



MP4 WP1.3 Transnational Assessment of Practice



Hailes Quarry Park,
Edinburgh



May 2010

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**The Interreg IVB
North Sea Region
Programme**



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The Hailes Quarry Park: Introduction

Hailes Quarry Park (HQP) is a large open space in the south west of Edinburgh. It covers an area of some 15ha and is surrounded by low-income residential and some commercial and light industrial areas. One side is bordered by a canal.

The main interest of the Park as a case study is that the area is currently part of a project explicitly based on place-making but only implicitly on place-keeping. This case study covers the first three years out of an envisioned five.

More specifically, the relevance of this intervention as part of an international learning experience is fourfold: 1) it is a result of an international learning collaboration; 2) it is adjacent to deprived urban areas of the type involving large public housing projects common to many European countries; 3) it is funded by both public agencies and private bodies; and 4) it was built on a quarry used for many years as a landfill.

Context I: The surrounding area

The neighbourhoods surrounding the park sit in sharp contrast with the image of Edinburgh as an historic capital city and World Heritage Site. The four residential areas – Wester Hailes, Longstone, Dumbryden and Parkhead – surrounding the Park are regarded as 'deprived areas' according to the seven domains of deprivation used in Scotland. These are income, employment, education, crime, health, housing, and access.

Of the four, the most deprived is the newest area, Wester Hailes. This community, named after a modest mansion (Hailes House, later converted to offices) was until the 1960s an area of smallholdings. In the 1970s it was developed as a council-owned residential district with purpose-built flats, some in tower blocks.

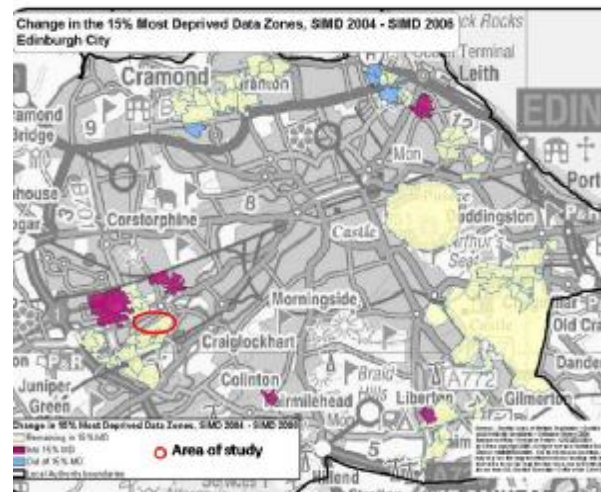
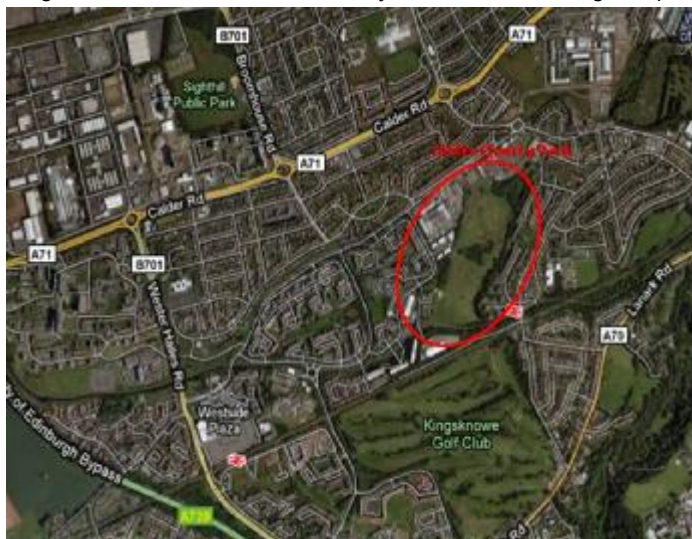


Figure 1. Area map. Source: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, SIMD 2004-2006, Scottish Executive¹.

Figure 2. Location of Hailes Quarry Park. Source: GoogleMaps



Wester Hailes was one of four peripheral housing estates chosen to take part in the New Life for Urban Scotland Initiative in 1988 and as a result was extensively redeveloped during the 1990s and 2000s when some properties were renovated and 'slab blocks' flats demolished to be replaced with newer low-rise housing.

