

# Placemakers Conference

Development, Design  
and Regeneration

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
June 2021



## Wednesday 30th June 2021

Nothing has given a more acute sense of the place we live than the challenges presented by COVID-19. The importance of *Home* has been at the forefront of all of our minds over the last year, but our geographical boundaries and the public services and businesses that operate locally have also come to the fore.

The pandemic has served as a timely reminder that space, layout and connectivity all have a big bearing on our ability to adapt to changing circumstances, be that health or economic.

We have also seen the striking images of deserted town and city centres, and fundamental questions have been asked about how we interact with the places we live.

Placemaking is a word that we hear used often in housing, and one which means many things to many people. Fundamentally, it is focused on people,

to ensure that we deliver inclusive, socially connected and vibrant communities.

In 2020, the Design Commission for Wales and Welsh Government launched a *Placemaking Charter*, to strengthen the focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales. It aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking, and as signatories to the Charter, CHC is committed to sharing this learning and embedding new approaches in the housing association sector.

This conference will explore what Placemaking means for housing associations, how it can be delivered in practice, and seek to gain inspiration from elsewhere. What have we learned over the last year, and how can we build places that people want to live in?

Key:

Main Session

Break & Networking

Workshop

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9.00am	<b>Registration, networking and exhibition viewing</b>
10.00am	<p><b>Welcome and scene setting</b>  <b>Chair of Conference - Carole-Anne Davies, Chief Executive, Design Commission for Wales</b>  <b>@designcfw</b></p> <p>In 2020, the Design Commission for Wales and Welsh Government launched a <i>Placemaking Charter</i>, to strengthen the focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales. It aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking, and as signatories to the Charter, CHC is committed to sharing this learning and embedding new approaches in the housing association sector.</p> <p>Carole-Anne will kick off the conference with her reflections on the charter, what it means for housing associations, and how the future might look for placemaking in Wales following the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
10.15am	<p><b>Building Back Better? The future of placemaking</b></p> <p><b>Indy Johar, Founder, Dark Matter Labs   @indy_johar</b></p> <p>In this session, our keynote speaker, Indy Johar will give an overview of the future of towns and places, outlining how placemaking is changing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>What has lockdown taught us about the spaces, services and businesses we need to build successful places? What role does housing have in the future of our town and city centres? How can we ensure that the economic recovery focuses on wellbeing?</p>
10.45am	<b>Chance for a cuppa &amp; Chat</b>

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<p>11.00am</p>	<p><b>Building Back Better? The future of placemaking - Panel Session:</b></p> <p>Indy Johar, Dark Matter Labs   @indy_johar                  Daniel Ball, Managing Director, LivEco                    Jessica Studdert, Deputy Chief Executive, New Local   @jesstud                  Mark Hand, Head of Planning, Housing and Place-Shaping, Monmouthshire County Council   @markhand7</p> <p>Our keynote speaker will be joined by panellists from across local government, design and planning to give their insights into the future of placemaking.</p>
<p>12.00pm</p>	<p><b>Lunch and Networking</b></p>
<p>12.45pm</p>	<p><b>Main Session: The Future of Our Towns and Cities</b></p> <p><b>Edgar Kiviet, Associate Director   Integrated City Planning – Placemaking, Arup @ArupGroup</b></p> <p>Delegates will hear from Edgar Kiviet who will apply what has been learnt from Arup’s work with Cardiff City Council and wider UK work with their Integrated City Planning project.</p> <p>The session will look at responses and changes to city and town planning/developments due to Covid, and what that means for our towns/how we live. What do future trends and work on the ground suggest for the future and What are the practical implications and implementations for our towns and cities</p>
<p>1.15pm</p>	<p><b>Coffee and a Chat</b></p>
<p>1.30pm</p>	<p><b>A series of workshops -</b></p>

