

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning

and

Designing Places Award

Report of
the Judges

2008



The Scottish
Government



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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 Fiona Moriarty

Designing Places Award

Presented by The Scottish Government

Karen Cadell, Stephen Proctor and
Directorate for the Built Environment

2008

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Summary of the Judges' recommendations

A total of 25 entries were received in 2008. The Judges awarded 1 Overall Winner, 5 Awards and 8 Commendations. The Judges' recommendations are summarised below:

Overall Winner

Development on the ground category

- Lerwick Waterfront Regeneration

Awards

Development plans category

- InterMETREXPlus: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project
- South Lanarkshire Local Plan – Local Plan Inquiry

Development on the ground category

- The Stobswell Neighbourhood Physical regeneration Project
- Heart of Hawick

Community involvement category

- Ellon Masterplan, Pattern Book and Model

Commendations

Development plans category

- Design Standards for New Housing Areas
- Fife's Local Landscape Designation Review
- Community Growth Areas Masterplan Development Frameworks

Development on the ground category

- Hopetoun Village, Edinburgh
- St Andrew Square Gardens
- Carrochan: Building Beyond Boundaries
- Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine Rail Line Re-opening

Community involvement category

- Miners Institute and Town Square, Lochgelly

Introduction

The Judges

The 2008 Awards Judges are:

Joan Burnie (Chair)	Associate Editor, Daily Record
Richard Holland	Strategic Planning Director, Taylor Wimpey Developments
Fiona Moriarty	Director, Scottish Retail Consortium

Entries

A total of 25 entries were received for the twelfth 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, we 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. 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

Eight nominations were received for outstanding performance and quality in development plans. We recommend 2 Awards and 3 Commendations in this category.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	Design Standards for New Housing Areas	East Lothian Council	Commendation
2	Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and Noise	West Lothian Council	
3	InterMETREXPlus: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee; The Tyndall Centre and METREX	Award
4	Fife's Local Landscape Designation Review	Fife Council and Scottish Natural Heritage	Commendation
5	Kilmarnock Conservation Area Management Plan	East Ayrshire Council; Austin Smith: Lord LLP and Historic Scotland	
6	South Lanarkshire Local Plan – Local Plan Inquiry	South Lanarkshire Council	Award
7	Community Growth Area Masterplan Development Frameworks	South Lanarkshire Council	Commendation
8	Inverclyde Core Paths Plan	Inverclyde Council	

1. Design Standards for New Housing Areas

**Nominee**

East Lothian Council

Description

The aim of the project was to produce improved design standards for new housing areas. A key focus being to review road design and to promote Home Zone development. The document, Design Standards for New Housing Areas revise and draw together in a single publication the Council's key planning and transportation requirements for the design of new housing areas. It provides a single reference detailing the urban design principles the Council will apply to its new housing areas.

Judges' comments

We acknowledge the recognition the Council has paid to the advice provided by The Scottish Government to integrated thinking on design and the need to move away from standardised solutions and products and the dominance of the car in the way our environment is shaped. The local authority is to be congratulated in drawing together in a single document the key planning and transportation requirements for the design of new housing areas. We consider that the Home Zone approach ensures that the quality of life in the residential area takes precedence over ease of vehicle movement, helps promote social inclusion, encourages sustainable urban living and improves the quality of the urban environment.

COMMENDATION

We recommend a Commendation.

2. Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and Noise

**Nominee**

West Lothian Council

Description

To achieve higher levels of sustainable development through supporting density in urban areas and at transport nodes, noise considerations will play an increasingly important role in development planning and management. The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is aimed at providing developers with information on the planning process where new noise sensitive developments are planned. The SPG supports the Council's local plan strategy for sustainable development.

Judges' comments

We are encouraged by the Council's commitment to such an important topic and that a robust policy has been developed which achieves the project aims. We look forward to hearing that the policy has had further success in steering development and whether other planning authorities adopt the initiative.

3. InterMETREXPlus: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project



Nominees

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC); The Tyndall Centre and METREX

Description

The InterMETREXPlus Project investigated the role of strategic spatial planning in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This model is one of the first to address auditing and inventory work on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) across a metropolitan-wide area or region. It can also be used to generate ‘energy futures scenarios’ for modelling the impact of a range of mitigation policies. Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area took this latter approach, developing scenarios aimed at reducing GHGs for the region by 80% by 2050.

