

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

Report of the Judges

2009



RTPI

mediation of space • making of place



**The Scottish
Government**

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

Report of the Judges

Presented by The Scottish Government in association
with the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland

Joan Burnie, Richard Holland and Ben Train

2009

Contents

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

Summary of the Judges' Recommendations	i
Introduction	1
Development Plans	2
Development Management	8
Development on the Ground	9
Community Involvement	13
Concluding Remarks from the Judges	19

Summary of the Judges' Recommendations

A total of 26 entries were received in 2009. The Judges awarded 1 Overall Winner, 6 Awards and 3 Commendations. The Judges' recommendations are summarised below:

Overall Winner

Development on the Ground Category

- Whitelee Windfarm, Eaglesham Moor

Awards

Development Plans Category

- Highland Council Open Space in New Residential Development: Interim Supplementary Guidance
- Sustainable Design in Argyll and Bute

Development Management Category

- The Glasgow Urban Model

Development on the Ground Category

- Renfrew Town Centre Regeneration
- Gardyne's Land, High Street, Dundee

Community Involvement Category

- Neilston Renaissance Town Charter

Commendations

Development Plans Category

- Banknock and Haggs Special Initiative for Residential Led Regeneration
- Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009

Community Involvement Category

- Speirs Locks Masterplan Framework and Engagement Process

Introduction

The Judges

The 2009 Awards Judges are:

Joan Burnie (Chair)

Associate Editor, The Daily Record

Richard Holland

Development Manager, Mansell Construction Services Limited

Ben Train

Town Planning Manager (Scotland and NI), Tesco Stores Ltd

Entries

A total of 26 entries were received for the thirteenth annual Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. The entries covered the four categories of:

- Development Plans
- Development Management
- Development on the Ground
- Community Involvement

The Scottish Government website (www.scotland.gov.uk/planning) contains details of every entry. If further information is required about any of the entries, please contact the relevant nominee.

Selection Process

During the short-listing process, the Judges examined each submission for evidence of outstanding work in the application of professional knowledge, management, partnership, regeneration, innovation, sustainable development, community interest and customer satisfaction. We also looked carefully for indications of quality in mainstream development planning, development management, development on the ground and community involvement and considered whether the nominated category was the most appropriate. In the instance of the entry for Neilston Renaissance Town Charter, which was submitted under two categories, it was considered more appropriate to assess it in the Community Involvement category. We then selected a short-list and scrutinised each nomination in a separate presentation or visit, depending on the category. We concluded by discussing and agreeing our recommendations.

Development Plans

Ten nominations were received for outstanding performance and quality in development planning. We recommend 2 Awards and 2 Commendations in this category.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	Highland Council Open Space in New Residential Development: Interim Supplementary Guidance	Highland Council and Kit Campbell Associates Edinburgh	Award
2	Sustainable Design in Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute Council; Anderson Bell Christie and Scottish Natural Heritage	Award
3	Banknock and Haggs Special Initiative for Residential Led Regeneration Development Framework	Falkirk Council; IH Brown; JB Bennett; Ironside Farrar; Jones Lang LaSalle; Ecos Countryside Services and Dougal Baillie Associates	Commendation
4	Heritage Matters – Getting the message across in Conservation Areas	Glasgow City Council	
5	Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009	Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority; Aberdeen City Council; Aberdeenshire Council and Key Stakeholder Reference Group	Commendation
6	Stirling City Visioning Exercise	Stirling Council and Architecture and Design Scotland	
7	East Ayrshire “4 Towns” Enquiry by Design	East Ayrshire Council and Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment	
8	Capacitycheck/Inverness City Visioning Exercise	Highland Council; Architecture and Design Scotland; Improvement Service; Urban Design Alliance and Urban Design Skills	
9	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): SWOT the Difference	North Ayrshire Council	

1. Highland Council Open Space in New Residential Development: Interim Supplementary Guidance



Nominees

The Highland Council and Kit Campbell Associates Edinburgh

Description

The guidance sets out Highland Council's vision for the provision of higher quality and more sustainable residential environments. The requirements within the guidance aim to achieve improvements to the quality, quantity, accessibility, management and maintenance of open space so that it is fit for purpose. The guidance is accompanied by a calculator that developers can use to determine the maximum potential requirements.

