



SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



Reversing economic decline in Scotland's towns: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshop

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 COSLA Centre, Edinburgh on 18 May** provides an opportunity to explore successful current approaches towards reversing economic decline in Scotland's towns with two winning projects from both the 'Most Improved Town' and 'Community Led Regeneration' categories highlighted in the 2016 SURF Awards process.



Winners (l-r): Refurbished Miner's Institute in Lochgelly and construction of a village smithy in Tomintoul

Workshop guests will firstly hear from project a representative in the 'Most Improved Town' category winner **Lochgelly**. After being deemed 'the worst place to live in Britain' in 2004 and winning the Carbuncle Award in 2010 Fife Council, along with Ore Valley Housing Association and local community groups responded by developing a Lochgelly Masterplan which included the establishment of a Community Development Forum and the delivery of a Community Charrette.

This will be followed by input from the 'Community Led Regeneration' winner **Tomintoul and Glenlivet Regeneration Project**. To support the rural area's socio-economic recovery a dedicated community organisation, the Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust, was established to

identify and deliver appropriate regeneration responses. This included the reopening of a Visitor Information Centre and the two local hotels, saving the local youth hostel and establishing the Glenlivet Mountain Bike Trails.

Following an open discussion session with the projects attendees will hear from **Scottish Government** representatives who will give an overview of the Town Centre Action Plan. This will be followed by short presentations from **Highlands and Island Enterprise** and **Scotland's Towns Partnership** on the role they provide in helping to reverse economic decline within Scotland's towns. 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, Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland, Architecture + Design Scotland, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Heads of Planning Scotland and the Scottish Government – were particularly enthused by approaches taken to make Lochgelly a vibrant town with a lot to offer, and the potential of replication to other town centres. The SURF Awards 'Community Led Regeneration' judging panel team – comprising of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Bellsmyre Development Trust, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and Scottish Community Development Centre – were impressed by the ambition and vision of the Development Trust which has provided a strong foundation for success in reversing economic decline. The judges will be participating in the workshop, which also features a discussion session and networking lunch, to help draw out transferable lessons from the participating projects.

Programme

10:00am Welcome and Coffee

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

10:40am Presentation, Lochgelly: **Hazel Cross**, Fife Council

10:55am Presentation, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Regeneration Project: **Lee Haxton**, Cairngorms National Park Authority

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

11:35pm Presentation, Town Centre Action Plan: **Kevin McGowan**, Scottish Government

11:45pm Presentation, Highlands and Islands Enterprise: **Ailsa Raeburn**, HIE

11:55pm Presentation, Scotland's Towns Partnership: **Phil Prentice**, STP

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 2016 process. Check back the website or follow us on Twitter @SURFscot or Facebook – SURF for information on how to apply for the 2017 SURF Awards.

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Supported by: Aberdeen City Council, Capital City Partnership, City of Edinburgh Council, Creative Scotland, Dundee Partnership, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Housing Association, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Jobs & Business Glasgow, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, the Scottish Government, and Skills Development Scotland.