



**Context:** Located on the South-eastern side of Edinburgh, Craigmillar is a mostly residential suburban area (mainly social rented housing) that went through a long decline period and is now undergoing extensive regeneration. The aim is to bring people and prosperity back to the region, in a sustainable way, respecting its heritage and green spaces, and reintegrating it socially and physically into the context of Edinburgh.

The Craigmillar regeneration project has won several awards for its developments as well as the quality of its policies and processes. Its 'place-making' process is innovative and shows a concern with long-term maintenance already in the design stage. 'Place-keeping', although mostly still a responsibility of the City Council, has started to be developed in different ways with more involvement of local communities, and alternative partnerships are under exploration. One of its most valuable examples, however, is the investment made in generating a 'community legacy' to ensure continuous community development and future sustainability

A new model of **partnership** for development called **Urban Regeneration Company (URC)**, is being used: PARC – “Promoting and Regenerating Craigmillar”. This model aims at a more holistic development of the area, where the involvement of **private partners** as well as of the **local communities** is essential. The application of the URC model, combined with an increasing organisation of the local communities under an umbrella organisation called 'Neighbourhood Alliance', and a **policy of service decentralisation** by the City of Edinburgh Council which generated the East Neighbourhood Team, all contributed to create a very particular context for the present Craigmillar regeneration programme.



Open space in the heart of Craigmillar, before regeneration  
Credit: PARC



Community participation  
Credit: PARC

**Place-keeping** has been considered at the design stages, where requirements are made for high quality design and materials as well as sustainable techniques, which will be of easier maintenance and last longer. One of the main roles of PARC is to capture income from private development to contribute to funding of public and amenity projects, but one of its more lasting contributions can be seen as the continuous community involvement they encourage. In general, place-keeping at the moment is still carried out in a 'conventional' way, but residents are becoming much more organised and more empowered to voice their opinions on the subject and different "place-keeping" arrangements are being explored.

**Evaluation** takes place formally and informally. A review of the first Scottish URCs was commissioned by the Scottish Government and published in 2007. The Council carries out routine assessment and monitoring and the Green Flag assessment for parks and gardens is in implementation phase. The Neighbourhood Alliance as an organisation which supports local communities takes an informal monitoring role in both place-making and place-keeping, following developments and discussions as well as acting as a connection between locals and the Council, not only in negotiations, but also when communicating issues that require the Council's attention.



Open spaces in housing development  
Credit: PARC

### Transferable aspects of innovation and success

- **Policies** at local, regional and national levels that encourage sustainable regeneration, partnership models with local communities and private organisations, and the importance of open spaces and of designing spaces for people are helpful.
- The **URC model** provides focus, integration, strong coordination and increased investments, though its benefits for place-keeping require more long term monitoring.
- To ensure long-term success of new/regenerated open spaces legitimate **community engagement** has to be combined with **good quality design**.
- **Flexibility** needs to be built into the place-making and ensuing place-keeping processes in order to make it possible to find new ways of financing when required.



Open spaces in housing development  
Greendykes Phase B  
Credit : PARC

- The focus on the generation of a '**community legacy**', generating a place where people like to live and are proud of, sets the basis for good 'place-keeping', making it important to promote **community engagement** and **community organisation & structure**.
- Any place-making and place-keeping initiatives need to take account of the **politics of the area** and of how these may be manifested in views over how open spaces should be designated, designed and managed.