Judges' Comments

The Judges welcome the initiative shown in applying a new approach to solving a problem that is evident across Scotland. The document was considered clear, succinct and well laid out. It was recognised that the guide and on-line calculator were useful for a range of stakeholders and that they provide a transparent and consistent approach that allows developers to establish an indication of open space requirements at an early stage in the development process. The guidance has great potential for wider application and the Judges look forward to hearing more about the successful application of the guidance in the future.

Recommendation

AWARD

2. Sustainable Design in Argyll and Bute



Nominees

Argyll and Bute Council; Anderson Bell Christie and Scottish Natural Heritage

Description

This project takes a holistic approach to raising the quality of development in an extremely scenic part of Scotland. A partnership approach has been taken to developing a comprehensive package comprising: sustainable design guidance, including area specific guidance; a design forum; design awards; the designation of a design champion; and training to improve design skills of key stakeholders.

Judges' Comments

We recognise the enthusiasm with which this project has been delivered and which has led to the proactive and joined-up implementation of a key policy area by a range of stakeholders. The package of measures demonstrates a momentum that has raised the profile of sustainable design locally whilst maintaining the message of encouraging development. The Judges were pleased to learn that the standard of planning applications has improved and that refusals based on design have reduced as a result of the project. The various documents demonstrate an approach that balances the protection of the landscape character and local vernacular with the promotion of modern and innovative architecture and design.

Recommendation

AWARD

3. Banknock and Higgs Special Initiative for Residential Led Regeneration Development Framework



Nominees

Falkirk Council; IH Brown; JB Bennett; Ironside Farrar; Jones Lang LaSalle; Ecos Countryside Services and Dougal Baillie Associates

Description

The document provides the framework for the development of up to 700 houses and associated infrastructure on significantly constrained sites. The aim is to improve the local economy, community facilities and quality of the environment.

Judges' Comments

The project demonstrates the advantages of the public and private sector working together to develop an excellent understanding of a very difficult site. This was possible given a greater level of planning certainty and the 'can do' attitude of key stakeholders. The Judges are encouraged by the initiative taken by the Council to draw together relevant parties. They commend the genuine partnership approach achieved to understand the development constraints and agree a suitable policy framework that provides certainty to stakeholders and guides the decision making process.

Recommendation

COMMENDATION

4. Heritage Matters – Getting the message across in Conservation Areas



Nominees

Glasgow City Council

Description

The project aims to promote greater awareness and understanding of Glasgow's conservation areas and to empower local communities to protect and enhance them. It involves improved communication with the general public through the imaginative styling of publications and use of a variety of mediums, including booklets, leaflets, postcards, executive summaries and business cards.

Judges' Comments

The publications use clear, understandable language and are attractive and well illustrated. They are concise, focus on the matters of importance, and can be read and understood quickly. We appreciate the attempt to bring recognition to Glasgow's rich heritage but consider that the project did not display evidence of exceptional planning processes.

5. Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009



Nominees

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority; Aberdeen City Council; Aberdeenshire Council and Key Stakeholder Reference Group

Description

The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan sought to embrace the change to a new style of development plan as envisaged in the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006. In terms of form, it aims to be succinct and written in plain English whilst retaining the strategic nature. In terms of preparation, it aims to be transparent and inclusive whilst meeting tight timescales.