Judges’ comments

The project identifies the key role the spatial planning system has in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We recognise the importance of this innovative piece of work in providing a solid foundation for starting to develop and share spatial planning responses with partner organisations in Scotland and in a wider European context to address climate change in advance of any statutory requirements emanating from the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill. The Judges wish GCVSPJC and Partners every success in the future development of the project. **We recommend an Award.**

AWARD

4. Fife’s Local Landscape Designation Review



Nominees

Fife Council and Scottish Natural Heritage

Description

The review sought to refresh the use of local landscape designations. The project provides a transparent methodology for the evaluation of the different landscapes based on existing Landscape Character Assessment work. It developed a process for delineating proposed designated landscapes and describing their key attributes and regional value. The main purpose of the project was to provide a review of current Areas of Great Landscape Value.

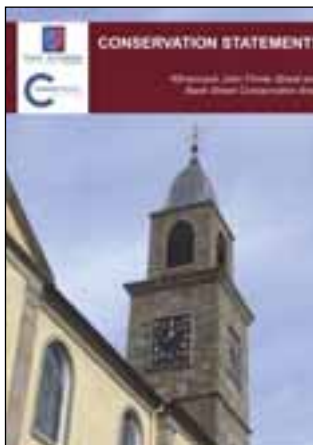
Judges’ comments

The collaborative approach to working between Fife Council, SNH and the project consultants has developed a comprehensive reassessment of the local landscape designations in Fife. There was strong evidence supporting the review outcomes leading to better protection and enhancements of landscapes in Fife.

COMMENDATION

We recommend a Commendation.

5. Kilmarnock Conservation Area Management Plan



Nominees

East Ayrshire Council; Austin Smith: Lord LLP and Historic Scotland

Description

The project involved the preparation of a detailed Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP) for Kilmarnock's John Finnie Street and Bank Street Outstanding Conservation Area. It was prepared to support the investment that will be directed into the area through a Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). The CAMP details the special character and significance of the town's historic core, assesses how it might be vulnerable to change and sets out planning and implementation guidelines to steer future development and regeneration. The plan has been adopted by the Council as supplementary planning guidance.

Judges' comments

We acknowledge the worthiness of the project through the support and direction of investment in the development and regeneration of Kilmarnock's historic core. The detailed yet user-friendly CAMP is to be praised as a comprehensive tool for helping guide development in the outstanding conservation area we will be interested to hear of its success. However, it was considered that the submission did not display evidence of an exceptional process within the planning system.

6. South Lanarkshire Local Plan – Local Plan Inquiry



Nominee

South Lanarkshire Council

Description

In preparing for the South Lanarkshire Local Plan PLI the Council worked with the Scottish Government’s Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals embracing the Government’s modernisation agenda for the planning system. The project addressed a series of particular challenges requiring managerial, logistical and professional judgement and co-ordination.

Judges’ comments

It was agreed that the task demonstrated exceptional project management skills by the Local Plan Inquiry team. We were impressed by the approach to the challenge in dealing with over 10,000 representations and commend the transparency of the Inquiry process, the adoption of inquisitorial rather than adversarial inquiry sessions, the time and cost efficient process adopted together with addressing many other goals in an innovative and consistently professional manner. The Council achieved speed of process but not at the expense of thoroughness, efficiency but not at the expense of accessibility or quality while aligning the Inquiry with the ‘Modernising the Planning System’ agenda.

AWARD

We recommend an Award.

7. Community Growth Area Masterplan Development Frameworks



Nominee

South Lanarkshire Council

Description

The Masterplan Development Frameworks (MDF) have been prepared for Community Growth Areas (CGA) identified in the finalised South Lanarkshire Local Plan as a way to deliver national guidance/policy at the local level.

