

26th February 2009

Falkirk Council receives accolade in national environmental awards

Falkirk Council was recognised for good environmental practice at the annual Scottish *People & Places* conference dinner and awards ceremony last night, Wednesday 25th February, at The Dunblane Hydro.

Falkirk Council was a finalist in the national Award for Support of Communities category and a framed finalist certificate was presented to representatives from the council by BBC political editor Brian Taylor, who hosted the award ceremony.

The Award for Support of Communities acknowledges local authorities that have developed successful partnerships with external organisations, including businesses, community groups or schools, to improve and enhance an area as part of the *People and Places* programme run by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Two innovative initiatives led Falkirk Council to the finals of the People and Places awards. The first, a community led scheme supported by the council, encouraged dog owners to volunteer as 'green dog walkers' in Denny and Dunipace. The green dog walkers wear armbands and always carry spare dog poo bags so that people can easily identify and approach them if they need extra bags for picking up their pets waste. The volunteers – 156 signed up – now take part in surveys and support the work of the council's six dog wardens.

The second initiative involved the local radio station, Central FM, and the pupils of six schools who all produced radio adverts with anti-littering messages. These were played every night for a week on the radio and local people were encouraged to vote for their favourite one. The winning advert was professionally put together and then aired on the station for a period of two weeks reaching an audience of over 59,000 people.

The *People and Places* Programme supports the delivery of high quality local environments and the awards recognise the contribution that partners have made in achieving this. Reflecting the challenges facing local authorities and the contribution that they have made in the past year the four award categories were:

- Programme of the Year Award
- Programme Manager of the Year Award
- Award for Support of Communities
- Best Local Environmental Quality Innovation Award

John Summers OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "Involving school pupils and Central FM, the local radio station, to try and raise awareness of the issues associated with litter and indeed solve the problems of littering was truly inspiring to hear about – and a great way of telling the wider public about environmental issues and their impacts. The work of Falkirk Council, with many partners, has shown that real improvements can be made when initiatives are driven with such enthusiasm and passion."

Cllr Adrian Mahoney, Convener of the Environment and Heritage Committee said: "When it comes to litter we never rest on our laurels! We tackle it from all angles – we work closely with communities and local business, we have litter education in schools and we constantly strive to improve our own cleansing service. The Green Dog Walkers and the Rubbish Radio advert are just two examples of the excellent work going on to tackle litter and dog fouling in schools and communities."

- Ends -

For further information please contact: Suzanne Roberts on 01786 468236 / 07841 369 430 or e-mail suzanne.roberts@ksbscotland.org.uk. For further information on each of the award winners and finalists please visit <http://news.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/conference>

Notes for Editors

- Keep Scotland Beautiful is one of Scotland's leading environmental charities, administering anti-litter campaigns under the Keep Scotland Tidy slogan along with the *People and Places*, Blue Flag and Eco Schools environment programmes. Waste Aware Scotland, Sustainable Scotland Network,

Keep Scotland Beautiful is an operating name of Environmental Campaigns (Scotland).
Scottish Charity Number SC030332

Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling campaigns are also run by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

- *People and Places* is an exciting and innovative programme that supports the delivery of high quality local environments for residents, businesses and visitors through modules, training and campaigns. The programme was launched in 1989 and offers a wide range of schemes from short-term campaigns to long term changes in management procedures. The *People and Places* programme is particularly useful to local authorities, registered social landlords and large landowners that may need advice on solving local environmental problems.
- For more information about Keep Scotland Beautiful and the programmes and campaigns please visit www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org
- The award ceremony took place during the fourth annual People & Places conference at The Dunblane Hydro on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 February 2009.
- The award winners and finalists for 2009 were:
Programme of the Year Award
Winner – East Renfrewshire Council

Programme Manager of the Year Award

Winner – Andrew McPherson, North Lanarkshire Council

Award for Support of Communities

Winner – West Lothian Council

Finalists – Stirling Council, Falkirk Council

Best Local Environmental Quality Innovation Award

Winner - East Dunbartonshire Council

Special commendation – Amey

Finalists – Angus Council, Glasgow City Council & Glasgow Community and Safety Services