Judges' Comments

We were impressed with the document which represents the new breed of development plans, prepared in the spirit of the new legislation. The plan is clear, concise and focuses on priorities for the area. It was prepared using a robust project management approach that ensured the key milestones were achieved and overall delivery was well within the timescales envisaged for the new system. Through partnership working the planning authorities made efficient use of their people resources. The aspirational targets set a challenge to all parties to step up to the mark and the 'how to meet targets' sections provide a clear link to delivery via the local development plan.

Recommendation

COMMENDATION

6. Stirling City Visioning Exercise



Nominees

Stirling Council and Architecture and Design Scotland

Description

This project embarked upon a visioning exercise for the future development of the Stirling area. Workshops were used to develop and agree a vision and to discuss spatial implications. The outcome of the exercise will inform the Local Development Plan process and provide a platform for work to be progressed by the City Centre Action Group.

Judges' Comments

The Judges are pleased to see the work being undertaken to establish a vision for the area and are interested to see how this will be taken forward into the Local Development Plan. However, we did not consider that the outcome of the work had yet been established sufficiently within the planning process to warrant the entry progressing to the next stage of judging.

7. East Ayrshire '4 Towns' Enquiry by Design



Nominees

East Ayrshire Council and Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment

Description

The project sought to establish a vision for the future development of four communities that would assist in the production of the Local Development Plan. A partnership approach, involving the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, used the Enquiry by Design process, applying it for the first time to more than one settlement.

Judges' Comments

The Judges were impressed by the commitment of the team to the production of a quality document that highlights a range of aspirational projects aimed at improving the built environment of the four towns. The Judges were also impressed by the quality draughtsmanship employed in the production of the draft document. However, whilst the Enquiry by Design process has been applied at a broader scale we did not feel that this took the process any further in terms of outcomes.

8. Capacitycheck/Inverness City Visioning Exercise



Nominees

Highland Council; Architecture and Design Scotland; Improvement Service; Urban Design Alliance and Urban Design Skills

Description

The aim of the exercise was to establish the degree of place making skills already available in the Council and to identify what skills would be needed in relation to visioning and masterplanning of the city. This was achieved using the Capacitycheck method. The information was then used to inform the development of a training programme for officers and members.

Judges' Comments

We are encouraged by the Council's intention to develop the design skills of their officers and members using a systematic approach to skills appraisal. However, we consider that such a commitment should now be established practice within the modernised planning system.

9. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): SWOT the Difference

ENV. STRENGTHS	ENV. WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address environmental issues Good communication networks Development of full assessment through good design Environmental legislation The availability of good value North Ayrshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to meet housing requirements in green Costs of addressing weaknesses
ENV. OPPORTUNITIES	ENV. THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change the perception of the area by improving the environment e.g. urban design Reduction of emissions Sustainable urban design opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced emissions • Improvement of housing • Assessment & costs Strategic design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban form • Landmark public amenities • High quality services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of good quality land Short design processes often hinder Visual Impact Increased travel and associated activities Travel, noise, environment and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced emissions • Reduced energy use • Reduced carbon footprint • Reduced energy use • Reduced energy use Potential flooding impacts Unmet needs of those <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons affected in local plan Control of release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incompatible sites • rights or easements Infrastructure capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water provision • sufficient capacity Other environmental considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air quality • soil conservation • noise • Compatibility of different uses

Nominees

North Ayrshire Council

Description

The purpose of the project was to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment of a local development plan using an alternative approach that was more efficient and used plain English. The aims were to reduce complexity and aid the wider understanding of the environmental issues, whilst also being compliant with legal requirements.

Judges' Comments

The Judges acknowledge the attempt to make the process and output of SEA more accessible to a wider audience. However, the entry only covers the scoping stage therefore the full SEA process has yet to be completed and the objective of legal compliance has yet to be tested. We look forward to hearing about how this work progresses.