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	<p><b>Active Travel</b></p> <p><b>Patrick Williams, National Programme Manager, Active Travel Fund Sustrans Cymru @SustransCymru</b>                  There is strong evidence that walking and cycling can play a very significant role in optimising the contribution of transport to economic performance by reducing congestion, supporting local businesses and high streets, direct job creation and supporting the leisure and tourism industry.</p> <p>With the UK population expected to increase by almost 10 million over the next 25 years, linking housing growth with walking, cycling and public transport will help ensure new developments are built in the right places and with the right infrastructure to enable efficient and sustainable mobility that is attractive for people and businesses.</p> <p>In this session we will hear from Sustrans about their Active Travel Tool Kit and how it can be used by the social housing sector and private builders to align housing growth with sustainable transport and how to better plan housing growth to enable and support sustainable transport infrastructure.</p>
	<p><b>Future of Town Centres</b></p> <p><b>Scott Mackay, Executive Director, MidSteeple Quarter @midstquarter</b>                  Midsteeple Quarter is a Community Benefit Society set up and run by the people of Dumfries. Their aim is to help shape a new future for the town centre; one that responds to the needs of the community and is run for their benefit. In this session we will hear about the core principle of Midsteeple Quarter is that local people have innovative solutions for the town and have a significant local stake in the future of the town through community ownership and control is the best route towards a sustainable prosperity that is shared fairly amongst everyone.</p> <p>What could HA's in Wales learn from this model and what would it take to adopt to ensure that our town centres continue to thrive?</p>

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	<p><b><i>Placemakers Charter</i></b></p> <p><b>Jen Heal, Design Advisor, Design Commission for Wales @Jen_heal</b>                  An urban designer and planner, Jen joined the Design Commission for Wales in 2014. With significant professional experience in the private sector, Jen studied City &amp; Regional Planning and her MA in Urban Design at Cardiff University. Jen is a fully accredited member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI).</p> <p>Jen played a key role in the development of the Placemaking Charter, and in this session, she will reflect on what the Charter means for housing associations and how it can be practically applied to the day-to-day work of delivering homes.</p>
	<p><b><i>Rural and Small Places</i></b></p> <p><b>Sarah Featherston, Architect and Co-Director, Featherstone Young</b>                  Sarah Featherstone is an architect and co-Director of Featherstone Young, a practice with expertise in place-making and social engagement. She is interested in how architecture can capture the character and identity of a place and stimulate, rather than dictate, activity and social interaction. Her work has won many awards particularly for housing and community projects including RIBA awards for a homeless centre, a crisis centre, artists' studios and two housing projects in sensitive rural locations.</p> <p><i>Places for Life 2</i> - the latest placemaking publication by the Design Commission for Wales - showcased Sarah's work on <i>VeloCity</i>, a place-based vision for rural communities. In this session, Sarah will discuss the principles for rural place making and how they can be applied across Wales.</p>
<p>2.15pm</p>	<p><b>A chance for a cuppa and a chat</b></p>

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<p>2.30pm</p>	<p><b>Main Session: Urban Renewal with Social Impact</b></p> <p>In recent years, urban placemaking and regeneration schemes have come under increasing scrutiny from the media and communities with worries about gentrification and its impact growing. The real life challenges of affordability and dislocation for many communities aren't limited to any one city or country, and is a phenomenon that many countries are grappling with.</p> <p>In this session, we will hear perspectives from experts from across Europe with insight into design, sustainability and community engagement. Our speakers will consider how we can undertake the renewal and regeneration of places in a way that engages with communities and delivers sustainable outcomes.</p> <p><b>Bahanur Nasya, Project Manager, Eutropian @Eutropian</b>                  Bahanur Nasya is a Viennese architect and film producer. She has assisted in the publication of the “manual for emerging architects” and she was the co-editor of the recent wonderland publication “represent &amp; reflect”. Currently, she is involved in international research projects, is the chairwoman of the association “xsentrikarts” and is the Head of Organisations at Wonderland. In projects she is aiming to increase future proofness, diversity and self-determination, while paying attention to common uses and rights.</p> <p><b>Manisha Patel, Senior Partner, Urban Design &amp; Masterplanning, PRP @PRP_News</b>                  Manisha spearheads urban design and masterplanning, regeneration and stakeholder consultation within the practice. She is currently leading on some of PRP's most high profile projects including Chobham Manor, where she has developed a new typology which facilitates multi-generation living, a design and cultural expression of her upbringing. She is also responsible for the masterplan on Portobello Square which won the Mayor's Prize at the 2015 Housing Design Awards.</p>
<p>3.30pm</p>	<p><b>Conference Reflections and Close</b></p>

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