



**GWSF Regeneration Conference**

**Friday 4th June, 2021**

**‘CCHAs: still at the heart of place-making in their communities’**

**Programme**

***9.30- 9.45 Registration and tea/coffee***

**Morning Plenary**

**9.45 - 10.00 Welcome to the conference and overview of the day**

* Helen Moore, GWSF Chair
* Colleen Rowan, Policy and Research Lead, GWSF

**10.00 – 10.30 Keeping Scotland Beautiful**

**Katie Murray, Communities and Place Manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful**

The benefits of a good quality environment have never been more important. Living through lockdown has encouraged us all to look at our local spaces differently. We have a renewed opportunity to improve the places we live, work and play, by building back better, and focusing on a green recovery.  Katie will highlight key examples of collaboration in practice, including research into changing attitudes towards local environmental quality during the pandemic, and their connections to health and wellbeing.

**10.30 – 11.00 Creating Living Streets**

**Katharine Brough, Head of Behaviour Change, Cycling Scotland / Robert Weetman, Technical Coordinator, Scotland, Living Streets.**

Seventeen GWSF members received funding in the first round of Cycling Scotland’s ‘Social Housing Fund’. The overall aim of the fund is to ‘make it easier for residents to be healthier and more active through walking and cycling’. Katharine will update delegates on projects that were funded and talk about the importance of the role of housing associations to enable tenants and residents to access the benefits of active travel. In partnership with the ‘Social Housing Fund’, Living Streets have undertaken a number of site audits looking at potential improvements to walking and cycling. Robert will demonstrate what good looks like in terms of improving liveable streets and the importance of integrating key principles for planning.

***11.00 – 11.15 Morning break***

**11.15 – 12.15 Café Sessions featuring 5 Forum members talking about their place-making work**

(Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in 2 café sessions – see workshop details and make your choices on pages 3 & 4).

***12.15– 12.45 Lunch***

**Afternoon Plenary**

**12.45 – 1.15 Why Place-making Matters**

**Ian Gilzean, Chief Architect, Planning and Architecture, Scottish Government**

Ian will provide an overview of the Scottish Government’s broader place-making agenda which will help set the context for the day.

**1.15 – 1.45 Place-making in Castlemilk; looking back, moving forward.**

**Maureen Cope (MBE), Board Member, Ardenglen HA and Anna Stuart (MBE), Board Member and Ambassador, Cassiltoun HA**

Over the last few decades, housing associations have been at the vanguard of the place-making transformation which has happened in Castlemilk. Maureen and Anna have been at the forefront of this activity throughout. They will share their experiences and thoughts on place-making from then to now, whilst also looking to the future.

**1.45 – 2.30 Messages from the Midsteeple Quarter Project.**

**Scott Mackay, Executive Director, Midsteeple Quarter**

The Midsteeple Quarter Project will see the local community in Dumfries take control of a group of underused and neglected High Street buildings and refurbish these as a contemporary living, working, socializing, learning and enterprising quarter - a new beating heart for a more diverse town centre and a catalyst for a thriving and resilient future Dumfries. This community-led development project is an innovative approach to town centre issues that many Scottish towns are experiencing. The session will look at how the project has grown from the community, and engaged the Local Economy and Empowerment agendas, and local and national agencies on the long journey to physical development on the ground.

**2.30-2.35 David Bookbinder, Director, GWSF**

Round-up of the day & conference close.

**Café sessions**

1. **Ayrshire Housing – Place-making across Communities.**

**Jim Whiston, Director, Ayrshire Housing**

Jim will speak about the challenges of being a community focused association working across several communities. He will focus on a major regeneration project in Ayr and on the plans for ongoing engagement through a new town centre community facility and partnerships.

1. **Easthall Park Housing Cooperative – More than a Landlord.**

**Claire McGraw, Director and Brian McMahon, Maintenance Manager, Easthall Park HC**

Easthall Park has taken a holistic and innovative approach to improving the customer journey for existing and new tenants over the last few years. The guiding principle is that they are not just providing houses but helping to create homes. This session will explore how this has worked in relation to voids and to other aspects of the co-op’s services.

1. **Govan HA and Southside HA - Creating post-pandemic spaces.**

Both Govan and Southside HAs received funding via the Scottish Government’s Communities Recovery Fund for place-making projects that focus on spaces which their communities can use to aid recovery as we move out of lockdown.

**Govan HA – Backcourt Improvement Programme/Feasibility Study.**

**Ryan Davidson, Community Inclusion Officer**

Govan HA’s backcourt improvement programme aims to create safe, accessible communal spaces that are multi-purpose, practical and inclusive, to serve a diverse pocket of the community. The CRF funding will allow the association to conduct a feasibility study into the development of safe and inclusive communal spaces that give residents an increased sense of ownership and agency, provide an outlet for creativity and connect them with their neighbours. Crucially, tenants’ ideas and concerns will help to shape the project.

**Southside HA - Queensland Court and Gardens**

**Pauline Fletcher, Community Initiatives Manager**

This ambitious project, a partnership between SHA and Glasgow City Council, aims to create a green infrastructure neighbourhood asset within the Cardonald area.  The CRF funding will help retrofit / introduce new green infrastructure to manage flood risk for the wider Cardonald and Hillington catchment area, and enhance underused open space through the implementation of adventure/natural play facilities, informal/open games area, tree and shrub planting, and improved parking / access to the site.

1. **Queens Cross HA – Woodside Making Places Project**

**Alan Muir, Investment Manager, Queens Cross HA**

The Woodside Making Places project will transform the streets, green-spaces, play areas and courtyards of Woodside; creating an attractive, multi-functional green infrastructure network with a strong sense of place. The project will integrate walking and cycling routes, biodiverse habitats, sustainable rainwater drainage, vibrant doorstep play and edible landscapes. The design will be informed by engagement with the local community. We are asking local people to help guide design decisions and ensure the needs of the local community are identified and met throughout the design process.

1. **Thenue HA/Blaeloch Community Land Ltd**

**Ruth Adam, Community Regeneration Manager Thenue HA & Frank Soutar, local resident and Chair, Blaeloch Community Land Ltd.**

BCL Ltd. Is the first community body in Glasgow to successfully register an interest in land using the Scottish Government’s Community Right-to-Buy legislation. The land sits opposite Thenue’s Netherholm Community Hall and the community have ambitious plans for a community shop, growing space and play area.  The session will focus on BCL’s journey so far and consider the importance of this achievement for the local community.