

Think Dunoon

[Dunoon Design Charrette](#) [Briefing Note 1: 15.02.17](#)

Background

Dunoon Town Centre is next to benefit from this Scottish Government sponsored approach for involving the community in planning and regeneration. This follows the enthusiastic participation of Argyll and Bute residents and businesses in Rothesay, Tiree and the Crinan Canal which resulted in collaborative masterplans being created for the three areas. So, the future of Dunoon Town Centre goes under the microscope in March as we ThinkDunoon!

Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) and Argyll and Bute Council are co-hosting the charrette. Austin-Smith:Lord (Urban Designers and Architects) and Douglas Wheeler Associates Ltd (Economic Regeneration Specialists) have been appointed to facilitate the charrette, as part of a design team also including, WAVEparticle (artists/facilitators), Transport Planning Ltd and property consultants Ryden. The team bring with them their recent experience of delivering such events in Port Glasgow, Clydebank, Greenock, Elgin, Brechin, Arbroath, Montrose, Monifieth and Kirriemuir.

Opportunities to Have Your Say

A charrette is an intensive consultation that includes planning workshops which engage local people in the design process for their community. The planning and design workshops will be held in a venue to be confirmed in Dunoon Town Centre over a three-day period running from Tuesday **28th of March to Thursday 30th of March** with a final exhibition in and a report back session at the same venue on **20th April**.

The Charrette team will set up a Design Studio in the venue and host workshops and presentations with members of the public, community representatives, businesses, elected members and officers. **The aim is to prepare a shared vision, regeneration strategy and masterplan for Dunoon Town Centre.** The designers and specialist consultants will translate the participant's ideas into plans and drawings which can be viewed in the Design Studio that will be open to the public at specific times over the three days.

Planning the future of Dunoon Town Centre requires ideas from everybody in the community - young, old, residents and businesses who know the town. This is not a consultation on an existing plan. The views of the community, at this early stage, will make a difference and play a key part in shaping the future of Dunoon Town Centre.



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Andy Milne, SURF Chief Executive, said:

“The charrettes programme has been successful in generating a great deal of local enthusiasm, as well as a pride in where people live and ambition for the future wellbeing and vibrancy of their community. There are a number of examples around, the nearest one being last year’s Remaking Rothesay.

“I am sure the people and businesses of Dunoon will grasp this opportunity with equal enthusiasm. The charrette will offer lots of opportunities on different days for the public, local businesses and anyone else who is interested to get involved.”

“The charrette will look to build on Dunoon’s many assets and strengths, confront what challenges there are locally and grasp the opportunities that lie ahead in the short, medium and long term.”

A more detailed programme is being prepared. **Local people, of all ages, as well as representatives of local business, voluntary/community groups and other agencies are very welcome to come along, drop in, contribute and help put your ideas into action.**

Aims & Objectives

The fundamental aim of the charrette process is to prepare a realistic, feasible and integrated regeneration strategy and masterplan, establishing the priorities for investment in improving the physical appearance, facilities, services and access to and around Dunoon Town Centre, with the full support of local residents, businesses and key stakeholders. The specific Dunoon Town Centre Charrette objectives are to:

- **Build consensus around a shared vision** for the Town Centre through design-led intensive community and stakeholder engagement;
- Review existing and identify new **opportunities for regeneration, rehabilitation or development of sites/buildings;**
- Prepare proposals for **improving circulation** within the Town Centre and movement between the town centre, the wooden pier and the Seafront/West bay through encouraging footfall, improving pedestrian circulation, managing car borne activity and improving the pedestrian experience;
- Identifying **opportunities and funding for delivering improvements** to the Town Centre in order to improve the physical appearance, public realm and shopfronts of the Town Centre
- **Improve the quality of the built environment** in conjunction with the potential Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme investment and identify alternative uses for vacant shops and sites.

The proposed masterplan should identify the short, medium and long-term projects.



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Charrette Team & Next Steps

In preparation for the March event and to finalise details, the Austin-Smith: Lord/ Douglas Wheeler Associates team will be undertaking discussions and business interviews in Dunoon. In the two weeks, just before the charrette, **WAVEparticle** an arts organisation, who specialise in developing and delivering effective community engagement and treat engagement as an art form, will also be active locally.

For further information contact:

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