



FORTH PORTS PLC

March 19th, 2007

Leith residents create their vision of new Hub development

Local people in Leith attended a consultation weekend where they had an opportunity to get involved in the design of new development proposed at Leith Docks. Approximately 60 residents from a broad range of backgrounds attended the two day workshop over the weekend organised by Forth Properties Limited, the property division of Forth Ports PLC. The event was designed to ensure community views are reflected to help shape the ultimate look of the Hub, a proposed new office, retail and residential heart for Leith Docks, centred around Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre.

The two day event included a Saturday boat trip around Leith Docks followed by expert briefings from a number of guests including John Gosling from Hub Masterplanners RTKL, who gave an overview of the guiding principles of the development. Smaller groups were then given the opportunity to create their own designs for the area which became the key focus of the consultation. The groups used pictures of other places to inspire them and scaled cut-outs of the elements they would like to see in the Hub to build up models which represented their own personal vision for the area.

The groups were also given the opportunity to complete worksheets setting out their priorities for key aspects of the development including public areas, shopping facilities, events, attractions and landmark buildings. At the end of the sessions the groups presented their ideas to Forth Properties Managers and RTKL representatives.

The following day, participants attended a presentation fronted by John Gosling who highlighted the key themes that were shared by the group, how these could be incorporated into the Hub masterplan and the timetable for planning submission.

The event was part of Forth Properties drive to ensure the local community is actively involved in the regeneration of Leith and Granton and has its views represented in the ongoing development of the area. Later this month there will be a series of exhibitions throughout Leith highlighting the outcomes of an earlier consultation about the outline planning application for the entire Leith Docks development plan.

Michaela Sullivan, Head of Planning at Forth Ports said: "We were extremely encouraged by the quality of ideas that were generated by the local residents. The local community has a number of strong opinions on how the regeneration should progress and we are committed to ensure that the commonly shared views are reflected as we move forward with new developments. Without the involvement of the community this massive project will not be successful so I'd like to thank all those who have participated and would invite everybody with an interest in the area to get involved in future consultation activities that we will be staging."

(ENDS)

**For further information please contact Bill Shaw, BIG Partnership:
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