

# Place Category: *highly commended*

## Tobermory Harbour Association

### What is the aim of the project?

To regenerate one of Scotland's most beautiful natural harbours for the long-term benefit of the local community.

The once-thriving

Tobermory

Harbour fell into economic decline in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as freight and visitor numbers dwindled – partly because the harbour infrastructure had been neglected. It had been largely unchanged since a fishing pier was added in 1815.



### Where is it taking place?

Tobermory Harbour is on the north-east coast of the Isle of Mull.

### What has been achieved?

The project has constructed a number of new 'facilities for all,' including:

- A bigger landing stage and slip, with more moorings
- A visitor centre
- Car, bus and boat parking
- Offices for local businesses
- A coastguard vehicle rescue garage

This has resulted in regular ferry services, increased tourism and a booming local economy. The project has successfully attracted private investment to the town in the form of new pubs, restaurants and a visitor centre for the local distillery.

### Who is running it?

The Tobermory Harbour Association, originally a pressure group of local stakeholders that has now evolved into a highly successful not-for-profit community enterprise. The project is funded by Argyll & Bute Council, the Crown Estate, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, the Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, and local businesses, among others.

### Why did the judging panel commend it so highly?

As well as bringing real benefits to the people of Tobermory, the judging panel felt that this project presents an exceptional instance of great tenacity and commitment. The Association had its genesis in the late 1970s and early 1980s, working over the long-term to achieve funding required to provide an excellent economic, tourist and transport infrastructure to benefit locals and attract visitors.

The project stakeholders

have worked to make

Tobermory a thriving place

once again. The judges also

praised its sustainable

business model and the fact

that the redevelopment plans complemented the harbour's history, the iconic architecture and the adjacent landscape.



### How can I find out more?

Please contact Alison Rimell, Administrative Officer, Tobermory Harbour Association on 01688 302 876 or [alison.rimell@tobermoryharbour.co.uk](mailto:alison.rimell@tobermoryharbour.co.uk).