to regenerate their local area and improve their quality of life.” said Angus Hardie, Director of the Development Trust Association in Scotland

If you want to find out more about setting up a Development Trust, contact the Development Trust Association on 0131 220 2456 or visit www.dtascot.org.uk.