Judges’ comments

We recognise and commend the management skills required to lead a multi-disciplinary team in developing the Masterplan Development Frameworks (MDFs) and it is pleasing to hear that the tool has been successful in bridging the gap between the local plan and the detailed masterplan. The MDF creates the link between policy and product. This initiative is acknowledged as excellent practice which may wish to be adopted by other planning authorities. **We recommend a Commendation.**

COMMENDATION

8. Inverclyde Core Paths Plan

**Nominee**

Inverclyde Council

Description

The Plan identifies the basic framework of paths sufficient for the purpose of giving the public access throughout the area.

Judges' comments

We were interested to hear about the methods used by the Council to prepare the framework, especially the partnership approach with the Local Access Forum to ensure that the paths identified meet a wide range of community needs. The innovative approach to the format of the Plan and the commendations received for its presentation are commended. However, we did not find any information in the submission that displayed any evidence of an outstanding process within the planning system.

Development management

There were 2 nominations for outstanding performance and quality in development management. No recommendations were made in this category.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	Successfully Steering Edinburgh Trams through the Planning Process	Halcrow Group Ltd; City of Edinburgh Council and TIE Ltd	
2	Lochgelly Strategic Design Framework	Fife Council	

1. Successfully Steering Edinburgh Trams through the Planning Process

**Nominee**

Halcrow Group Ltd; PB Ltd; City of Edinburgh Council and TIE Ltd

Description

Steering the Edinburgh Trams infrastructure and regeneration project through the planning consents process. Also to achieve a high quality design which fits appropriately with its surrounding context, meeting the City of Edinburgh Council's placemaking objectives while fulfilling technical and engineering requirements. The proposed route is due to be operational in 2011 and will connect Edinburgh Airport, City Centre and Leith Waterfront.

Judges' comments

We acknowledge the enormity of the project, the technical and engineering challenges and the demands of a tight construction programme. It is also accepted that the highest levels of professional expertise and communication and design skills are required to successfully manage this complex development. However, the joint approach to the project management raised uncertainty as to the lead partner in guiding the development and a more detailed presentation of the innovative planning tools adopted would have been beneficial. We look forward to the successful completion of the tram system.

2. Lochgelly Strategic Design Framework

**Nominee**

Fife Council

Description

The framework sets out a strategy for the growth of Lochgelly to 2028. It seeks to strengthen the structure of its urban form, ensuring that new development integrates well with the existing fabric of the settlement and that links to the town centre are strong to ensure its vitality and viability. Appropriate areas for development are identified with core design and development principles established to assist informing future more detailed masterplanning work.

Judges' comments

We recognise the value of this positive and proactive approach to establishing a design framework and the advantages of outsourcing the production. Also acknowledged through the commissioning of the strategic framework is the Council's commitment to the Fife Masterplans Handbook. We look forward to hearing about the continued success of the framework in developing more detailed masterplanning work on key sites around Lochgelly.

Development on the ground

There were 10 nominations for outstanding performance and quality in the development on the ground category. We recommend 1 Overall Winner, 2 Awards and 4 Commendations in this category.

No.	Project	Nominee(s)	Recommendation
1	Animating the Canal	West Dunbartonshire Council; Clydebank re-built; British Waterways Scotland; The Waterways Trust Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Greenspace	
2	Hopetoun Village, Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh Council; The Appleton Partnership and New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council	Commendation
3	St Andrew Square Gardens	City of Edinburgh Council; Scottish Enterprise; Edinburgh City Centre Management Company; Historic Scotland and Edinburgh World Heritage	Commendation
4	Carrochan: Building Beyond Boundaries (LL & TTNPA HQ)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority	Commendation
5	Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine Rail Line Re-opening	Clackmannanshire Council; Transport Scotland; Jacobs; First Nuttall; Network Rail; First Scotrail and EWS-Freight Train Operators	Commendation
6	The Stobswell Neighbourhood Physical Regeneration Project	Dundee City Council; Communities Scotland; Stobswell Forum; NHS Tayside and Robert Turley Associates	Award
7	Douglas Townscape Heritage Initiative	South Lanarkshire Council	
8	Nicolson Square Environmental Improvements	City of Edinburgh Council	
9	Lerwick Waterfront Regeneration	Shetland Islands Council	Overall Winner
10	Heart of Hawick	Scottish Borders Council	Award

1. Animating the Canal



Nominees

West Dunbartonshire Council; Clydebank re-built; British Waterways Scotland; The Waterways Trust Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Greenspace

Description

The redesign of the north canal bank environment and the replacement of the bridge canopy at Clydebank town centre with cantilevering wing spans, inspired by a swan in flight. The public space was reconfigured, physical barriers removed and a greener, safer, more attractive environment created, improving linkages and opportunities to access the canal for recreation. To complement and inform on the physical projects, a community involvement programme was established including consultation events and a canal-focused schools programme.