¹ <http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0044243.pdf>



Figure 2. Plan, Hailes Quarry Park

The reasons for demolition were the same as many other tower blocks built in deprived areas in Britain: what Coleman (1985)² called the results of 'design disadvantage': graffiti, vandalism, crime, litter and urine on staircases and lifts. Property developers built some private housing in what was initially an entirely council-owned district. By 1998 the proportion of social housing stock had been reduced from around 96% in 1988 to around 56%.

Low income, unemployment and use of illegal drugs have been some of the main concerns in Wester Hailes. Although these problems are much less pressing in Longstone, Dumbryden and Parkhead, all older, more established neighbourhoods, deprivation is one of the dominant characteristics of the entire area.

Context II: the site

The Park covers 15 hectares, a large area for a public urban greenspace. The quarry which gives its name to the site provided most of the stone for building Georgian and Victorian Edinburgh. The quarry was active until 1920 and then abandoned, leaving an excavation that, at its deepest point, was more than 30m below ground level. By 1950 it had filled with water and was considered a hazard for local children. Therefore the area was drained, filled and grassed over to create a sports ground or park.

The infilling was achieved by using the space as a landfill until the 1970s. This is not unusual in the UK, where the disposal of domestic and industrial waste through landfill is common practice. Rural landfill sites are usually restored to agriculture and in urban areas the majority are restored to public open space. This was the case for the Park, which during the 1970s was soiled and grassed over.

In 1981, proposals were made for the site as 'one of the largest public parks in Edinburgh' comprising a cycle track, four football pitches and an area for outdoor entertainment; the area near the canal was set aside for water sports and recreational fishing. Although by then there were two areas in the park that could be considered for 'woodland management', others presented problems for the survival of new planting.

Place-making at Hailes Quarry Park: a project of partnerships

Place-making at Hailes Quarry Park started formally in 2006 and was the result of a series of partnerships, the first of which was an earlier international collaboration between two non-profit organisations, Greenspace Scotland and Project for Public Spaces.

International partnerships

Greenspace Scotland (GS) is an independent charitable organisation working with a wide range of partners at a local and regional level 'to improve the quality of life of people living and working in urban Scotland through the planning, development and sustainable management of greenspaces'. Activities include 'policy advocacy, partnership development and support, research, enabling and sharing practice'.

² Coleman, A. (1985) *Utopia on Trial: vision and reality in planned housing*, London, Hilary Shipman.

Established in 2003 by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and partners, GS's initial aim was to initiate 'a step change in the quality and quantity of greenspace across urban Scotland'. Funding was initially provided by SNH from lottery funds and subsequently by SNH and Communities Scotland. Since October 2007, GS has been funded by the Scottish Government. In addition, GS receives funding from a range of partners for specific research projects and other activity programmes.

GS also supports a Scotland-wide network of greenspace partnerships and organisations involved in creating, improving and managing urban greenspaces. The network offers opportunities for sharing knowledge, information and practice, and to engage and feed into national policy consultations and development. Membership of the network, which is free, is open to any organisation involved in the delivery of greenspace in Scotland.

The current aims of GS are to establish formal Strategic Greenspace Partnerships (SGPs) and to bring together local authorities, agencies, organisations and communities. Wherever possible, SGPs will be based on existing partnerships aimed at delivering co-ordinated local services - this means that typically the SGPs will be part of Community Planning Partnerships.

In 2005 Greenspace Scotland (GS) created a partnership with Project for Public Spaces (PPS), a New York-based non-profit organisation that has been working since 1975 with individuals and communities in place-making. Building on William H. Whyte's *Street Life Project*, PPS's approach aims to create sustainable public places by observing, listening to and asking questions of the people in a community to discover their vision and aspirations for the space under consideration.

Using systematic on-site observations, time-lapse filming, interviews, surveys, workshops and public forums, PPS worked on both the practical and theoretical aspects of place-making. On the practical side, it devised a stakeholder-based approach to developing and managing public spaces; on the theoretical side, it furthered the conceptual development of place-making by William Whyte, Donald Appleyard and Jan Gehl. PPS was for many years successfully used in the USA and later in some European cities, but until the partnership with GS in 2005, their approach was unknown in the UK.

