

# Hunter Square Challenge : community engagement

## Background: An unexpected email

From: Scott.Casey  
Sent: 09 February 2017 14:31  
To: EDINBURGH College of Art  
Subject: Request for Assistance

Good Afternoon

I am one of the Community Sergeants based at the West End Police Station, Torphichen Street, Edinburgh. My Community Team and the City of Edinburgh Council are currently trying to address the drink/drug fuelled anti-social behaviour at Hunter Square, Edinburgh. To date we have had some success in tackling the problem through high visibility targeted patrols, and the careful application of bail conditions for repeat offenders. There are many contributory factors to the anti-social behaviour experienced in this area, the public toilets in particular were a haven for drug taking and other illegal activity. In January we got approval to close the toilets.

The efforts and action taken thus far has proved effective however one of the longer term solutions we are looking at is changing the use/design of the area to make it a more attractive area for people to sit and enjoy whilst at the same time making it less attractive to those who wish to cause anti social behaviour. I am looking at the possibility of getting a student or students from the ECA who would be willing to get involved in suggesting ideas, designs that change Hunter Square into a more welcoming and vibrant space through clever design or artwork. We have not really discussed any potential budget, however, I think in the current climate it would be extremely limited if available at all. I appreciate that the students will have other work on which takes priority over this but it would be a good way of getting the students involved in a project that would proved long term benefits for the community whilst at the same time giving them a platform to display their talents.

Please could you forward this email to the relevant head of department.

Regards

Scott Casey

Scott Casey  
Sergeant E-622  
Community Policing Team - Central Edinburgh Police Scotland West End Police Station  
3-5 Torphichen Place  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8DYst

## Stake holder discussion



Edinburgh City Centre Community Policing Team, Edinburgh City Council and the University of Edinburgh are interested in your views regarding the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour in Hunter Square. Please come to a public meeting to share your views and help propose solutions.

Information gathered at the meeting will be used to help shape the future of Hunter Square, helping academics and students to suggest ideas, strategies and designs that would change the Square into a more welcoming and vibrant place.

## Student brief



Jessica Hanson MSc International Business and Emerging Markets  
Theodore Sherriff MA Architecture

Ed Hollis Professor of Interior Design

The aim is for students and academics to work together with the local community to improve the environment and life of Hunter Square.

The objectives of the project are:

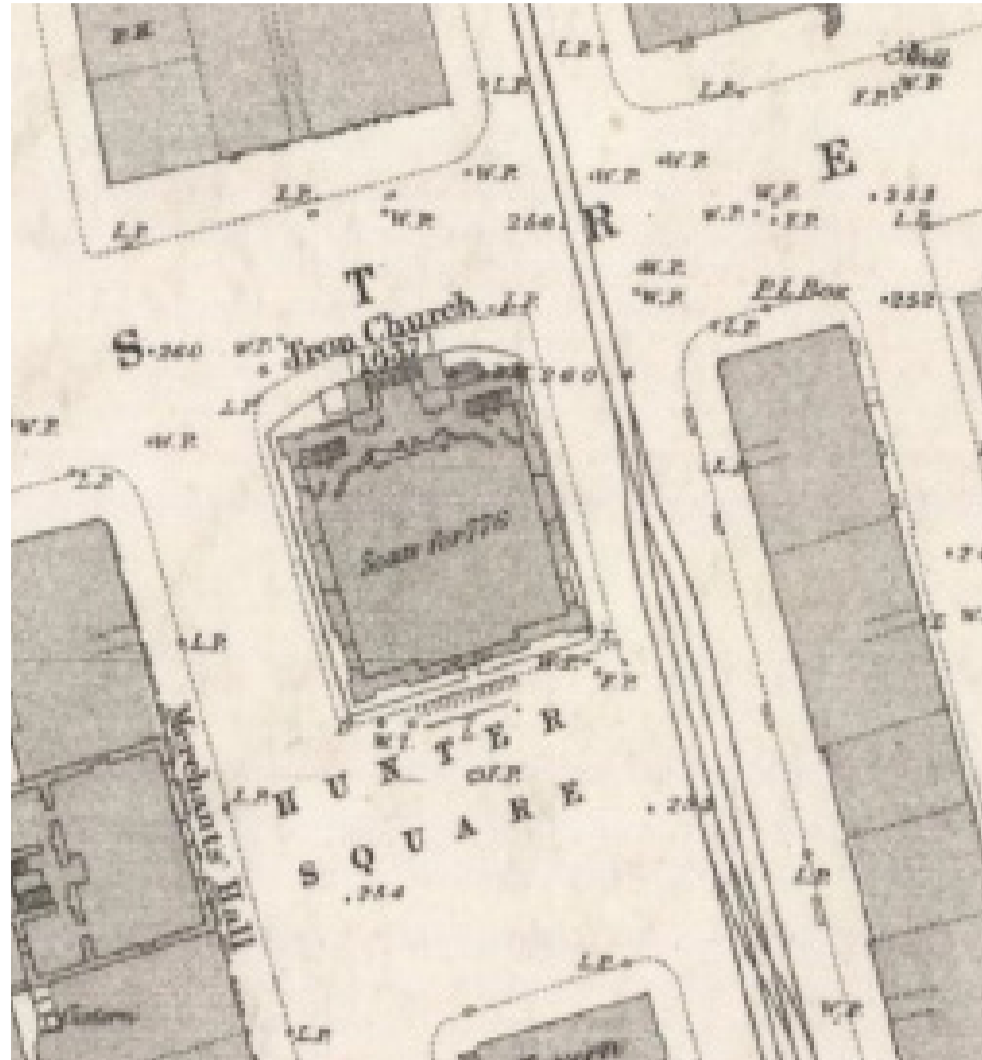
- Multi-disciplinary teams of students (supported by academics) to engage with key local stakeholders to understand fully and better the nature of the problem at Hunter Square and the needs of the key stakeholders;
- To propose ideas that lead to improves/reductions in anti-social behaviour in the square
- To present these ideas to the stakeholders and the academic community and feed into future plans for the square