Judges' comments

We recognise the significant environmental improvements achieved through the completion of this project and commend the public involvement. However, we did not find enough evidence of exceptional work in the statutory planning or community engagement process that would merit an award.

2. Hopetoun Village, Edinburgh



Nominees

City of Edinburgh Council; The Appleton Partnership and New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council

Description

This project has created an inner-city neighbourhood for in excess of 2,000 residents in a mix of housing types and tenures together with community facilities including park, health centre, hotel and retail. The layout re-uses a never-completed Georgian street pattern to establish a modern re-interpretation of Edinburgh's classical New Town.

Judges' comments

We were pleased to see that this site has been brought back into community use. The process displayed good project management by the Council. We are encouraged to hear that the community had an active role to play in identifying the need for more informal greenspace in the area and in the detail of the layout and form of the park. The final development provides a valuable community resource whilst also regenerating and improving this site.

COMMENDATION

We recommend a Commendation.

3. St Andrew Square Gardens

**Nominees**

City of Edinburgh Council; Scottish Enterprise; Edinburgh City Centre Management Company; Historic Scotland and Edinburgh World Heritage

Description

The project redesigned and opened up, to the public, underused and neglected private gardens, allowed greater appreciation of the Melville Monument and created a new pedestrian route through the gardens linking the St James Centre, Princes Street and Rose Street. The contemporary design provides a contextual response to the classical geometry of the New Town whilst creating public space. A second stage of the project involves the repaving of the Square around the gardens, reinforcing the original design.

Judges' comments

We were impressed with this project and considered it to be well managed. We recognise the positive impact it has had on the local area for the environment and economy. We were particularly pleased to hear about the role of Planning in guiding the design and mediating between the different stakeholders which was fundamental to progressing the project from initial concept to finished product. **We recommend a Commendation.**

COMMENDATION

4. Carrochan: Building Beyond Boundaries (LL & TTNPA HQ)



Nominee

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

Description

Carrochan is the new headquarters for the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority in Balloch. It was delivered through a mainstream budget demonstrating sustainability can be integrated at no extra cost.

Judges' comments

We believe that this is an excellent example of effective management of the development management process which has resulted in the achievement of a high quality development on the ground. The extensive negotiation on issues such as design and public access was noted and we recognised the value of this high quality development in terms of the choice of materials and sustainable technologies, well beyond the remit of a standard office contract. The building has secured an inspirational working environment for National Park planning staff and colleagues from partner agencies, which facilitates collaboration and enhanced public service provision and a much needed resource for the local community of Balloch and the wider National Park. An awareness of its impact on the regeneration of the local economy is also acknowledged. **We recommend a Commendation.**

COMMENDATION

5. Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine Rail Line Re-opening



Nominees

Clackmannanshire Council; Transport Scotland; Jacobs; First Nuttall; Network Rail; First Scotrail and EWS-Freight Train Operators

Description

The project involved the re-opening of 21 kilometres of abandoned railway line across three Council areas between Stirling Station and Longannet Power Station to provide passenger services from Alloa and freight services to Longannet. A new station was built in Alloa, a number of level crossings were closed, a new Eastern Link Road crossing the railway was constructed and a new pedestrian bridge provided.

Judges' comments

An enlightened vision to the realisation and implementation to this project, with the rail line having been protected through the Development Plan since 1980. We acknowledge the efforts and determination by the partners to make the best of this opportunity and are pleased to hear that successful negotiation between the partners has delivered a result which meets the aspirations of all parties. The benefits of reconnecting Alloa to the rail network to assist economic and environmental regeneration of Clackmannanshire is recognised and applauded.

COMMENDATION

We recommend a Commendation.

