



Reflections On Community-Led Planning

David and Goliath

There is a David and Goliath aspect to many of our stories. Some community-led initiatives fail and many end in disappointment. Some groups struggle and activists can burn out. However, against the odds, CLP has led to notable successes.



Source: Docklands Community Poster Project

Achievements against the odds

Because of CLP, unwanted development has been stopped, spaces have been saved and taken into community ownership and new organisations and approaches to local economic development and planning have emerged. Often the people involved have continued to work towards place-based social justice. And even if they don't seem to succeed at the time, many of the ideas and demands of CLP continue to inspire future generations.



Community Assets in Gwynedd, Credit D Humphry

Community-Led Planning now

Today there are both challenges and possibilities for CLP. There are less resources, more professionalised NGOs, a stronger development lobby and a more fragmented planning system. New issues such as climate change and new digital methods have emerged. But there are still many groups working together to fight for a different future for their areas.



A proposal from the People's Plan set against the current landscape.

Source: Jessie Brennan



Source: Community Plan for Holloway

Where are the Spaces of Hope today?

We believe these stories from the past can provide lessons, hope and inspiration for the present. We'd like to know more about your reflections. Please put them on the next board.