

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Give your community 'Pride of Place' in Dorset**

Does the place where you live have unique qualities worthy of wider recognition?

If so, it could be in the running to secure a major arts project aimed at enhancing local environments and celebrating their special character.

The Dorset Design and Heritage Forum is seeking entries for the Pride of Place Award 2009, offering the chance for one community to work with an 'artist in residence' on a landmark project over the next 12 months.

Artists and community members from across Dorset are invited to attend a workshop in Dorchester next month to find out more about how the award will work – and the kinds of features and qualities which give residents a real 'pride of place'.

The award was developed by the Design and Heritage Forum last year, to help champion high quality design and conservation of the built environment in Dorset's town's and villages.

It is administered by Dorset Community Action alongside the existing 'Village of the Year' awards. Judges are looking for the local community group or parish/town council that takes the most pride in its local environment and heritage.

Last year's competition was won by 'Turn Lyme Green', a campaign to raise awareness and inspire action towards more environmental responsibility in Lyme Regis, which pipped 13 other community entries from across Dorset.

And Alex Murdin, the artist currently working on the Lyme Regis project, will help lead the workshop at Dorford House in Dorchester on Saturday, 16 May, to illustrate the benefits the award can bring.

Residents, architects, landscape designers, artists and community groups are all invited to attend, and explore ways they can work together to improve the areas where they live.

The judging panel for award will be chaired by Maggie Bolt, Director of Public Art South West. She said:

"The Pride of Place Award enables creative thinking to be at the heart of rural regeneration and renewal. By empowering communities and providing a local voice for local change, it challenges conventional thinking on who shapes our environments, and provides an important model for the region coupled with exciting opportunities for artists."

To book a free place at the workshop, or for further information, contact Dominic Tambling at [dominic@creativedorset.co.uk](mailto:dominic@creativedorset.co.uk) or on (01305) 755613.

The deadline for communities to apply for the award is 26 June. Application forms and guidance leaflets are available from Dorset Community Action, Community House, The Barracks, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1YG, by calling (01305) 216412 or 216400 or online at [www.dorcom.org.uk](http://www.dorcom.org.uk)

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Note to Editors:

1. The 'Pride of Place Award' is part of a wider programme of work for which the Dorset Design and Heritage Forum has achieved external funding from Arts Council England, Public Art South West, Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership. The Forum and this Award are funded as part of a range of initiatives by all the local authorities in Dorset in partnership with Arts Council England South West.
2. This award is promoted by the Dorset Design and Heritage Forum - created through the Dorset Strategic Partnership Culture Theme Group.
3. Other members of the judging panel include the Chair of the Dorset Design and Heritage Forum, Stephen Friar, and Paul Harrington from Morgan Carey Architects.
4. Chair of the judging panel Maggie Bolt is available for interview on 01392 229226 or 07812 191841.