

JTP has over 15 years' experience of innovative and award-winning placemaking through engaging communities in visioning, planning and delivering places. This collaborative planning approach is now more relevant than ever – it is at the heart of the 'localism' agenda. It can be an important tool for communities engaged in deciding their own futures, be it housing development, urban regeneration, delivery of services or the transition to local food and energy production.

“We need to create communities with oomph – neighbourhoods who are in charge of their own destiny, who feel if they club together and get involved they can shape the world around them.”

Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Prime Minister

JTP believe that sustainable placemaking is most effectively achieved if the knowledge and commitment of stakeholders is engaged at every stage of the process. A transparent, structured, participatory process enables the community, the private sector and the local authority to work together in a creative way, which ultimately adds value at all levels – physical, social, environmental and economic.

“One of the principles of sustainable development is to involve the community in developing the vision for its area.”

Planning Policy Statement 1, Para 41

Whether for the public or private sector, collaborative planning has been shown to be beneficial for all parties, including building community capacity and leaving lasting community legacies, often fully financed through the planning and development process. The development industry and the government have taken notice and the participatory approach now forms part of official planning guidance.

“Effective community involvement requires an approach which enables communities to put forward ideas and suggestions and participate in developing proposals and options. It is not sufficient to invite them to simply comment once these have been worked-up.”

Planning Policy Statement 1, Para 43

John Thompson & Partners is a placemaking practice, with extensive experience of delivering successful projects for both public and private sectors throughout the UK.

We use pioneering participatory techniques, honed over two decades, to build collaborative visions for our projects with the very people who will go on to live in and use them.

From our offices in London and Edinburgh we undertake placemaking projects at every scale, from cities and towns, to neighbourhoods, streets, and the design of individual buildings.

Visioning • Community Planning

Engaging communities to shape and deliver award-winning places.

Strategic placemaking consultancy

Offering advice, research facilitation and design services to clients undertaking large scale projects worldwide.

Micro-enterprise zones for entrepreneurs

Providing services to landowners, individual entrepreneurs and homeseekers in the provision of live/work space or homes.

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Engaging communities to shape and deliver award-winning places



The Village at Caterham

Caterham, Surrey

The closure of Caterham Barracks had significantly impacted on the social and economic life of the town. A brief prepared for the site was considered unviable by many developers. Linden Homes bought the site, believing additional development would be acceptable if significant community benefits were delivered.

JTP organised and facilitated a community planning process involving more than 1000 local people. The process transformed the community's previous hostility to development into positive support and led to the creation of a sustainable, mixed-use neighbourhood incorporating 361 homes with a range of housing tenures.

The community planning process increased the development value of the site by over £50 million and delivered £5 million worth of community assets, partly owned and run by a Community Development Trust.

*The European Urban and Regional Planning Awards 2002
Best Conversion*



“ The revitalization of Caterham Barracks has demonstrated the effectiveness of partnership between the private and public sectors and the local community. Its integrated approach has minimized adverse environmental effects ... whilst creating significant community benefits and achieving an economically viable scheme. ”

Royal Town Planning Institute

Scarborough Renaissance

Scarborough, Yorkshire

Scarborough's tourism and fishing industries had gone into decline with a devastating effect on the local economy. In 2001 JTP began the town's social and economic regeneration by leading a town-wide visioning process.

From the initial Community Planning Weekend, JTP put the public at the core of the process of building a new future for Scarborough through long-term stakeholder collaboration. A Charter defined the process, Vision and objectives and a Renaissance Town Team of local people was established to deliver the Vision, using a team of experts to facilitate.

An initial £20m public sector strategic investment stimulated a private sector response of over £200m. In 2009 the town won the Enterprising Britain Award, Europe's Most Enterprising Place, the Academy of Urbanism's Great Town Award and the International Association for Public Participation Project of the Year.

*International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2) Core Values Award 2009
Project of the Year*



“ Scarborough was on the brink of terminal decline in 2001. The place needed patience, vision and stimulus which the JTP team provided in abundance. They enthused and encouraged a wide range of people who, seven years on, still appreciate what an outstanding start they were given. ”

Nick Taylor, Scarborough's Urban Renaissance Manager

Graylingwell Park

Chichester, West Sussex

The former Graylingwell asylum site owned by HCA, the Government's regeneration agency, is being transformed by a JTP-led team into the UK's largest carbon neutral development.

Set within 85 acres of parkland, Graylingwell Park will provide 750 new and converted homes and a range of community amenities. The masterplan was developed over a six month period through an extensive programme of public participation that involved 500 local residents and community groups. This led to the foundation of the Graylingwell Community Development Trust, a charitable company made up of residents, facility user groups and other local stakeholders who will own and manage the community amenities.

Shaped by those who know the city best - its inhabitants - Graylingwell was granted planning approval within six months of submission.

*Inside Housing and Chartered Institute of Housing - Sustainable Housing Awards 2010
Sustainable Large Social Housing Project of the Year*



“ We've been made to feel part of the process from day one - it seems that what we say really does make a difference! ”

A local resident involved in the community planning process