

Shaping Laurencekirk

Laurencekirk Development Trust | Aberdeenshire | February-April 2016

WHAT WE DID & HOW WE DID IT

PAS was commissioned by Laurencekirk Development Trust (LDT) to deliver a community participation project with the aim of developing ideas for a large, vacant brownfield site in the town centre. Two “Community Days” were held comprising public exhibitions, site walks and discussion workshops, plus primary and secondary school events. The engagement findings were collated and analysed, then informed two site masterplans. A Community Vision Statement was also produced documenting local people’s aims, ideas and aspirations for the future of the town.

WHY WE DID IT

Laurencekirk was set to expand rapidly due to the allocation of a large Local Development Plan site to the north of the town for housing and employment. Concurrently, the relocation of Mearns Academy had left the original school site empty and unused. LDT’s aspiration was to take community ownership of the school site. The project was delivered by a combination of PAS staff and associates and funded by Awards for All Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning Partnership.



The charrette concept offered much more than we could deliver from our own ranks. The marketing programme ensured that all households were aware of the project and we received feedback from right across the demographic spectrum. We are continuing to work on the challenges of rapid community expansion and would be delighted to work again with PAS. Mike Robson – Secretary Laurencekirk Development Trust

WHAT DIFFERENCE DID WE MAKE

- Two community-led masterplans produced and presented to Aberdeenshire Council.
- Participants were encouraged to think about the future of their town.
- Primary and secondary school children were actively engaged.
- LDT raised its profile, gained many new and younger members.
- Community Vision document delivered to all residents of Laurencekirk.

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[Click here](#) to read the project report