Development Management

There was a single nomination for outstanding performance in quality in development management, which has been recommended for an Award.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	The Glasgow Urban Model	Glasgow City Council	Award

1. The Glasgow Urban Model



Nominees

Glasgow City Council

Description

The Glasgow Urban Model is an accurate, digital, 3D, interactive and virtual representation of the city centre of Glasgow and the River Clyde Corridor. Developed using cutting edge technology there are three models, varying in accuracy, which have a variety of applications, including improving communications between all stakeholders involved in the development of the area and improving the quality of submissions and decision making.

Judges' Comments

This is a very impressive tool that supports key aims of a modernised planning system. It enables purposeful engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, based on accurate images and realises efficiencies of process, reducing time and the use of resources. Its possible applications within the planning system are numerous and extend beyond these to include tourism and security. Effective project management is addressing issues of funding and maintenance. We wish the team every success in the future development of this work.

Recommendation

AWARD

Development on the Ground

There were six nominations for outstanding performance and quality in the development on the ground category. We recommend 2 Awards in this category, as well as the Overall Winner.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan	Falkirk Council; Callander Estate; Scottish Natural Heritage; Falkirk Environment Trust and Central Scotland Forest Trust	
2	Renfrew Town Centre Regeneration	Renfrewshire Council; Scottish Enterprise; Strathclyde European Partnership; Ferguson McIlveen/Scott Wilson Ltd and McKean and Co (Glasgow) Ltd	Award
3	Whitelee Windfarm	Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd	Overall Winner
4	Gardyne's Land, High Street, Dundee	Dundee City Council and Tayside Building Preservation Trust	Award
5	Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Partnership	North Lanarkshire Council; Historic Scotland; Falkirk Council; Glasgow City Council; West Dunbartonshire Council; and East Dunbartonshire Council	
6	Raploch Urban Regeneration Company	Raploch URC; R3 (Cruden Wimpey Consortium); Raploch Community Partnership and Forth Housing Association	

1. South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan



Nominees

Falkirk Council; Callander Estate; Scottish Natural Heritage; Falkirk Environment Trust and Central Scotland Forest Trust

Description

This project covers a substantial area south of Falkirk. It comprises a quality access network, linking communities together, and providing opportunities for informal recreation. This has been achieved through partnership working between the local authority, land owners and community and environmental groups.

Judges' Comments

The Judges were impressed by the success of this project in terms of the tangible outcomes on the ground and the capacity building in the community. Genuine partnership working has led to community groups now initiating their own projects and managing stages from finding funding through to delivery. However, whilst successful, the Judges considered that the entry didn't show sufficient evidence of new and innovative approaches to the promotion of access to the countryside around towns.

2. Renfrew Town Centre Regeneration



Nominees

Renfrewshire Council; Scottish Enterprise; Strathclyde European Partnership; Ferguson McIlveen/Scott Wilson Ltd and McKean and Co (Glasgow) Ltd

Description

Improvements to Renfrew town centre have revitalised a historic burgh that is now in close proximity to one of Scotland's largest out-of-town shopping destinations. New civic spaces, wider footpaths, new lighting, bespoke street furniture, careful landscaping and high quality materials have regenerated the area and supported its purpose as a town centre.

Judges' Comments

We congratulate the nominees on the consultation undertaken to ascertain the views of local traders and community, the quality of streetscape improvements and attention to detail. This project has a basis in the development plan and has delivered a high quality public realm which has been welcomed by the local community. The Council is continuing the momentum generated by this significant investment to further enhance the town centre, such as through the shop front improvement scheme.

Recommendation

AWARD

3. Whitelee Windfarm



Nominees

Scottish Power Renewables (UK) Ltd

Description

Whitelee windfarm, at Eaglesham Moor, near Glasgow, is the largest onshore windfarm in Europe covering 55km². The 140 turbines contribute up to 322MW of electricity to the grid, enough to supply 180,000 homes. There is a purpose built visitor centre on site and 88km of way-marked pathways across the moor.