Scottish Partnership

As already mentioned, in 2005 the working partnership of PPS-Greenspace Scotland launched a programme of 'place-making partnerships' with Scottish public bodies through a series of pilot projects. The PPS and GPS partnership was supported by the Scottish Centre for Regeneration, Inverclyde Council and the City of Edinburgh Council. As stated by GPS the pilot 'included the training of a team of "place-making associates": interested individuals working on behalf of the project but employed by other organisations within the Greenspace Scotland network'.

Piloting involved working on three sites – one of which was Hailes Quarry Park, owned by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). The purpose of the pilot was to identify opportunities to improve the Park by taking into account the opinions, skills, knowledge and involvement of the local community. This approach to place-making directly engages communities, local businesses and professionals as equals in order to find creative and sustainable solutions emanating from the users and interested parties themselves.

In 2006, using the place-making findings and recommendations of the pilot study from PPS and GS's collaboration as a springboard, CEC invited a non-profit organisation, The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, to lead the project. CEC provided a substantial amount of the initial funds and the Trust would complement them from their own and other funding.

The Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) is an independent charity which works to improve the local environment for people in the Lothians³, particularly for those in disadvantaged areas. ELGT works with communities, landowners, local authorities and other organisations within urban and rural areas of Edinburgh and the Lothians to create sustainable, well-managed and accessible green spaces. ELGT acts as an 'honest broker' in the allocation of funds provided by the funders.

Three further main partners were part of the project: a public body, The Scottish Executive, which provided funds from their Environmental Justice Fund; Sustrans, a UK sustainable transport charity interested in promoting modes of travel, particularly cycling, that benefit people's health and the

³ Lothians: the region of Scotland along the Firth of Forth, both east and west of Edinburgh

environment; and a private sector partner, WREN (Waste Recycle Environmental Ltd), a local operator part of WRG (Waste Recycling Group). WRG describes itself as a waste management company which provides a range of cost and environmentally effective processing, recycling, disposal and energy recovery services for local authorities and private commercial customers. WREN offers a number of grants, including a scheme for small projects which can commence as soon as funding has been agreed and which will complete within 12 months of the funding decision. The project also included other partners such as the Volant Charitable Trust, the Wester Hailes Land and Property Trust and other private trusts. Local associations were also partners in the project although they did not provide funding.

Aims of the project

The aims of the project were environmental and social:

- The environmental aim was to improve the layout of a green space which was not being used by the surrounding communities. This would be done by introducing Woodland management to open up vistas through the park, to make entrance points and other areas safer for users.
- Socially, one of the aims was to build local people's confidence by implementing early 'hits' with the Trust carrying out initial improvements to paths and access points. Safety could be promoted while encouraging more sport activities. Furthermore, the aim of the Trust was to create local groups of 'Friends' to take forward proposals and develop short and long term actions.

Key activities for the remaining period will include:

- meeting and engaging with new groups and individuals through outreach visits and events in the park. In addition, varying the sizes and themes of the events in order to reach a wide spectrum of local people;
- increasing a sense of ownership through various methods including involving groups in physical improvements, such as hedge planting and interpretation;
- furthering the 'sense of place' by engaging the community in art projects e.g. Gathering Youth Art Project and history competitions, which require research and investigation into the cultural history of the Park;
- increasing communication with the community by the creation of a Park mailing list for the dissemination of information regarding events, future developments and consultations;
- creating a 'Friends of Hailes Quarry Park' to ensure the sustainability of the improvements and provide a continued presence in the park including an ongoing events programme, increased involvement and fundraising for new initiatives;
- monitoring usage of the park and evaluating events and capital works that have been implemented and will be carried out at regular intervals.

Engagement, governance and partnerships in place-making

Initial work took place during autumn-winter 2005, preceded by a meeting of the main stakeholders, including residents, to identify:

1. Issues affecting the Park
2. The local interests that should be invited to take part in the development

A placemaking workshop on the site was carried out to generate ideas. The meeting and the workshop looked at HQP as a series of 'destinations', that is, the smallest area in the Park where users may want to spend some time. The underlying purpose was to identify improvements at a small scale that could be brought together to produce a vision of the park as a successful open space as well as the short- and long-term actions needed to achieve this. CEC and ELGT also prepared a plan of community engagement which included representatives of two of the community councils, schools, local business, youth agencies, resource centres and environmental groups. This

included not only meetings but also physical engagement with the place such as three sessions of bulb planting in the park.