6. The Stobswell Neighbourhood Physical Regeneration Project



Nominees

Dundee City Council; Communities Scotland; Stobswell Forum; NHS Tayside and Robert Turley Associates

Description

The socio-economic challenges affecting Dundee during the 1990s impacted negatively on the Victorian neighbourhood of Stobswell. However, the seven-year Stobswell Project has recreated an urban living environment where through partnership mechanisms and investments, the residential and commercial needs of the area have been improved to sustain Stobswell as an attractive place to live. The project is a model for processes and products required to redress the needs of other regeneration areas within Dundee.

Judges' comments

This is an impressive project where partnership working, including local people, are achieving the regeneration of a run-down innercity tenemental area. Actions have created an attractive environment where the existing residential and commercial needs have been improved and where new development has given greater dwelling choice, certainty and confidence. We look forward to hearing about the future development and regeneration of the Stobswell neighbourhood. **We recommend an Award.**

AWARD

7. Douglas Townscape Heritage Initiative



Nominee

South Lanarkshire Council

Description

The Douglas Townscape Heritage Initiative project was charged with delivering a small grants scheme for owner occupiers to undertake repair and reinstatement works to their properties helping to preserve the historic fabric of the village. The scheme provided grants to private property owners rather than targeting a single landmark building. The buildings to benefit from grants included residential, commercial and community properties thus spreading the funds across a wide range of building types, uses and conditions. The project also produced a homeowners' guide that educates and encourages property owners to maintain their buildings.

Judges' comments

This was a challenging and commendable project offering property owners grant assistance to maintain their buildings and as the Council's application comments, that it stimulated additional regeneration work outwith the scheme. We also acknowledge the professional knowledge and skill required to manage the project, and are glad to hear that the outcomes have led to a significant enhancement to the fabric of Douglas village. It would have been interesting to learn whether the scheme and the lessons learnt would, should the opportunity arise, be rolled out to benefit other villages.

8. Nicolson Square Environmental Improvements



Nominee

City of Edinburgh Council

Description

The aim of the project was to regenerate Nicolson Square on the Southside of Edinburgh forming a final phase to public realm improvements undertaken to South Bridge and the northern end of Nicolson Street. Traditional iron railings were restored to the perimeter, formal paths laid, tree planting introduced and new lighting and seating enhancements.

Judges' comments

We are aware that this project forms part of a wider public realm improvement, enhancing a gateway to the Edinburgh World Heritage Site with the intention of acting as a catalyst for further investment in the area. We also acknowledge the wider community benefits gained through this project, including the provision of new community facilities and environmental improvements. Whilst we believe this project has had a successful outcome, we were unfortunately not aware of any issues of outstanding value that would merit an award.

9. Lerwick Waterfront Regeneration



Nominee

Shetland Islands Council

Description

The overall aim of the project was to regenerate Lerwick's Waterfront, creating a vibrant extension to the town centre by encouraging a wide range of activities and amenities. Working with partners on key developments including the North Ness Business Park, the start of the coastal walk, the refurbishment of the old ice factory into the Shetland Amenity Trust offices and the new Museum and Archives, has succeeded in priming the area for regeneration through a mixture of cultural and commercial uses.

Judges' comments

This entry benefited from a clear and comprehensive submission and presentation. We were extremely impressed with this regeneration project which through a range of partnerships attracted and managed funding sources to drive the initiative forward. We were pleased to note that The Town Centre and Waterfront Strategy encourages improving links with the historic town centre and emphasises that developing the Waterfront should complement the historic town centre, not be in competition. The new buildings erected as part of the project and the sensitively restored listed properties are now landmarks of the town. Overall, we were impressed by this valuable regeneration project and appreciate the impact that the development has had in the surrounding area and beyond. The economic, social and environmental benefits for the community and for the heritage of the Shetland Islands are clear. We are confident that the restoration of the Waterfront will act as a strong catalyst for further regeneration in the area and wish the Council well in their endeavours.

OVERALL WINNER

We recommend that the Lerwick Waterfront Regeneration Project is the Overall Winner in 2008.