Judges' Comments

The Judges were extremely impressed by the scale of this project and the efficient way it progressed through the planning process. Benefiting from policy support, the developer progressed their application in the spirit of the new system with thorough stakeholder engagement to overcome potential constraints. Particularly commendable was the low level of objections received to such a scale of scheme as well as the innovative solution developed to address radar issues, which can now be applied internationally. The visitor centre and pathways provide education and recreation facilities that open up the moor in a safe way to a wide range of users. We congratulate Scottish Power for their project management and achievement of a scheme we consider worthy of recommending to be the overall winner.

Recommendation

OVERALL
WINNER

4. Gardyne's Land, High Street, Dundee



Nominees

Dundee City Council and Tayside Building Preservation Trust

Description

This project involved the restoration of a building dating from c1560 in the heart of Dundee city centre. A complex network of listed buildings have been rescued and transformed to become Scotland's highest rated hostel. Partnership working has made efficient use of available resources and provided learning and education opportunities.

Judges' Comments

We congratulate the work of the project partners in achieving the modern and successful use of a building that retains the character of its past. This has been possible through the commitment of the team involved in the project and their attention to detailing throughout the design and construction phases of the scheme. Partners have overcome land ownership and funding issues and have worked with national and local policy to provide Dundee with a development of real value.

Recommendation

AWARD

5. Antonine Wall World Heritage Partnership



Nominees

North Lanarkshire Council; Historic Scotland; Falkirk Council; Glasgow City Council; West Dunbartonshire Council; and East Dunbartonshire Council

Description

The Antonine Wall World Heritage Partnership was set up to prepare the nomination for World Heritage Status. It achieved this in July 2008 and is now a forum for implementing the Antonine Wall Management Plan. This project has developed a synergy that did not exist previously and created a networking of understanding, interest, commitment and ongoing delivery.

Judges' Comments

The Judges congratulate the Partnership on their achievement of World Heritage Status and recognise the co-operative working between a range of stakeholders to do this. We also commend the Partnership's work influencing the development of a uniform local plan policy across five local authorities. However, we did not find enough evidence of exceptional planning process or outcome.

6. Raploch Urban Regeneration Company



Nominees

Raploch URC; R3 (Cruden Wimpey Consortium); Raploch Community Partnership and Forth Housing Association

Description

The Raploch Urban Regeneration Company aims to draw together the regeneration activity that is proposed for the Raploch area over the next ten years. This includes working with developers and the community to provide new housing, businesses, education facilities, community infrastructure and environmental enhancements.

Judges' Comments

There is a significant amount of work being progressed to regenerate the Raploch area, with the Company working in partnership with a wide range of organisations towards improving the quality of life for the community. However, given the scale of the project and its aspirations, the Judges consider that it is too early to determine its success on the ground.

Community Involvement

Nine nominations were received for outstanding performance and quality in the community involvement category. We recommend 1 Award and 1 Commendation.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	Planning to Act	North Ayrshire Council and Planning Aid Scotland	
2	Neilston Renaissance Town Charter	East Renfrewshire Council; Neilston Development Trust; Barrhead Housing Association; Mackintosh School of Architecture and Glasgow Urban Lab; The Lighthouse and SUST; Development Trusts Association Scotland; Architecture and Design Scotland and Urban Design Skills	Award
3	Catrine Community Fish Hatchery	East Ayrshire Council; Catrine Community Trust; Catrine Angling Club and Forward Scotland	
4	Scottish Planning, Effective Engagement and Delivery	Planning Aid For Scotland	
5	Calderwood	Stirling Developments Limited	
6	North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan	North Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum	
7	Transition Extreme	Aberdeen City Council and Transition Extreme	
8	Douglas Heritage Trail and Public Realm	South Lanarkshire Council	
9	Speirs Locks Masterplan Framework and Engagement Process	Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership (GCRP); Queens Cross Housing Association; Scottish Opera; The Full Design Team inc MAKE Ltd; 7N Architects; Rankin Fraser; Koan3; Glasgow Housing Association and Local Stakeholders	Commendation

1. Planning to Act



Nominees

North Ayrshire Council and Planning Aid Scotland

Description

This project aims to explore opportunities for innovative community engagement that involves social groups often overlooked, in this case young people. The approach uses drama workshops to introduce planning concepts and help participants appreciate the relevance of planning and their potential role within the system.