Once proposals had been outlined, ELGT prepared 'drop in' consultation sessions; the proposals, in graphic form, were displayed, and attendees were asked to express their opinion using post-it boards.

ELGT collated the responses, noting that people were happy with the proposal to upgrade and extend the paths for pedestrians and cyclists (the existing ones were often muddy due to subsidence). Also respondents pointed out that the plans were good because the paths were going to be maintained, showing that somebody 'cared' about the project. This agrees with findings in current open space research viz. that evidence that a place is taken care of is as important as the facilities provided. On the other hand, the participants asked for a play park for children of all ages and wild areas for biodiversity as well as for additional seating, sport facilities, signage, lighting, and bins for general refuse and for dog mess. Simultaneously, one of the complaints was that there was no specific place for dogs to 'do their business', and that in many areas the lack of lighting was due to the lights being vandalised rather than lack of lampposts per se.

As part of the works completed to date the following has been undertaken:

- Existing street lights have now been formally adopted by the local authority and now maintained to a good standard;
- Bins have been installed – separate bins for dog mess are not required as the local authority has the policy of using the same bins for litter and dog mess;
- The play area has been installed;
- Woodland planting and bulb planting has been undertaken;
- Seating has been installed;
- 5-a-side football goal posts have been installed;
- Entrance signage has been installed
- Environments for biodiversity have been incorporated (planting of a wildflower meadow and special grass-cutting system along the canal)

Works planned over the next 2 years include the:

- collation of existing plans to produce a park management plan
- installation of lighting between Longstone street and Murrayburn Road (commuter route)
- Teaching area
- Additional signage

Place-keeping approach

Place-keeping was not considered as such in the overall plan. However, as the plan consisted of improvements and events to be carried out during five years this was from the outset a case of 'implicit place-keeping'. Furthermore, one of the conditions imposed by one of the partners, WREN, was that the project funded be maintained for ten years. It was agreed that CEC would be in charge of this task.

In dealing with public spaces, a multiple partnership in which most of the stakeholders are charitable or private organisations seems to have some advantages over projects undertaken solely by public bodies, especially in relation to the ways public bodies administer their funds. For this project the Trust got most of the funds from the Council in the first year, but no funds in year two. One of the main problems is that the Council runs three-year capital programmes, and, at the end of such a period, priorities often change. Perhaps, as often seems to be the case, one of the priorities of governmental public bodies is to make an initial impact with the projects they undertake, even if that may not be the optimal path for projects that need to build up a community base in order to become sustainable.

The fact that, except for CEC and the Scottish Executive, all partners are charities or enterprises with special areas of interest (hence funding), has ensured that the subsequent upkeep of the place was one of the conditions for the funding.

While there have been maintenance problems, as not all the agreements have been followed through, the project has benefited from the presence of an award-winning park keeper who has taken on an active role in the maintenance of the place. The project has also benefited from the commitment of ELGT's general manager, who was directly involved in the project from the outset.



Figure 4. Event at Hailes Quarry Park. Source: The Edinburgh and Lothians Trust

Policy

Following a referendum in 1997, the UK Parliament passed the Scotland Act 1998 setting the powers of the Scottish Parliament as a devolved (from the UK) legislature. In the first decade of Scottish devolution, environmental justice became a significant component of environmental policy for the Scottish Executive. The provision of greenspace in deprived areas has been important part of this policy.

Also, in 2006 the Scottish Executive also prepared the consultation draft SPP 11: *Physical activity and Open Space* to replace *National Planning Policy Guideline (NPPG) 11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space*. The new policy still embraces sport and both passive and active recreation. The term 'open space' includes green space consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature in an urban area, including trees, woodland and paths, and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function. 'Physical activity' refers to all types of formal and informal physical recreation and sport, and includes day-to-day activities such as walking or cycling as a form of transport for short journeys.

