

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Developing age-friendly cities and communities: Perspectives from older adults living in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester

- **Format:**

Written paper

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

Creating urban environments that support and promote everyday social engagement and healthy living for older people is a key driver of social and public policy. The Age-Friendly City agenda has led to the development of interventions and policies at the city and community level aimed at supporting active ageing across key domains including outdoor environments, transportation, housing, information and communication, participation and respect and social inclusion. This paper reports on findings from a three-year ESRC-funded project *Place-Making with Older Adults: Towards Age Friendly Communities* (2016-19), which is undertaking research in 18 neighbourhoods across 6 diverse cities in the UK (Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh) and Brasil (Pelotas, Brasilia and Belo Horizonte). The paper presents preliminary findings from the UK obtained using a participatory methodology that included interviews and photo-diaries to explore older adults' perceptions of age-friendliness in their communities. The findings identify a number of barriers and facilitators to the implementation of age-friendly urban environments as well as recommendations for the future delivery of age-friendly

neighbourhoods. Addressing what older people themselves deem important to age in place is essential for developing age friendly policies, programmes and interventions that support healthy and active ageing.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Ryan's research explores the impact of ageing on planning, urban design, outdoor spaces, neighbourhoods and housing. His research addresses aspects of health and well-being, social sustainability, age-friendly cities, sense of place, identity and belonging. Ryan has worked across a range of scales including the street, neighbourhood, and city to examine place-based supports for active and healthy ageing. Much of his research has been transnational in nature, working with academics, practitioners, policy-makers and community groups in the UK, Canada, Brasil and Colombia. His methodologies are largely participatory, working with participants as co-researchers and undertaking community mapping, participatory research, and visual methods to understanding the relationship between person and place. His is currently P-I on an ESRC-funded grant exploring Age Friendly Cities and Communities, a 3 year research programme undertaking collaborative case study research in three UK and Brazilian case study cities.