10. Heart of Hawick



Nominee

Scottish Borders Council

Description

An arts and culture led regeneration project, Heart of Hawick is designed to make a substantial contribution to the social, cultural and economic regeneration of Hawick and the wider Scottish Borders. The 20 year project has transformed two formerly derelict buildings which blighted the heart of the Conservation Area in the town centre. The restored buildings provide sustainable community facilities and overlook a redesigned civic space which can be used for a wide range of community activities and events. The project has achieved significant environmental improvement, attracted investment, economic activity and employment, provided new cultural facilities and acts as a positive focus for the town centre.

Judges' comments

This entry is a remarkable achievement of professionalism, passion and perseverance in the creation of a 'Heritage Hub'. We were extremely impressed with the management of this financially complex and technically-demanding regeneration initiative. It is an excellent example of proactive community engagement, effective partnership working and strong project management to realise a social, cultural and economic regeneration benefiting Hawick and beyond. Overall, we consider that this is an innovative regeneration and conservation project which demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving the quality of life in the Scottish Borders, through not only the provision of new cultural facilities but as a positive focus for the High Street of Hawick.

AWARD

We recommend an Award.

Community involvement

Five 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	Delivering and Assessing Pre-Application Community Engagement	Scottish Water and Dundas & Wilson CS LLP	
2	Stirling Council Final Draft Core Paths Plan – The Consultations	Stirling Council and Stirling Area Local Access Forum	
3	Leith Docks Outline Planning Application Public Participation Strategy	Forth Ports Property Investments Ltd; Turley Associates and Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council	
4	Ellon Masterplan, Pattern Book and Model	The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment; Urban Design Associates; Scotia Homes and Aberdeenshire Council	Award
5	Miners Institute and Town Square, Lochgelly	Fife Council; Heritage Building Preservation Trust; Fife HARCA; Adam Smith College; Fife Women's Technology Centre; Lochgelly Community Regeneration Forum and Purvis Group – Thomas Menzies	Commendation

1. Delivering and Assessing Pre-Application Community Engagement

**Nominees**

Scottish Water and Dundas & Wilson CS LLP

Description

This was a detailed audit of community engagement as part of Scottish Water's planning application to provide a cleaner, fresher water supply for Edinburgh. A primary objective was the involvement of the wider community and other stakeholders; gaining public confidence through the openness and accessibility of the team and demonstrating how views were taken into account in the final proposals.

Judges' comments

We were impressed by the effective and efficient management of this project; the awareness of the need for community consultation and pre-planning engagement and a willingness to learn the lessons from the implementation of a similar project. We hope that the community see the many benefits that the scheme has secured. This positive project provides a model of good practice and we wish Scottish Water success in building upon this process for future consultations.

2. Stirling Council Final Draft Core Paths Plan – The Consultations

**Nominees**

Stirling Council and Stirling Area Local Access Forum

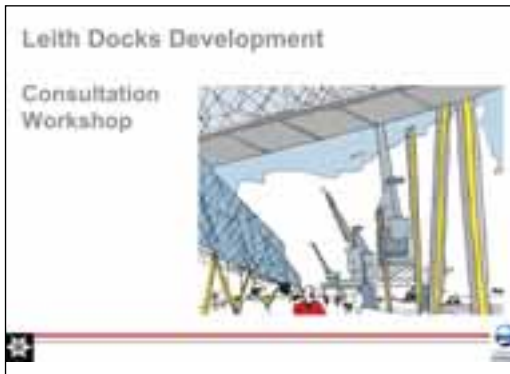
Description

Successful public engagement in the consultation process in delivering a Core Paths Plan from the conception to the production of the Stirling Council Final Draft Core Paths Plan. This involved three informal rounds of consultation to find out what routes people were interested in taking, their views on an initial set of proposed core paths and their reaction to what other people had proposed in each previous consultation stage.

Judges' comments

We were impressed that the project has reached such a wide range of new audiences and commend Stirling Council for trying out new approaches, techniques and venues. The project provides a good way of raising awareness and bringing out local knowledge to benefit residents and visitors. The feedback received from participants only confirms our positive opinion of this project.