There is also the *Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65: Planning and Open Space*, which contains best practice advice on planning for open space, and provides a typology of open space, and should be read in conjunction with the above mentioned SPP11.

Until relatively recently, Government advice (*Waste Management Paper 26*, first published in 1986) cautioned against tree planting on landfill sites due to methane and toxicity problems and fears that tree roots would penetrate the capping layer. However, many landfill sites have subsequently proved capable of supporting good tree growth, and concerns over the viability of such schemes and the fear of root threats to engineered caps have since been shown to be unfounded.

While all these policies constitute the framework of the project the policy with the most direct impact in the project has been the Scottish Ministers' Regeneration Policy Statement of 2006, which highlights the importance of greenspace to regeneration.

A fundamental tenet of this policy is that regeneration can only be successful if it is carried out in partnership, and for this reason it establishes that Community Planning Partnerships, which bring together the public, private and voluntary sectors at the local authority level, can and should take the lead strategic role in regeneration at this level, for example through the development and delivery of Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs). These were three-year agreements that defined the regeneration strategy adopted by Community Planning Partnerships to regenerate a deprived area. Those agreements had to be approved by the Scottish Executive. It is important to note that in March 2008 the three year ROAs were replaced by a Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) which has a city-wide remit instead of focusing on areas of deprivation.



Figure 5: Event at the Park showing planting on the landfill.
 Source: The Edinburgh and Lothians Trust.

Single Outcome Agreements are agreements between the Scottish Government and each council in Scotland, which set out how each will work in the future towards improving national outcomes for the local people; it is hoped that this approach will reflect more appropriately local circumstances and priorities.

Finance

The funds used in the improvements and events are modest by the level of some projects: about half a million pounds, from the different partners. The initial cost of the programme for Year 1 are found in Table 1. As already mentioned, the funding for the works detailed above was obtained from different partners, one of which is Edinburgh City Council, which also funded the maintenance. Any further works proposed therefore needed the agreement of the council to ensure future sustainability through maintenance. In addition to the partners mentioned, ELPT also applied for government grants. These have quick application turnarounds, requiring a quick response to new funding opportunities as and when they arise.

<u>Project Development</u>				
Strategic Vision Consultancy		sum		9750.00
<u>Access Works</u>				
Tarmac paths and new cycle access	1.0	sum	18770.00	18770.00
Handrails	1	sum	1500.00	1500.00
<u>Fencing</u>				
Boundary fencing	1	sum	28875.00	28875.00
<u>Hardworks</u>				
Entrance Features		sum		50250.00
Play Area		sum		77900.00
<u>Furniture</u>				
Seating	1	sum	3335.00	3335.00
<u>Woodland Management</u>				
Specialist surveys - Habitat & Woodland Management Plan		sum		2780.00
Carry out Felling works as specified		sum		15579.00
Planning & Supervisor services		sum		1760.00

<u>Wetlands/Habitat creation</u>				
Habitat creation works		sum		1200.00
Vegetation management		sum		3000.00
Landscape & design services		sum		840.00
Allowance for volunteers expenses / tutors / promotional materials etc		sum		5600
<u>Management Fees</u>				
Project Manager time for contract administration and supervision	1.0	sum	13833.00	13833.00
Community Officers Time	67.0	day	250.00	16750.00
Allowance for unforeseen works / snagging items		sum		4643.00
Year 1 Total (ex VAT)				£256,365.00

Table 1: Project costs.

Evaluation: measuring success

Although no formal monitoring process has been established to evaluate the success of Hailes Quarry Park there is some evidence that there is a good degree of community participation in the area. Since the project started, ELGT has delivered over a hundred community events, involving over two thousand local people in community activities. This number is more relevant when it is taken into account that in deprived areas, lack of confidence, skills and access to computers tend to curtail the level of participation than would take place in more affluent areas.

Also, in its *Route User Monitoring Report of 2008*, Sustrans measured route usage before and after improvements to one such path (part of this project) near a primary school at Hailes Quarry Park. The number of trips made by children using the path nearly doubled as a result of improvements. Also, while in 2007 virtually no trips were made for educational purposes, following improvements, 12% of trips were for this purpose. Furthermore, there was a 22% increase in usage amongst people over 60 years of age and more women were using the paths, with a total increase of 24% increase in the number of trips made per year along this stretch of path. The percentage of people reporting that they intended to walk or cycle more in the future more than doubled, with almost half of all users saying that they planned to travel actively more frequently following the route improvements.

