

**Judy Barrow**

Enhanced Community Support Manager



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



## Purpose of this Workshop:

‘To build on the morning’s Masterclass, and provide more experiences and different perspectives on how people think and feel about places’

- Group discussion
- Emerging issues
- Our own experiences
- Presentation from Judy Barrow on Raploch

### About Raploch :

- On outskirts of Stirling City - established since 1300's, by the Forth and Castle
- Once a thriving town with jobs and housing for all with strong identity
- Decline in local industries and housing standards during 1960's
- Population is down to 3,500 as people move away for better jobs, houses, and facilities elsewhere
- Designated a Social Inclusion Partnership in 1999 - multiple index high rating and bad press 'problem families'
- Given URC status in 2004 for 8 - 10 year regeneration project



## Perceptions of Raploch outwith the area:

- Derelict sites, grey housing, 'known' families, people moving away problem families, youth disorder, deprived area, high crime rate, bad health
- Reputation as the 'notorious estate', media are dwelling on old stories and old statistics



## Perceptions of Raploch within the area:

- Representatives, groups and umbrella community group, are taking a strong role in influencing the future
- People look out for one another
- Pride in the long history of Raploch from 1300's
- People dispute the reputation Raploch has attained
- Long term residencies, inter-generations get on well, strong local networks
- Survey: desire of 75% of those who have moved away, to return to Raploch when the new housing is built and jobs are increased



## How are perceptions being changed about Raploch within the area?

- URC team that works with community members, so they have an influence on planning, firstly creating the Masterplan. This strong involvement resulted in a confidence from which further community-led groups have evolved, who have implemented a Play Area, a Village Square, and a Riverwalk.
- Community members are regarded as a vital part of the design, tendering and evaluation in regeneration: and have produced case studies and press stories that further encourage local people to take an active role: RTPI awards
- Appreciation of the nature, identity and culture of Raploch through local projects such as the Timeline and Interpretation Space, and exhibition 'Raploch Works', which attracted press good news stories and study visits.

## How are perceptions being changed about Raploch outwith the area?

- Community Police affirm that crime rate is down to 4% which is based on traffic violation and youth vandalism. It is known as a 'good' area statistically.
- Latest press stories relate to: creative art works, the community film, Radio Raploch; Raploch Works; opening of Riverwalk; an innovative Biodiversity plan; and the work of the umbrella group and local groups, achievements such as learning Sign Language.
- Community are present at seminars, conferences, and being invited to partner events. Shortlisted for Calor Gas awards. A series of study visits include 'Understanding Regeneration' with Craigmillar
- Demonstration of the range and skills of local people - the Community Enterprise has sent out 20 trainees to Forth Valley Employers, and Breaking the Mould has 12 ladies into construction including a stone mason.

### Proof of the pudding:

- Projects engendered by local people lobbying - feeling of 'we achieved this' - opening of Play Area and Timeline
- Street drinkers diminished through joining Community Enterprise
- Young people taking a part in design of Village Square, and in Radio Raploch
- 40 community groups are now in situ and more in progress: 'Transport Group', 'Youth Wardens'
- Local people adamant in spreading good news stories and writing community newsletters
- Confidence to say 'We are from Raploch'



## Questions & Answers



## Workshop: into groups of 4 and 5

- how **important is changing perceptions** to situations: why it is important?
- what are the **key messages** about how to change perceptions that are emerging?  
(based on today)
- your own experience - **what has worked** - is this different to what you have heard today?