Judges' Comments

The Judges are pleased to see the awareness and understanding of planning being raised in a community group that does not routinely engage with the system but whose future the system is trying to improve. However, we did not consider that the entry demonstrated sufficient tangible results or benefits to the practicalities of the planning process.

2. Neilston Renaissance Town Charter



Nominees

East Renfrewshire Council; Neilston Development Trust; Barrhead Housing Association; Mackintosh School of Architecture and Glasgow Urban Lab; The Lighthouse and SUST; Development Trusts Association Scotland; Architecture and Design Scotland and Urban Design Skills

Description

The Neilston Town Charter is the first pilot project of the Scottish Renaissance Towns Initiative. A 20 year vision for the village has been developed in nine months by a 'Town Team', comprising a large number of members of the community. A panel of professionals supported the Town Team on technical issues and in building confidence and capacity for the delivery stage.

Judges' Comments

The Town Charter process is an excellent example of how to bring together community interest groups and relevant experts in design, planning and regeneration to establish a shared vision of a town's development opportunities. The enthusiasm of the wide range of stakeholders in Neilston's future is clearly evident. This has enabled capacity building within the community that will help maintain the momentum of the project. The document is aspirational but not unrealistic, going further than most documents of this style to identify targets and actions for delivery in relevant timescales. We consider that significant progress has been made in a short period with relatively small sums of money and look forward to hearing of future successes relating to the project.

Recommendation

AWARD

3. Catrine Community Fish Hatchery



Nominees

East Ayrshire Council; Catrine Community Trust; Catrine Angling Club and Forward Scotland

Description

A purpose-built fish hatchery has been completed that aims to improve the biodiversity of the River Ayr and its tributaries near Catrine. Partnership working by the local authority and community trust has resulted in: boosting a sport enjoyed by locals and visitors; the re-introduction of species that had been subjected to pollution; and improved community interest, confidence, capacity and cohesion.

Judges' Comments

We congratulate the partners in realising the aspiration of the local community interest group. Unfortunately we were not able to find enough evidence in the submission of exceptional work in community engagement that justified progression of the entry to the next stage.

4. Scottish Planning, Effective Engagement and Delivery



Nominees

Planning Aid For Scotland

Description

SP=EED aims to make the process of delivering public engagement more transparent, effective and efficient. The guide can be used by planning authorities and developers to help design, manage and evaluate public engagement in planning processes. It contains three levels, based on the degree of engagement (i. Give Information, ii. Consult and Listen and iii. Partnership). For each level the guide contains information on how it can be achieved as well as examples.

Judges' Comments

SP=EED provides a structure that indicates the extent of community engagement in a project. It can be applied by a range of stakeholders to support one of the key aims of the new modernised planning system. The Judges welcomed the desire to encourage the use of best practice in community engagement but considered that much of this information is already available and could be structured in a more accessible format. We wish Planning Aid for Scotland every success in promoting greater use of this guidance.

5. Calderwood



Nominees

Stirling Developments Ltd

Description

Calderwood is a proposed mixed-use, sustainable new community extending to 135 Ha. The aim is for Calderwood to be a place that encourages community life outside the home, helping to foster a friendly, integrated community that lives in harmony with the environment and surrounding area. A range of consultation techniques have been employed to develop a proposal which has been submitted in outline.

Judges' Comments

The Judges commend the proposal for the range of techniques used to engage the community in development of the proposals. The extent of engagement goes above and beyond what is statutorily required and the evidence indicates this is assisting in the progression of the proposals through the planning system. The Judges considered the stage of the proposal is premature but look forward to hearing of future successes.

