

Leith Conference

Any Other Topics Day 1

- How do we create the right relationships of trust and mutual respect – with residents, businesses and decision makers?
- What would a Sounding Board for Leith Look like and who need to be involved?

Difficulties

Hidden Agendas of politician and developers
Resistance from Developers
Conflicting political aims
Political climate/decision makers change – changing policies
Lack of capacity, expertise, fatigue of residents
Competing community priorities – not one voice in any community
Transient population + people moving out
Multiple sites + issues in Leith - large and diverse area
Pace of change – lots happening very quickly
Engaging + enthusing people who don't usually take part
Lack of time, money, expertise, leadership amongst residents/community groups
Engaging local businesses, Forth Ports
Land Values – only profits matter
Gentrification and Poverty

Solutions/opportunities

Need local community Leaders/ Activists
Strong Support from Local Politicians, Community Councils and Senior Council Officers
Fun + interesting ways of doing things! (Yes)
Not always getting it right first time but keep trying [persevere]
Doing Meanwhile things – have smaller short-term goals and activities.
Opportunistic! Leith 2020, elections – linking to other events
Training, e.g. campaigning, planning issues, how the political system works, where the power lies, networking.
Value of Collaborating
Learning from other people/ successful campaigns and projects
Secure funding to cover essential costs – experts, training, publicity
Getting hold of community assets, land and buildings (Yes)