

# BRECHIN



**charrette**

Report Back Session  
19 February 2015

The Damacre Centre

@brechintalks

# BRECHINTALKS

charrette



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**charrette**

Chapter 01  
The Charrette Brief

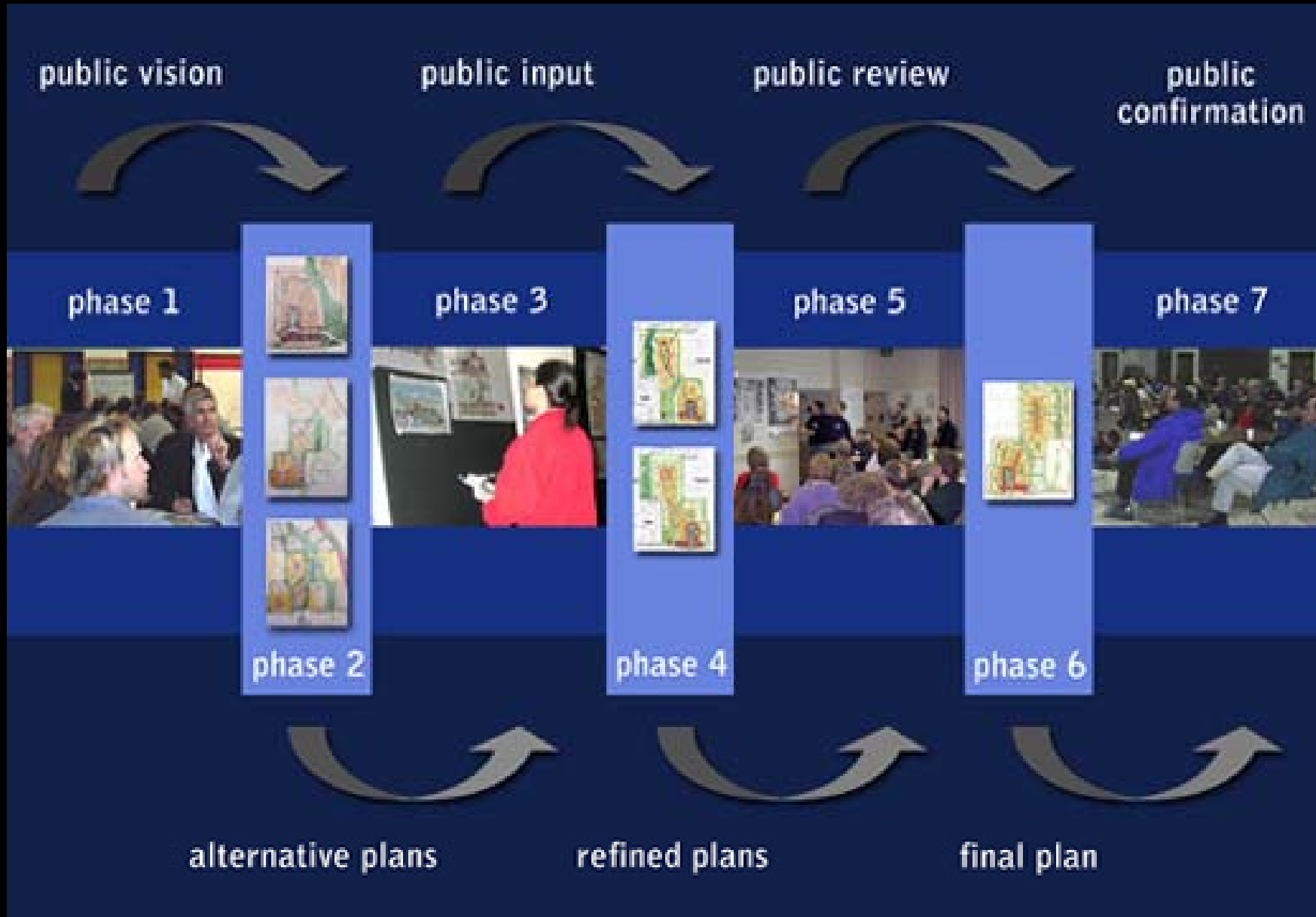
## What is a Charrette?



A Design Charrette is;

- an intensive and collaborative plan-making process over several days
- undertaken in the place under consideration
- engages a wide range of participants to define a future Vision + Action Plan for the place.
- is facilitated by a multi-disciplinary charrette team.

# What is a Charrette?



## Why 'Charrette'?

French for cart

Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris – short design / art assignments collected in a charrette at the end of the task

Phrase appropriated for design-led planning 'charrettes'



Why 'Charrette'?

Cart overload in Brechin!

Lots of ideas shared over three days.



