



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



Successful approaches to regenerating Scotland's places: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop – 31st May 2018

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 Portal Townhouse, Irvine on 31 May** provides an opportunity to explore successful current approaches towards regenerating Scotland's places with two winning projects from both the 'Most Improved Place' and 'Housing' categories highlighted in the 2017 SURF Awards process.



Winners (l-r): Refurbished Townhouse in Irvine and construction of the Ulva Ferry Housing Project

Workshop guests will firstly hear from project a representative in the 'Most Improved Place' category winner **Irvine**. The Irvine Vision is an effort by North Ayrshire Council, in partnership with the local community, to take a strategic approach to the town's economic and physical development. Originally approved in December 2015, the plan has delivered large scale investment in the town centre and a number of other areas. These developments have been guided by local planning partnerships and are based on extensive consultation with the local community.

This will be followed by input from the 'Housing' winner **Ulva Ferry Housing Project**. In 2010, the geographically isolated island community and its economically fragile, ageing population was in danger of losing its primary school as a result of long-term population decline strongly influenced by the lack of affordable housing options for young people. A successful local campaign to keep Ulva School open provided a genesis for the Ulva Ferry Housing Project, the need for which was identified in extensive community consultations in 2013 and 2015. In 2017, two three-bedroom homes were built enabling two new families, each with three children, to move to the area. This has secured a future for the local school which, with the lack of any other local facilities, acts as a hub for the wider community.

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 Town' judging panel team – comprising representatives of Scotland's Towns Partnership, Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, Architecture & Design Scotland and the Scottish Government – were extremely impressed by the wide ranging approach to delivering positive change across Irvine. The involvement of the local community in identifying and delivering the priorities important to them was clear. The SURF Awards 'Housing' judging panel team – comprising of the former head of Scottish Federation for Housing Associations, Heads of Housing Scotland, Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland and the Scottish Government – were impressed by the clear evidence that this project emanated from the community and from the outset sought to highlight and secure the lasting benefits that can be gained from having housing as the focus for regeneration.

.Programme

10:00am Welcome and Coffee

10:30am Introduction: **Andy Milne**, Chief Executive, SURF

10:40am Presentation, Irvine: **Alasdair Laurensen**, North Ayrshire Council

10:55am Presentation, Ulva Ferry Housing Project: **Helen MacDonald**, Mull and Iona Community Trust

11:10am Open Discussion, Questions and Comments with representatives from the projects

11:35pm Presentation, Place Based Regeneration: **Susan Bolt**, Scottish Government

11:45pm Presentation, Scotland's Towns Partnership: **Jill Cronin**, STP

11:55pm Presentation, Highlands and Islands Enterprise: **Neil Ross**, HIE

12.05pm Open Discussion on National Policy

12:30pm Summary and Thanks: Andy Milne

12:35pm Networking Lunch

About the SURF Awards

Please visit www.surf.scot for more information on the SURF Awards and the outcomes of the 2017 process. Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2018 **20th Anniversary** SURF Awards.