Supporting social innovation in settlements
Strathclyde University
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Investing in natural assets for a better built environment, wealth creation and wellbeing

Clive Mitchell
This conference…

… how **research and practice** can support social innovation and what **tools**… to enable the application of **systems thinking** in decision-making of different users in planning of the sustainable development of the built environment and in caring for the natural environment

But…governance? Who makes what decisions on whose behalf and in whose interests?

Whose place is it anyway?
Scottish Natural Heritage

Themes

• Why is this not mainstream…?
• Assets, wealth creation and wellbeing
• Public engagement, decision-making
• Whose assets?

• The public domain…
Nature and Power

- Nature emerges from power relations across society
- The environmental sector is at the very thin edge of these power relations

- "When all is said and done, nature protection springs from human needs [and] has a chance in the long run only if it is popular…"
- [It] requires a spirited civil society, the courage of one’s own convictions, citizen initiatives, and a critical public"
I came...
I built...
I sold...
I profited...
I left

Veni... vidi... vici
A good measure of a sustainable place is one that makes people healthy

Russell Jones,
GCPH,
Sustainable Places and Sustainable Development, May 2008
A good measure of a sustainable place is one that makes people healthy.

"Traffic will be to 21st century public health what sewage was to 19th century public health."

“If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you’ve always got”

Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland
• David Marquand (2004) *The decline of the public – the hollowing out of citizenship*
  - Private domain – relationships and personal ties
  - Market domain – access to economic resources (power and wealth)
  - Public domain – dimension of social life – public interest – citizenship, equity, service – need (not personal ties, power, wealth) – human flourishing – rights – active citizenship *among equals* – trust. Includes e.g. fair trials, welcoming public spaces, clean water, rights of way, free public libraries, (‘natural’ monopolies?)
Assets and Co Production: In Plain English

- Made here by us
- Nothing about us, without us, is for us
- Building the boat not just steering it
- Working with us, not doing things to or for us
- On tap not on top
- Lighting 1000 fires all over the community
- I have a problem I want help to fix it
- What can I do?
Different aspects of places are connected and interdependent across a range of scales

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the universe”

John Muir, 1911

SUDS
Food
Travel
Health
Biodiversity
Heat island
Beauty
Scale: connected and interdependent
Bird brick by Aaron Dunkerton

Bat Bricks built in to a property Copyright John Haddow & Anney Youngman / BCT

Brick Biotope – Micaela Nardella & Oana Tudose – FABRIKAAT, 2012

Brick habitats by Chooi-leng Tan – London Design Festival, 2010

http://inhabitat.com/brick-habitats-provide-mini-gardens-and-mini-homes/
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Places and wellbeing

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

THE GOVERNMENT’S PURPOSE
To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth

HIGH LEVEL TARGETS RELATING TO THE PURPOSE
- Growth
- Productivity
- Participation
- Population
- Solidarity
- Cohesion
- Sustainability

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- WEALTHIER & FAIRER
  - We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe

- SMARTER
  - We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
  - We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
  - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
  - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

- HEALTHIER
  - We live longer, healthier lives

- SAFER & STRONGER

- GREENER
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We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.

Norwich Union/
Aviva office building, Perth
We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
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We live longer, healthier lives.
We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.

Source: Harry Burns (CMO), Social Circumstance and Health, October 2007
We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Manor Fields, Sheffield

Then

Now
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We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
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We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
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We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.
Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.


More than just an urban green space.
Scottish Natural Heritage

Places = wellbeing

Scottish Government – ISM model
Why are we so poor at creating sustainable places?

• We look at the ‘bits’ rather than an Holistic view
• We do not take time to understand how and why our place has developed or exploring how it will be used
• We leave it to others then grumble!
  – Local authorities
  – Developers
Scottish Natural Heritage  Evidence and preventative spend

• **NICE** *Physical activity and the environment*
  – Control groups or areas (including varying levels of activity etc before the intervention)
  – Valid measures
  – Before/after
  – Confounding factors
  – Impacts on neighbouring areas
  – Long term, including follow-up – at least 1 year
  – Impacts on specific individuals
  – Social factors – community effects

• **Scottish Government** *Individual – Social – Material factors in behaviour change*
What are places?

• Made by people for people or for profit?
• Where the private, market and public domains come together?
• Granularity of people, place and democracy?
• How does research and practice inform the discussions that people have about their places?
• How do places work at the neighbourhood level?
• An emergent feature of the political-economy?

• How do the technical/sectoral aspects of place tie into these political questions?
CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S A BIG HOAX AND WE CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
  etc. etc.