6. North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan



Nominees

North Ayrshire Council and North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Description

The aims of the project were to produce a Core Paths Plan using extensive and equitable community engagement, meet legislative timescales and avoid the requirement for the Local Inquiry. The Plan was adopted in January 2009 without the need for an inquiry.

Judges' Comments

We recognise the efforts made by the partnership to engage with key partners in the development of the plan and congratulate them on its successful adoption without the requirement for an inquiry. The work builds on the Ayrshire Outdoor Access Toolkits that were recognised with an Award in this category for the 2007 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning.

7. Transition Extreme



Nominees

Aberdeen City Council and Transition Extreme

Description

Transition Extreme is a state-of-the-art extreme and urban sports centre with facilities that include: skateboard / BMX park, climbing wall, band practice studios, mini-cinema, shops and café area. In developing the facility, the aim was to provide economic benefits, appeal to young people and contribute to the reputation of Aberdeen City.

Judges' Comments

The project has clearly been a success, evidenced by the number of visitors, particularly from all over the UK. We are pleased that a scheme has been delivered that was identified by engaging with young people. We felt however, that there was not enough information within the submission of exceptional work in the statutory planning or community engagement process that would warrant the entry progressing further.

8. Douglas Heritage Trail and Public Realm



Nominees

South Lanarkshire Council

Description

This project provides a heritage and environmental trail around the village of Douglas, which increases awareness and understanding of historical assets; links to existing path and natural attractions; and is attractive and easy to use. The Council worked with community groups to establish a sense of ownership.

Judges' Comments

The Judges acknowledge the success of this project, which resulted from local knowledge, interest and enthusiasm and the support of the Council's Planning staff. Unfortunately we did not consider that the project displayed evidence of exceptional quality of planning process or community engagement.

9. Speirs Locks Masterplan Framework and Engagement Process



Nominees

Glasgow Canal Regeneration Partnership (GCRP); Queens Cross Housing Association; Scottish Opera; The Full Design Team inc MAKE Ltd; 7N Architects; Rankin Fraser; Koan3; Glasgow Housing Association and Local Stakeholders

Description

The Speirs Lock Masterplan covers approximately 14 hectares in close proximity to the city centre but which is cut off by the motorway. The plan has been developed with extensive stakeholder engagement to establish a vision to 2020 that links the area to the city, makes use of the canal and provides a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Judges' Comments

The Judges were impressed with the clarity of process for engagement with the community and were encouraged that previous mistakes had been acknowledged and learnt from. The project is a great example of how disconnected and underused urban areas can be reinvigorated through a multi-agency approach with strong leadership and a pragmatic approach to development. The project has a clear development plan basis and is realising its objectives.

Recommendation

COMMENDATION

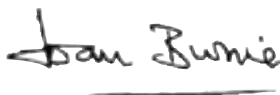
Concluding Remarks from the Judges

This year, we have been particularly encouraged by the number of entries received for the SAQP, given the changing economic climate that has impacted significantly on the development sector. We were therefore also extremely pleased that the quality of submissions has been maintained, with some pushing the boundaries of excellence further.

We would like to thank those that have prepared the entries, travelled to speak to us about their projects, and arranged for us to see their projects in place. The entries clearly demonstrate the commitment of stakeholders involved in the planning system to raising the quality of planning processes, of how those processes are carried out and the results in terms of outcomes on the ground.

We have seen a wide range of methods for participation put forward for recognition in 2009, in anticipation of the 2006 Planning etc (Scotland) Act coming into force. The implementation of the Act now provides the impetus for many new processes to be established, particularly in development planning and development management, and we especially look forward to hearing about them in 2010.

It is with pleasure that we submit our recommendations for 2009.



Joan Burnie



Richard Holland



Ben Train

Information on the 2010 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning
is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/saqp2010
or from saqp2010@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

