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NEWS

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Nationwide competition to brighten Scotland

One example of public art is the Red Stag sculpture by Andy Scott at the Pyramid Business Park on the side of the M8

People in the Highlands are being urged to back a nationwide contest to find Scotland's public structures most deserving of a makeover.

Leading Scottish galvanizing company, Highland Galvanizers & Colour Coaters, has invited local people from all of Scotland's 32 local authorities, including Highland Council, to nominate public structures they would like to see brightened up, free of charge.

Whether play equipment which has seen better days, a weary piece of street furniture, a civic installation or a piece of public art, anything involving steelwork which would benefit from a splash of colour or which needs protected from Scotland's harsh weather will be considered.

Highland has launched the competition just as local authorities across the country have announced significant budget cuts. The contest will provide councils with the opportunity to see a public structure they may not have otherwise had the resources to maintain given some much-needed TLC.

A recently refurbished playpark

The competition will also allow Highland to illustrate cost savings which can be generated by colour galvanizing rather than traditional paintwork. Galvanizing has been proven to give steelwork a brighter, lighter and longer life-span, requiring less long-term maintenance work.

Paul McCafferty, Director at Highland, said: "We're really excited about launching this competition and believe local communities across Scotland will wholeheartedly embrace it."

"Local authorities throughout the country are looking at the ways in which they can continue to improve and regenerate public areas. However, the economic climate means they have to think that bit more creatively, which is why we believe our competition will be a hit."

Highland will be joined with an expert panel of judges which include leading steelwork artist, Andy Scott, John Glenday, editor of Urban Realm, and Dave Heflin of AkzoNobel.

Residents are urged to get involved by submitting suggestions from their own communities via the Brighton Scotland website at www.brightenscotland.co.uk by the closing date on 30th November 2011. The team will then identify the most deserving community project before liaising with the relevant local authority and setting Highland to work.

Paul McCafferty added: "Colour galvanizing ensures steel remains corrosion-free and colourfast which is especially important for external structures which are exposed to the elements."

"Hopefully people will get into the spirit of the competition and get in touch with their local authorities with suggestions about how they would like to see their area brightened up."

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