Furthermore, the Trust has established a steering group made up of three local community councils, a local councillor, local authority representatives and other partners. It has also been working with a number of other agencies during the course of the project including the Wester Hailes Youth Agency, local health centres, the police station, schools and the Scottish Waterways Trust.

Key lessons

Expectations and aims. The main expectations for place-making of the type adopted in this project are that people in the community are willing to participate in creating their environment. However, this example shows that sometimes projects can be a victim of their initial success. In this case, the perception of the Trust meant that because people were quite happy with the work carried out in the initial stages, and they did not get much involved in subsequent stages. Also, it was perceived that once the space acquired a minimum of configuration any subsequent stages and maintenance were to be managed by the City Council, and was thus no longer a concern of the Trust.

This problem of perception creates displacement. The City Council may not have the experience or the expertise needed to engage people in place-making and place-keeping while organisations such as the Trust, which are pro-active, can work in creating a community-based leadership that can take over and make the place sustainable.

Transferable aspects of the case study

Multiple-inter sectorial partnerships

This is a good example of a case study where multiple partnerships make a difficult project possible but where the 'funding cycle' and changes in policy in some of the funding bodies can bring

problems to place-keeping, particularly when the amount required for place-keeping has not been established at the outset.

Attitudes

Some place-keeping problems are difficult to tackle because they reflect general attitudes in Britain and elsewhere. A typical example in the Park is dog fouling. This is a serious problem in the UK, to the point where the city of Bristol has incorporated the absence of pollution from dog fouling as one of the indicators of quality of life. Incorporating such an indicator of quality of life in cities with large greenspace areas could act as an incentive to deal with a pressing and serious challenge in place-keeping.

Scale

The project shows that multiple partnerships make projects possible that otherwise would not be undertaken as they have no high 'visibility' at the urban level. Also, the fact that the Trust has conceived part of the development plan as 'events' (often in the form of 'fun days' to be carried out several times during the year) ensures the sense of continuity needed in place-keeping.

Having a charitable organisation at the helm also reduces the impact of the funding and policy cycles of public bodies. This is so because ELGT seeks funding as needed and is not subject to established planning periods such as the three years of Edinburgh City Council. As a charity ELGP is also less impacted by policies; being a 'trusted mediator' between the community and gives ELGP a larger margin of manoeuvrability in the search and allocation of funds in response to community needs. Also ELGT can have a rapid response to new funding opportunities, particularly government grants with short application terms. Although greenspace charities may be a UK rather than European form of funding, this may be a form that could be developed in any country where voluntary associations exist.

Flexibility

Charitable organisations can overcome one of the main problems of public bodies, namely inflexible planning and budgeting. Furthermore, they can respond faster to emerging needs, or discontinue actions when proved to be ineffective. This also offers greater flexibility in finding ways to engage the communities.

Lessons from the MP4 project for Hailes Quarry Park

Although after three years the Trust has managed to continue funding activities in the park with two more years on the agenda, an aspect of the MP4 research that can be transferred to the Park is to explicitly introduce the concept of place-keeping along with the already tested place-making. Since one of the aspects of community involvement which is important in the maintenance of green spaces is the sense of ownership, introducing the concept to the community may help in the handing over of the space, which the Trust expects to implement at the end of the fifth year. To this end, the Trust is working towards the creation of a 'Friends of Hailes Park' association which will take 'ownership' of both the vision for the park and finding/ applying for funding. The physical ownership as well as liability for any work and the maintenance will continue under the remit of CEC. Whether the Trust may need to sporadically collaborate with the intended 'Friends of Hailes Park' is still open to discussion. If help is needed it is very likely that the Trust will have some type of involvement.