The project started with briefings from:

Scott Casey on issues of policing and behaviour

Fiona Rankin on plans for the future development of the Hunter Square and the Tron

Lesley MCara on stakeholder views



## HUNTER SQUARE

The square to the south of Tron Kirk is named after Sir James Hunter Blair, who was MP for Edinburgh 1780-84 and Lord Provost 1784-86. In that capacity he was responsible for the South Bridge project and the curbing of the expensive ambition of Robert Adam. The square and Blair Street alongside, commemorate his role.

## THE TRON KIRK

The Tron was one of the four parishes of Edinburgh but shared St Giles, which was subdivided, with the parish of that name. The church was built on the instruction of Charles I who introduced Anglican reforms into the Scottish church in the early 1630s and made St Giles into a cathedral (which it had never been before, or since). That removed the subdivisions and pushed the Tron congregation out.

## Research



The students visited the site with John Lowrey to learn of the history and significance of the Hunter Square and the Tron in the development of the Old Town.

The students then undertook a series of interviews with local businesses. With Lesley MCara the team of student undertook an ad hoc user survey of visitors to the square.

## Presentation and Feedback



The three teams of students each presented their proposals to a group of residents, stakeholders and businesses.



## Participants

Students Suwen Chen MBA	Stakeholders Scott Casey and the Community Policing Team	Organisers: Remo Pedreschi Professor of Architectural Technology
Ezequiel Alberto Colmenero Acevedo PhD Architectural Conservation	Fiona Rankin Edinburgh World Heritage Kathy Evans Edinburgh City Council	Lesley MCara Professor of Penology Anna Gibbons
Victoria Hinderks MSc International Relations	John Thomson Local Resident	Academic Advisors
Vivien Ho Accelerated LLB	John Mitchell Local Resident	Fiona McLachlan Professor of Architectural Practice
Desiree Iturralde MSc International Business and Emerging Markets	Sarah Burns Edinburgh City Council Victor Spence and staff at Gold Brothers	John Lowrey Senior Lecturer in Architectural History Richard Jones Lecturer in Criminology
Boran Li PhD Management	Peter Tinkler Royal Mile Pharmacy	Cristina Nan Lecturer in Architecture and Digital Fabrication
Anna McEwan MA Architecture		Sarah Cooper Professor of Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development
Emma Martin Accelerated LLB		Ed Hollis Professor of Interior Design
Cathe Nadal PhD Landscape		
Lara Pedreschi Accelerated LLB		