

Case Study:
Renfrew Development Trust
Renfrewshire



Stalled Spaces Scotland

Renfrew Development Trust was awarded Stalled Spaces Scotland funding by Renfrewshire Council to deliver a multi-generational engagement project, working with local students and older residents to produce a public exhibition on the history of the town to be displayed on the side of an unused building.

The organisation was established in 2012 with the aim of developing projects to make the town a better place to live in and visit. Led by a steering group of 11 local people, it includes 165 members, and past projects have included the development of a community action plan as part of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Action Plan pilot.

The group received information about the Stalled Spaces Scotland fund from Renfrewshire Council and a development manager took the lead on completing the application documents and liaising with Council officers.

Having identified a prominent location in the town, a former public toilets at the entrance to Robertson Park, the group made an application for the maximum £2,500 funding available through Renfrewshire Council's Stalled Spaces Scotland programme. This was matched with an additional £2,500 of funding from another source.

The project was ambitious in its scope, bringing together a range of local organisations. Renfrewshire Development Trust led on the project, and it included young people from Renfrew YMCA, students of West College Scotland, and residents of Renfrew Care Home. The participants from Renfrew YMCA visited residents of Renfrew Care Home, watching films of the town from the 1930s onwards, and discussing with them their memories and experiences of the changes that have taken place over the course of their lives. Using these



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conversations as a starting point, the young people then explored Renfrew with cameras, taking photographs of local landmarks and spaces.

The young people then worked with students at West College Scotland to develop information panels, making use of their photographs and information on the history of the town gathered through their conversations.

The work formed a part of the students' coursework, and allowed them the opportunity to work as part of a project that balanced the inputs of a range of stakeholders and included a publicly displayed outcome. The project was formally unveiled to the public with a launch event and film screening, documenting the creative process behind the panels.

Overall, over 40 people were involved in the delivery project in some way, with volunteers contributing around 160 hours of time to make the project a success.

"This project was an excellent way of communicating with the town. We had people going out and doing it themselves. The young people have taken ownership of it."

- Gordon Burgess, Renfrew Development Trust

Reflecting on the project, Gordon Burgess, treasurer of Renfrew Development Trust, encouraged groups hoping to explore stalled spaces projects to involve as much of the wider community as possible. By engaging local people from an early stage and

communicating the proposal, projects are likely to be welcomed, and any concerns can be raised and ideas integrated.

The group expressed an interest in exploring future stalled spaces type projects and intend to apply for future funding.

"We were so pleased with it all at the end of the day."

- Gordon Burgess, Renfrew Development Trust



Project Key Facts

£2,500

Stalled Spaces Scotland funding awarded to Renfrewshire Development Trust

40

Number of participants who contributed to the project

£2,500

Match funding secured from other funding sources

160

Approximate number of hours contributed by volunteers to the project

4

Key organisations involved in delivering the project

For further information

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To find out more or to speak to the team about Stalled Spaces Scotland, visit our site at:

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