

25 February 2010



## **East Dunbartonshire Council reaches finals of national environmental awards**

**East Dunbartonshire Council were announced as finalists at the annual Scottish *People & Places* conference dinner and awards ceremony last night, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, at The Macdonald Marine Hotel, North Berwick.**

Provost of East Lothian, Councillor Sheena Richardson and John Summers OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, who hosted the award ceremony, presented a framed certificate in the Programme of the Year category to representatives of East Dunbartonshire Council.

Programme of the Year entrants have to show that local environmental quality has improved and anti social behaviour reduced, through targeted action derived from substantial research.

East Dunbartonshire Council designed and implemented a programme called Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) for Schools, based on a national cleanliness survey co-ordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

The aim was to tackle lunch-time litter by working with the schools, local businesses and council departments. The scheme started in 2007 and has now been rolled out to all schools in the area; resulting in an improved cleanliness standard around the participating schools year on year, fewer complaints from members of the public, and more schools signing up to the Eco-Schools programme.

The *People and Places* award ceremony and conference dinner is the highlight of a two-day event run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, which this year focused on reducing anti-social behaviour for a safer, cleaner and greener Scotland.

John Summers OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said: "East Dunbartonshire Council had tough competition this year in the Programme of the Year category. But, by scooping the Best Local Environmental Quality Innovation Award in 2009, the Award for Supporting Communities in 2007, and two awards in 2006, East Dunbartonshire Council has shown that it is consistently working hard to combat litter and improve local environmental quality."

East Dunbartonshire Council Leader, Rhondda Geekie, said: "Having won the Best Local Environmental Innovation Award at last year's ceremony, East Dunbartonshire Council is excited about being nominated for the Programme of the Year Award this year.

"The great thing about the programme put up for the award is that it has engaged local school children with their local environment and allowed them to take some responsibility for it while tackling the very serious issue of littering. Even without the award this would be a prize worth winning."

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

- Ends -

For further information visit <http://news.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/PeopleandPlaces.asp> or contact Suzanne Roberts on 01786 468236 / 07841 369 430 or e-mail [suzanne.roberts@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.roberts@ksbscotland.org.uk)

#### **Notes for Editors**

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

- Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) is an environmental charity which aims to protect, preserve and enhance the environment of town and country in Scotland for the benefit of the public. Keep Scotland Beautiful administers the People and Places, Blue Flag and Seaside Award, and the Eco-Schools environmental programmes along with the Sustainable Scotland Network, Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling campaigns. Keep Scotland Beautiful also delivers some activities of Zero Waste Scotland.
- *People and Places* is an 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. Further information can be found at: [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/peopleandplaces](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/peopleandplaces)
- For information about Keep Scotland Beautiful's other programmes please visit [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org)
- The fifth annual People & Places conference will take place at The Macdonald Marine Hotel, North Berwick, East Lothian on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 February 2010.
- The award winners for 2010 were:
  - Programme of the Year Award**  
Winner – Renfrewshire Council
  - Programme Manager of the Year Award**  
Winner – Brendan Corish, Amey
  - Award for Support of Communities**  
Winner – Falkirk Council
  - Best Local Environmental Quality Innovation Award**  
Winner – Stirling Council