

# Scottish Election 2011 Briefing

## Sustainable placemaking



Living and working in **nature-rich places** is proven to have measurable **health, education and socio-economic benefits** for people. Yet so often we fail to create truly sustainable places where people want to live their lives. **Strong leadership** from both the public and private sectors is required.

Providing **energy efficient buildings** through **adapting existing stock** and **new build standards** is vitally important in reducing carbon emissions. Similarly, the design and layout of new and existing settlements could dramatically reduce transport emissions. Until we begin to design places around **walking, cycling** and **public transport** rather than the car, greenspace will continue to be marginalised and carbon emissions will rise.

So, **walkable** and **transit orientated** neighbourhoods are vital to help communities move away from car dependency, but will not on their own create distinctive places where people want to be.

**It is the quality of the green infrastructure in and around settlements that can really make or break a place.**

Forty-five years experience has taught us that **wildlife-rich places** – be they urban or suburban – create **attractive, vibrant, liveable neighbourhoods** and foster **community pride**.

For further information please contact: Dr. Maggie Keegan, National Planning Co-ordinator. Email: [mkeegan@swt.org.uk](mailto:mkeegan@swt.org.uk)

The Scottish Wildlife Trust would like to see the next Scottish Parliament and Government:

- **Produce a policy on Sustainable Design** (or refresh the existing Designing Places policy) which sets out how design and placemaking can help tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, resource efficiency, unsustainable transport and waste issues
- **Scale-up the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative** to help ensure that local communities and 'communities of interest' have a meaningful stake in the location and design of new developments
- **Include masterplans** which have involved a wide range of stakeholders as a material consideration in all significant<sup>1</sup> planning applications
- **Work with higher and further education providers** to ensure that the fundamental principles of sustainable development and placemaking are part of architecture, planning and design courses
- **Support Architecture + Design Scotland** in their vision to make Scotland a world leader in delivering well-designed, sustainable places

<sup>1</sup> The threshold for what constitutes 'significant' in this context will require further development