After three years, one of the main issues has been maintenance, especially the expectations of maintenance from the city council. With the cuts in public budgets that are likely to take place in the near future, one of the advantages of ELGT is that it has maintained constant contact with the public. Furthermore, a non-profit organisation is more likely to succeed in creating a sense of ownership than a public authority, for the following reason: the 'deprivation' in an area means that a good number of people are unemployed and on benefits. In turn, this means that a habit of dependency on public authorities added to the concomitant 'learned helplessness' is likely to encroach on any place-keeping initiated from a public body, making it 'the government's responsibility'. In contrast, a similar endeavour initiated by a non-profit organization has a higher chance of growing into 'our space, our responsibility'. Although the council has maintenance responsibilities as owner of the space, it is important to take into account that in places like Hailes Park another 'implicit' element of place-keeping (which may be negligible in other places) is the deterrence of vandalism or keeping it at an absolute minimum and this is something that only a

community with a sense of ownership may be able to do. For these reasons, it would be interesting to follow up this project during the next two years.

Format of this report:

This report is based on the findings from a series of face-to-face in-depth interviews carried out with **PLEASE INSERT DETAILS** in 2010, who granted permission for MP4 members to use their responses in this report. These interviews were semi-structured and conducted using the question schedule used in the data collection for all the case studies.

Glossary:

Place-making: creating high quality places that people want to visit, experience and enjoy. It implies a people-centred approach which emphasises designing spaces that promote health, wellbeing and happiness. Such spaces engender a sense of belonging and connection for those who use them.

Place-keeping: relates to maintaining the qualities and benefits – social, environmental and economic – of places through long-term management. The management required to maintain these qualities and benefits, the approach adopted and the timescale will depend on the place-making aims, the available resources and the life span of the 'place'.

Partnership: is defined as agreed shared responsibility between public, private and community sectors. It is a relationship which, in this context, is normally formed between governmental and non-governmental sectors – i.e. it is a manifestation of governance relationships.

Engagement: is a cross-cutting issue which describes successful models of working with communities and encouraging appropriate use. Engagement is an aspect of governance particularly relevant in forms of participatory governance and is intrinsic to the concept of 'governance' as defined below.

Governance: relates to the relationship between and within government and non-governmental forces. The term implies wider participation in decision-making than representative democracy or other forms of government, recognising a wider range of actors other than the state, and allowing for varying governance contexts and processes.

Finance: describes financial models for efficient long-term management.

Policy: is discussed within the context of embedding best practice into spatial planning and other policy.

Valuation/ evaluation: describes the economic impacts of improvements to open spaces, but also relates to wider socio-economic and environmental benefits.

CEC: City of Edinburgh Council. One of Scotland's 32 local government council areas. The city council area includes urban Edinburgh and a 30-square-mile (78 km²) rural area.

Community Council: Community Councils were established by law in Scotland in 1973 as representative bodies in local communities which are independent from local government, with the purpose of working towards the improvement of their communities.

Community Planning partnerships: involves in community planning the statutory partners, i.e. the local authority, health board, fire, police, enterprise agency and transport partnership as well as partners from other public, voluntary, community and private sector. The objective of CPPs is to ensure that local authorities, other local public agencies, the voluntary, community and private sectors develop a long term shared vision for their area and work in partnership to implement it. CPPs have been considered a pivotal feature of modernization of the local government and public service reform in Scotland along with similar initiatives in other parts of the UK, e.g. communities strategies, Local Strategic Partnerships, and proposals contained in the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill in England.

ELGT: The Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust. A charitable organization currently in charge of the project. It works with government bodies and private and public organizations to improve the quality of life for Lothian communities by improving their local environment.

GS: Greenspace Scotland. A charitable company dedicated to greenspaces based in Stirling (Scotland).

PPS: Project for Public Spaces, a New York-based non-profit organization which specialises in placemaking and works around the world.

SE: Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) is the executive arm of the devolved government of Scotland. Established in 1999 as the Scottish Executive, this term remains its legal name under section 44 of the Scotland Act 1998. However, following the 2007 Scottish Parliament election, the term *Executive* has been rebranded and changed to *Government* by the new Scottish National Party administration

WREN: Waste Recycle Environmental Ltd – a local operator part of WRG (Waste Recycling Group).

WRG: Waste Recycling Group – a waste management company providing processing, recycling, disposal and energy recovery services to local authorities and private commercial customers.