

talled Spaces - A community fit...for a wee bit



Development & Regeneration Services

INTRODUCTION

“Seeing the transformation is the best bit.

The space was a wasted space in our community and seeing the change for real is great.”

Lucy, South Seeds - Leslie Street Greenspace Group

‘Stalled Spaces’ is a community led city-wide project initiated by Glasgow City Council in partnership with Glasgow Housing Association in October 2010. The initiative delivers an innovative approach to dealing with issues relating to poor environmental conditions that have become more prevalent due to the economic downturn. The initiative focuses on the temporary use of vacant or under-utilised land to deliver a range of projects, enabling physical renewal and fostering community empowerment throughout Glasgow.

By working with local communities and stakeholders, temporary uses are developed to reanimate open spaces. The initiative makes practical use of ‘paused’ developments and unused sites, contributing to the quality of life for the local community and addressing many wider objectives.





Councillor Gordon Matheson, Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "Sites in our city which lie empty and unused can depress people and neighbourhoods. We believe that stalled spaces should be an asset and empower our communities. The initiative helps our communities kick start activity on a site to give it back a purpose for all local people to enjoy."

"Glasgow's innovative approach assists communities, land owners and developers to gain maximum benefit from a stalled construction site or land which owners haven't been able to sell or develop in the face of the current economic difficulties for the benefit of all"

"It has made a terrific difference to how many of us feel about living in the area"

Debbie, Friends of Kelvingrove Square



CONTEXT

The initiative involves residents in the project which, in turn, increases confidence and involvement in decision making and community life.

“This could be a really good area for the kids to play in”

Anne, Castlemilk Resident
- Volunteer

The project supports a wide range of recreational and cultural activities reflecting the diverse nature of our communities.

By developing and delivering value-added projects in partnership with community groups, the Stalled Spaces Initiative is enriching the quality of people's lives by improving their social, economic and environmental well-being.



KEY POINTS

- The initiative has developed and delivered projects re-using vacant or under-utilised land on a temporary basis
- It has empowered community involvement in open space renewal throughout the city
- It has developed an integrated approach between multiple partners and organisations to help improve the environment of communities
- It has provided capital funds for groups to redevelop spaces and has engaged with landowners and developers
- It has increased access to locally grown food and promoted good dietary health
- It has provided opportunities for the creative sector to implement arts projects and engage with local communities
- It has provided opportunities for inter-generational projects to reduce negative perceptions between age groups and provided training opportunities for young people currently unemployed

“Neighbours who would not otherwise have gotten to know each other have come together around this shared project”

Debbie, Friends of Kelvingrove Square



THE BOTHY PROJECT

Speirs wharf

talled Spaces - A community fit...for a wee bit



WHAT IT DOES

By enabling unproductive land (stalled spaces) to be temporarily used to deliver a range of community benefits, the project has met all its objectives and has allowed citizens of all ages and abilities to play an active part in the life of their built environment.

“As the project has progressed more and more residents are showing an interest, offering advice, asking when we’re going to be finished --- our answer --- this is not the end this is only the beginning!”

Craigton Residents
Action Group

As a result of the Community Support for Stalled Space funding, it is estimated that a total match funding package of nearly £500,000 has been attracted in; over 6 times the amount invested by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association.

In addition, a variety of in-kind support has been provided. This has ranged from supply of wood for raised beds, greenhouses, plants, paint, soil and compost to staff time, marketing costs, consultants and professional costs. Although it is difficult to accurately calculate the value of this, it has been approximated at £56,000. This figure is likely to be considerably higher on completion of the monitoring process.

The team has also developed signage which is installed at each stalled space. This helps emphasis the temporary nature of the project, highlights the variety of uses and promotes the initiative to a wider audience. To date, ‘Stalled Spaces’ has helped over 50 projects across a range of locales within Glasgow.

This has involved hundreds of citizens participating in temporary urban renewal activities within their communities. The initiative has resulted in over 15 hectares of land being brought back into use.