3. Leith Docks Outline Planning Application Public Participation Strategy

**Nominees**

Forth Ports Property Investments Ltd; Turley Associates and Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council

Description

The project involved a comprehensive community participation exercise as part of the outline planning application for Leith Docks, Edinburgh. It was a key component in informing the content of the planning application and the evolution of the Masterplan. The consultation strategy included community workshops, public exhibitions and the use of questionnaires. This integrated the views of the public and stakeholder groups into the development of Forth Ports' development vision, by providing the structure and process through which they could contribute their views.

Judges' comments

We were pleased to learn that the community not only have an increased awareness and understanding of the planning application and the Masterplan process but a strong voice in creating the vision for Leith Docks. Overall, whilst we understood the benefits to providing the public with a voice we were unable to find any particularly innovative community engagement with the consultation process. We congratulate Forth Ports in the operation of their public engagement strategy and wish them well in the future development of Leith Docks.

4. Ellon Masterplan, Pattern Book and Model



Nominees

The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment; Urban Design Associates; Scotia Homes and Aberdeenshire Council

Description

The Ellon project was developed using a collaborative planning and public engagement tool that uses design workshops to ensure that design is at the heart of the development process. It produced 3 strategic development plan outputs: (a) sustainable growth masterplan, an integrated framework to help guide and inspire sensitive regeneration in the town and surrounding local area; (b) pattern book, a collation of detailed patterns ranging in scale from the town and site design through to window patterns and architectural details and (c) model, an interactive wooden model of Ellon and the new proposed settlement.

Judges' comments

We were extremely interested to hear about the proactive approach of the partners to encourage the use of masterplanning to create the sustainable regeneration of the town. It was encouraging to hear that this project managed to promote participation through engagement with the local community, stakeholders and particularly commendable with those who would not normally have been involved in such a scheme. It is acknowledged that the approach is not just a 'one-off' for Ellon but can be adapted for any village to urban city extensions. **We recommend an Award.**

AWARD

5. Miners Institute and Town Square, Lochgelly



Nominees

Fife Council; Heritage Building Preservation Trust; Fife HARCA; Adam Smith College; Fife Women's Technology Centre; Lochgelly Community Regeneration Forum and Purvis Group – Thomas Menzies

Description

Lochgelly town centre is being transformed through a programme of regeneration activity. Within this context the refurbishment of the Miners Institute and the creation of an adjoining Town Square enhancement combine the re-use of key assets with new design and artwork to create a contemporary image for the town centre that recognises and embraces local history and culture. The project has harnessed expertise, knowledge and resources from within the local community, the voluntary, public and private sector bodies.

Judges' comments

This entry benefited from a clear and comprehensive submission and presentation. Although further detail on the planning process would have been welcomed, we were extremely impressed with this proposal in its significant role as part of a multi-agency approach to tackle deprivation in Lochgelly. We believe that this is an excellent example of effective management in regenerating the fabric of an area while creating and developing employment opportunities. We note the effective partnership and community engagement elements required to progress the project and we look forward to hearing about the future development and regeneration of the town.

COMMENDATION

We recommend a Commendation.

Concluding remarks from the Judges

We have thoroughly enjoyed judging the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning in 2008 and have been impressed by the commitment shown to improving processes and outputs by authorities, the private sector and communities. Our special thanks go to the many individuals who prepared submissions, gave us presentations and accompanied us on our site visits.

Assessing each entry from the starting point of a brief nomination form is always difficult. We have however, tried to be fair. We have rigorously sought out evidence of community involvement, sustainable development, innovation, problem resolution and good use of resources. It is inevitable that some nominating bodies will be disappointed with the outcome of the judging process. We do, however, acknowledge the real worth of all we have seen in the nominations, presentations and visits.

The Awards have been raising the awareness of quality standards in Scottish planning year after year and the 2008 entries have been of a particularly high standard. We would like to congratulate every entrant for the continuing efforts which are being made to improve quality in all aspects of planning.

We hope that you will continue to support the Awards and we look forward to receiving your entries in 2009.

It is with pleasure that we submit our recommendations for 2008.

Joan Burnie



Richard Holland



Fiona Moriarty



Designing Places Award

Introduction

The policy statement, Designing Places, was issued in November 2001 and it sets out the Government's aspirations for design. A key strand of the policy is supporting design education which is why the Government launched the Designing Places Award for planning students. The Award is now in its seventh year.

