

Lighting Legacy Project Is Switched On

A disused railway bridge over Glasgow's River Clyde has become home to a spectacular lighting installation, thanks to a Commonwealth Games Legacy project.

Linked Via Light has brought young people together from communities on either side of the Westburn Viaduct - Carmyle in Glasgow and Westburn in South Lanarkshire - and inspired them to work together to help transform their shared landmark.

Working in cross community teams, pupils from Bannerman, Trinity and Cathkin High Schools came up with exciting ideas of different colours, patterns and projections that could be used to light the bridge.

These illuminations were switched on last night at a special Glasgow Green Year 2015 event to coincide with Legacy Week, an opportunity for communities, organisations and individuals across the city to highlight the work and achievements of their Games related-projects.

Bailie Anne Simpson, switching on the new lighting installation on behalf of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, said: "We are rightly proud of the communities of Carmyle and Westburn for working together to take ownership of the bridge and area around it and changing it for the better.

"It is especially encouraging to see our young people lead by example and their creativity and enthusiasm has been inspiring.

"This project has demonstrated how communities can work together to improve their local environment and it is a fitting legacy of the Commonwealth Games."

Councillor Eddie McAvoy, Leader of South Lanarkshire Council commented: "It is fitting that the Commonwealth Games Legacy has brought together our two communities through this marvellous lighting project just as the Games lit up Glasgow and the surrounding areas last summer.

"I am very proud of our young pupils who have worked together on this innovative Linked Via Light community project to help transform their shared landmark."

The pupils from Bannerman, Trinity and Cathkin Secondary High Schools participated in a series of workshops to create the innovative lighting designs that would enhance the derelict site.

The students were joined by representatives of the key groups involved in delivering the project, including Collective Architecture, Tollcross Housing Association, Sustrans, the Angling Association, **Pegasus Power and Communications Ltd**, as well as the two local authorities, Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council, as they formed a torch-lit procession to the site for the switch on.

Linked Via Light is one of a number of schemes delivering positive improvements in the area. These include the Clyde Walkway Project which has encouraged more people to walk and cycle in the area, with an upgrade of the pathways and the installation of new cycle gates.

Community Safety Glasgow and South Lanarkshire Council reparation payback service also assisted in facilitating area clear ups on both sides of the Clyde by the Westburn Viaduct such as foliage clearing, litter picking and grass cutting by utilising individuals involved in the scheme.

Linked via Light project has also been recognised and listed as part of the UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) International Year of Light programme.

May East, speaking for UNITAR, said: "The United Nations designated 2015 as the International Year of Light to mark the vital role light plays in our daily lives, central to linking cultural, economic and political aspects of society.

"The Linked via Light project is a meaningful example on the power of light to inspire, educate, and connect at local scale."