Team + Roles

**Angus Council**

**Austin-Smith:Lord  
with Fergus Purdie Architect**

Architects, Landscape, Conservation,  
Urban Design, Planning

**Douglas Wheeler Associates**

Regeneration Consultants

**Ryden**

Property Market Advice

**Transport Planning Limited**

**+ YOU!**





**Visionary > Ambitious**



**Realistic > Deliverable**



## 'Whole Place' Approach

Addressing socio-economic +  
physical issues to create a  
Vision + Action Plan for Brechin

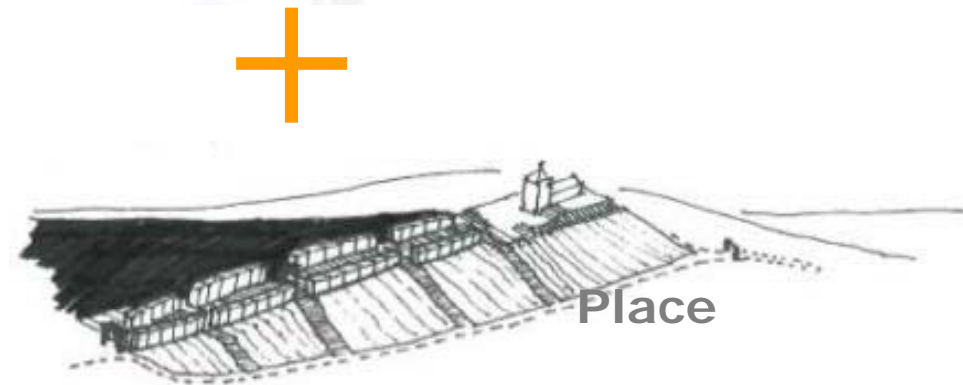


Folk

place =



Work

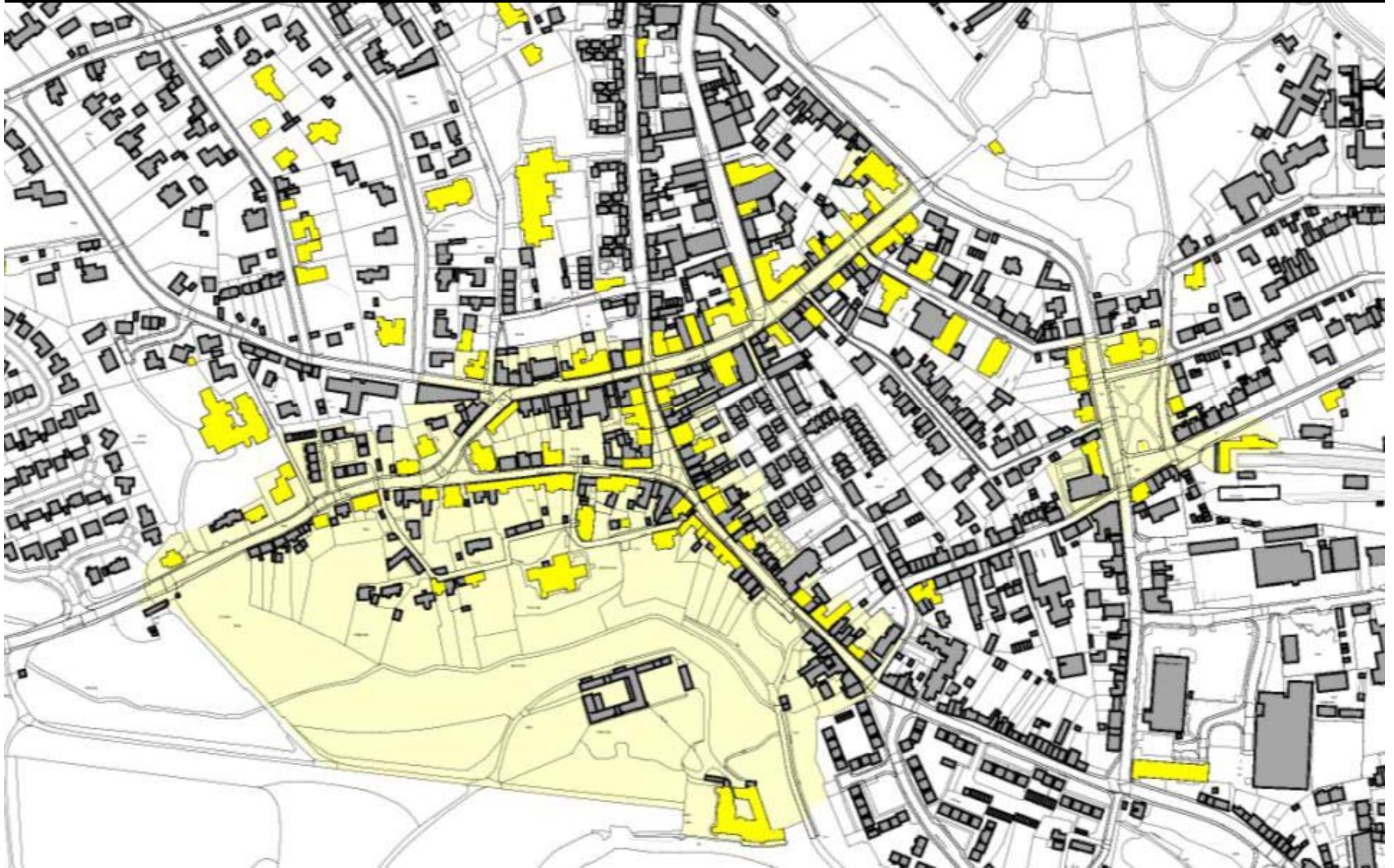


Place

Considering Brechin : Past



Considering Brechin : Past > Present



Considering Brechin : Past > Present

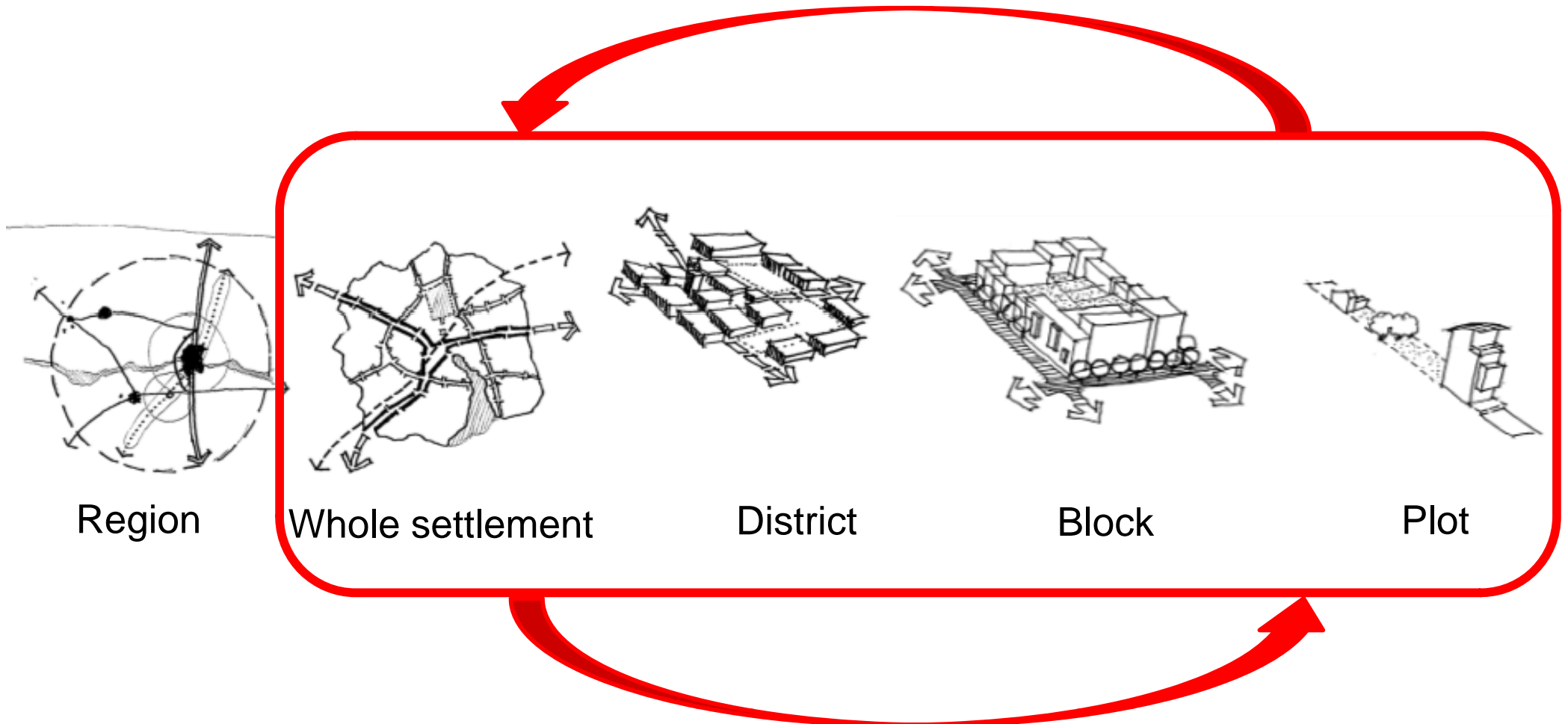


> Possible ?

Brechin Charrette – considering the centre in the context of the whole place



# Place-making / Place-mending – Different Scales





## Brechin – why a Charrette?

- the **community of Brechin** has done considerable work on strengthening local partnership and developing its **vision for the town**.
- Community organisations have enjoyed significant **success in staging major community events**
- There was a **successful THI** with significant improvements to the historic town centre
- **significant capital investments** for Brechin are already agreed or under consideration;
  - a **new community campus**
  - feasibility study a **new health and social care hub** to accommodate health and social care services.