The Judges

The 2008 Awards Judges are:

Karen Cadell Cadell² Architects and Urban Designers

Stephen Proctor Proctor and Matthews Architects

The Scottish Government Directorate for the Built Environment

Entries

The Award is for urban design work carried out as part of the curriculum on planning courses, whether a project, dissertation, essay or report. Entrants are required to submit their work and complete an application form.

The Award is open to all Scottish Planning Schools at undergraduate and postgraduate level. In 2008, 11 entries were received, which is an increase on the previous two years. One entry was from the University of Dundee, five were from the University of Glasgow and five were from the Heriot-Watt University.

Judges' remarks

This year, the Judges were encouraged to see more entries coming through but slightly disappointed in that so many of the applicants had chosen to submit more word-based submissions as opposed to design projects. In addition, of those submissions which did provide some graphic project work, the Judges felt that the overall quality of the design was a good effort but they would have liked to have seen some more concept diagrams.

The Judges would like to thank the schools for participating this year and wish all the students every success in the future.

1. Masterplanning or Mastering Planning

Nominees

Heriot-Watt University

Entrant

John Deffenbaugh

Description

This dissertation seeks to explore the motivations of stakeholders in promoting and preparing masterplans and then investigating the extent to which the process for formalising masterplans in the statutory planning system delivers these motivations at the development implementation stage.

Judges' comments

There was a clear majority view amongst the Judges that this piece of work deserved an Award. It stood out from the other entries as they found it was a very thoughtful and timely study. It emphasised the importance of masterplanning and explored the approaches taken in mainland Europe. The strong message of more pro-active and collaborative approaches between local authorities and design teams was welcomed. Overall, it was considered that this piece of work was clearly written and certainly questioned some fundamental design issues.

AWARD

2. Individual and adaptable? An enquiry into the attributes and delivery of plot based models of private housing provision

Nominee

The University of Glasgow

Entrant

George Weeks

Description

This postgraduate dissertation sets out to illustrate the ways in which underlying delivery mechanisms can be used and adapted to deliver high quality houses and public spaces. It investigates the process by which housing is delivered by self-procurers and speculative builders, and how the emphasis in housing development on land acquisition tends to lead to high levels of 'placeless-ness' and poor integration with the existing urban form.

Judges' comments

The Judges' expressed how they were intrigued with the chosen subject title for this dissertation and they enjoyed reading about the subject area. They were impressed with the extensiveness of research and the determination to grasp such a multi-faceted issue. The Judges felt that there is still more research to be done on this piece of work but applauded the boldness of tackling this relevant subject and granted it a commendation.

COMMENDATION

Other student entries

Although the Judges considered that the other entries did not merit an award, many of them contained examples of positive work.

No.	Project	Nominee	Entrants
3	The Kingsway: The road to regeneration	The University of Dundee	Oonagh Baxter
4	Analysis and improvement proposal for the Adam Smith Building and Environs	The University of Glasgow	George Weeks
5	Urban Design Framework for the St Enoch Quarter, Glasgow	The University of Glasgow	Neil Simpson
6	Designing Places: Analysis of Cumbernauld Town Centre	The University of Glasgow	Suzanne Cusick
7	Reaching for the skies: Is Glasgow's tall buildings policy fit for purpose?	The University of Glasgow	Euan Shearer
8	Fountainbridge Design Brief	Heriot-Watt University	Ian Brooke Euan Calvert Zena Clark Ramsay Duff Laura Hill Dianne Lewis Jamie Macvie Derek Simpson
9	Fountainbridge Design Brief	Heriot-Watt University	Yash Ashwini Seonaid Carr Niall Conway Lauren Dickson Elaine Fotheringham Hannah Garrow Christopher Harris Niall Sheehan
10	North West Portobello Masterplan	Heriot-Watt University	Lesley Brown Lorraine Gardiner Rona Gold Steven McLaren Ann MacSween
11	Portobello Vision	Heriot-Watt University	David Givan Margarat Gillon Miriam Frier Kate Francey John Deffenbaugh

