

Investigations of Co-Design as an Urban Process

Katy Hawkins

Supervised by: Professor Jane Rendell

The Bartlett, MRes Inter-disciplinary Urban Design

Research Project:

- Investigation into collaborative processes and community engagement strategies – namely the approach of co-design - employed in the phase leading up to the redevelopment of Peckham Rye Station Gateway. Through an investigation into the different approaches of both 'official' and 'unofficial' actors attempting to see that the diverse community of Peckham is enabled and encouraged to engage and collaborate in a the redevelopment process.
- Exploration into the developing definition co-design' through this grounded case study and observing and participating in live processes.

Method and Output:

Carried out through a consideration of a series of events or initiatives the first of which I initiated, through practice-led research, and the remainder I participated in, during which

I adopted an approach of postcritical ethnography:

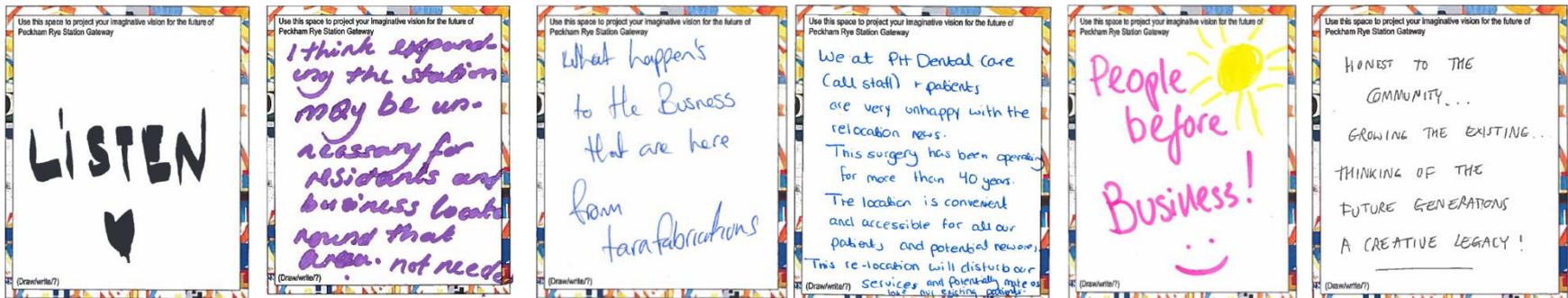
1. Participatory exhibition and accompanying talks series, 'Co-imagine the re-development of Peckham Rye Station Gateway' – a form of creative community consultation.
2. Attended, recorded and critically evaluated: weekly community model making classes hosted by Peckham Vision and meetings hosted by official team hosting the co-design process.

Conclusion and Findings:

A set of tips and guidelines I propose for co-designing processes – emergent from my engagement with the process which advocated that co-design methods should be incrementally trialled on a site-specific basis; with effective feedback mechanisms and so developing a process that is 'community-specific'.

Legacy:

- I have continued to work in the area – running creative workshops, loosely informed by principles of co-design, and writing for a a hyperlocal press publication on engagement issues – as a way to illuminate less prominent narratives in the area.
- Recently I arranged a 'Learning from London: approaches to community engagement' visit for officials from the planning department in Warsaw – which included a case study looking at the grounded application of co-design in Peckham (which involved a conversation between the official stakeholders involved).



Web Link: <http://co-imaginepeckhamryestation.tumblr.com/>