## Brechin – why a Charrette?

- the City of Brechin is significant to its **rural hinterland,**
- Angus Council and its Community Planning Partners are **developing new approaches to planning for place** which will involve wider community engagement and work towards a **more holistic and integrated approach** to social, economic and physical planning.
- A charrette can make a **significant contribution to the development of integrated plans for Brechin,** building on and extending work which has already been done by the local community and partners.

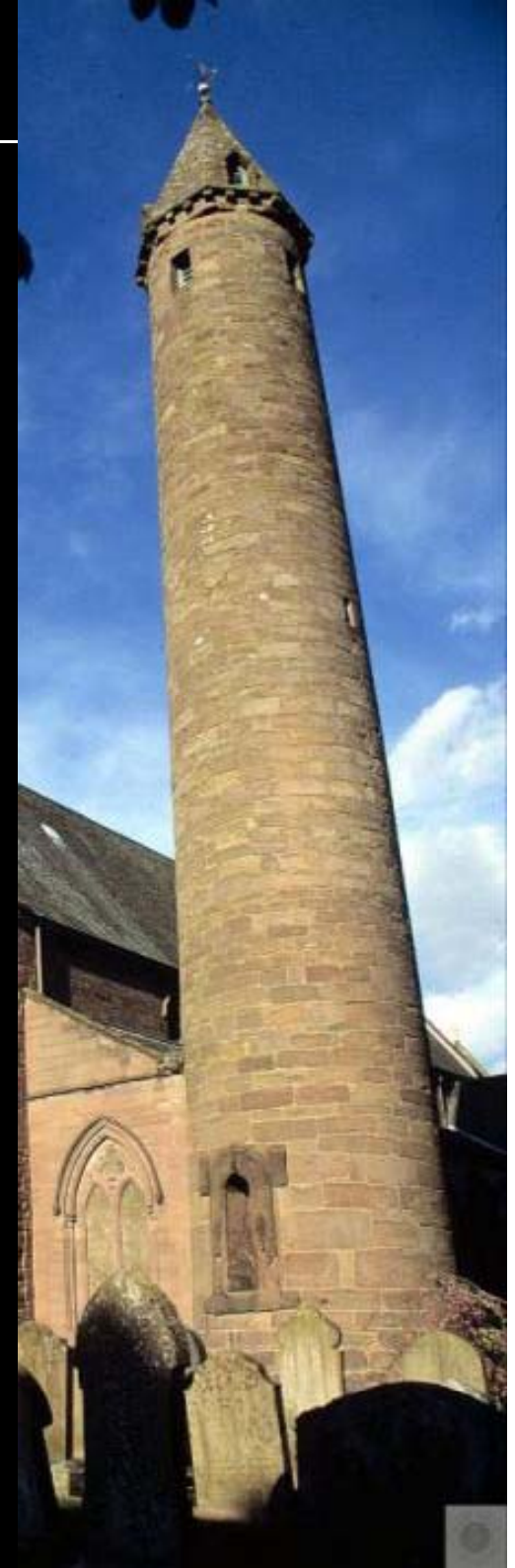
## Brechin – the Charrette Brief

The broad framework of issues for discussion can be summarised:

- **Maximise the potential** of what Brechin already has,
- Devise an integrated **'whole town' plan** which would allow each organisation to coordinate initiatives towards achieving the vision,
- **Identify new opportunities** which are sustainable, & which will also **increase economic activity** in the area with the potential for new & niche businesses,
- Ensure that **key infrastructure** is in place,
- Identify **best future uses for key buildings** (eg. City Hall, Damacre Centre, Leisure Centre, Registrars Office, Town Council + Court Buildings),
- prepare a **traffic management plan**.

### Brechin Charrette – Aims + Objectives

- **Confirm boundaries, focus, challenges & priorities** for Brechin's centre through dialogue with local people.
- Develop a **shared long-term vision** for the future of Brechin's centre set within context of the town hinterland.
- **Take full account of the agreed assets & strengths** of Brechin's centre & challenges /opportunities it currently faces.
- **Establish a commitment** from the local community, businesses & stakeholders **to delivering the changes** required to achieve the vision.
- Establish a clear, agreed **development framework & action plan** to turn outputs from the charrette into a longer term delivery strategy.
- Charrette outputs will also help to **inform future Angus Local Development Plans**, Housing Plans and other significant local policies & investment plans.



# Austin-Smith: Lord







**A place to treasure**

# rich legacy of history





Compact place  
within attractive,  
fertile rural setting





**Impressive  
community  
activity**

# Forward thinking local businesses



Before and after THI







Passion / Pride / People

+ **Positivity!**