MOVING FORWARD

A principal focus for the Initiative is to develop links and partnerships with Glasgow's creative sector. Already, leases have been secured for artists involved in Glasgow's International Festival of Visual Art. In addition, Creative Scotland will join the evaluation panel for Community Support for Stalled Spaces 2012/2013.

Also, Stalled Spaces is assisting in the delivery of the Sustainable Glasgow Initiative by developing the 'Food Miles' Education Pack. This toolkit will be available to Glasgow's 140 Primary Schools and provides the opportunity to link the Curriculum for Excellence directly to growing food locally and it demonstrates the carbon impact of produce travelling long distances.

The 'Food Miles' pack will help local children to make informed choices, assisting them to develop as positive contributors, while providing a greater awareness of the how we can all tackle Climate Change.

*“people feel
a bit more
socially
involved and
connected
to people
living in the
community”*

Lynne Poole,
Cathcart Community
Volunteer



*“the young
volunteers
have really
taken the
lead on this”*

Jeremy Laycock,
Playbusters East End

OUTCOMES

Greater Community Involvement: The Initiative has helped over 40 Stalled Space projects in a range of locales within Glasgow, involving hundreds of citizens participating in temporary urban renewal within their communities.

More Greenspace: 13ha of land have been brought back into temporary use. Some 8ha are located within the worst 15% of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation dataset.

Increased Funding: As a result of community interest in the Stalled Space initiative, and the CSGN funding secured, a match funding package of nearly £500,000 has been attracted to the project. This total is over 6 times the amount invested by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association combined.

Improved well-being: The project has developed and delivered added value projects across social, economic, environment and cultural development fronts that enrich the quality of people's lives.

The initiative's outcomes prove what can be achieved through strong community involvement, partnership working and with limited resources. By bringing together planning, environmental regeneration and community development expertise, a model has been developed which can be implemented in all towns and cities throughout Scotland.

LESSONS LEARNT/TIPS

- Use a legal agreement - this ensures that all parties (i.e. the community/users/land owners) understand that the use of the land is only for a temporary period.
- Be realistic - not all stalled sites can be used. This might be due to a lack of strong community involvement or an unwillingness of the land owner to be involved.
- Do not use a 'one solution fits all' approach – each sites has different locations, areas, ground conditions and local residents.
- The community must champion the project for it to succeed – they should lead and determine the use of the stalled space suitable for them.
- Where possible, link projects with other initiatives to maximum the local benefits. For example – a school is using a stalled space for the Forest School Initiative, while another project has allowed for the development of a Food Miles Education Pack, linked to the Curriculum for Excellence, available to all 146 of Glasgow's primary schools.
- Be persistent – it is an on going challenge to change the views and working practices of organisations who can help the stalled spaces initiative.
- Develop planning policy – the Local Development Plan should support stalled space projects through policy or supplementary guidance.

*“participation
in the Friends
group and our
Open Days
has generated
a sense of
community”*

Debbie, Friends of
Kelvingrove Square

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT MOTION

Date of Lodging: 07 September 2012

Short Title: Congratulations to Stalled Spaces

S4M-04036 Anne McTaggart (Scottish Labour): That the Parliament congratulates Glasgow City Council's Stalled Spaces programme on being awarded the top prize for community involvement at the Scottish Awards for Quality Planning; notes that the initiative focuses on the temporary use of vacant or underutilised land to deliver a range of projects; understands that accessible, safe urban greenspace has a positive and significant influence on enhancing wellbeing and social interaction; understands that this physical renewal has fostered community empowerment throughout Scotland; notes that the project has brought over 12 hectares of land into temporary use in the last year; congratulates Glasgow City Council on funding this initiative, and hopes that other local authorities in Scotland will follow Glasgow's example.



Heather Claridge and Seamus Connolly (Glasgow City Council), receive the planning award from Derek MacKay (Member of Scottish Parliament)



Stalled Spaces

Education
Communities
Empowerment
Improvement
Temporary Sustainable
Inspiring Opportunities

Join us on the journey

www.gameslegacyglasgow.com



LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
GLASGOW