

Welcome to Reykjavík



Match-making seminar
Good Governance Programme
EEA Grants 2014-2021

Reykjavík city- Democracy and participation

November 2020

*Democratic
processes*

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Human Rights and Democracy Office
City of Reykjavík



+ Democracy is all around

some legally binding

User committees:

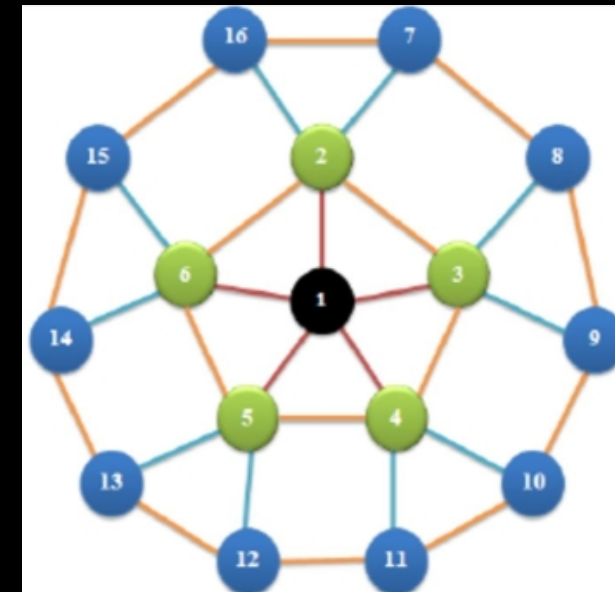
Youth council's

Students associations

The elders council

The Accessibility Consultative
Committee for People with
Disabilities

The Intercultural council



My district- PB project

Residents councils

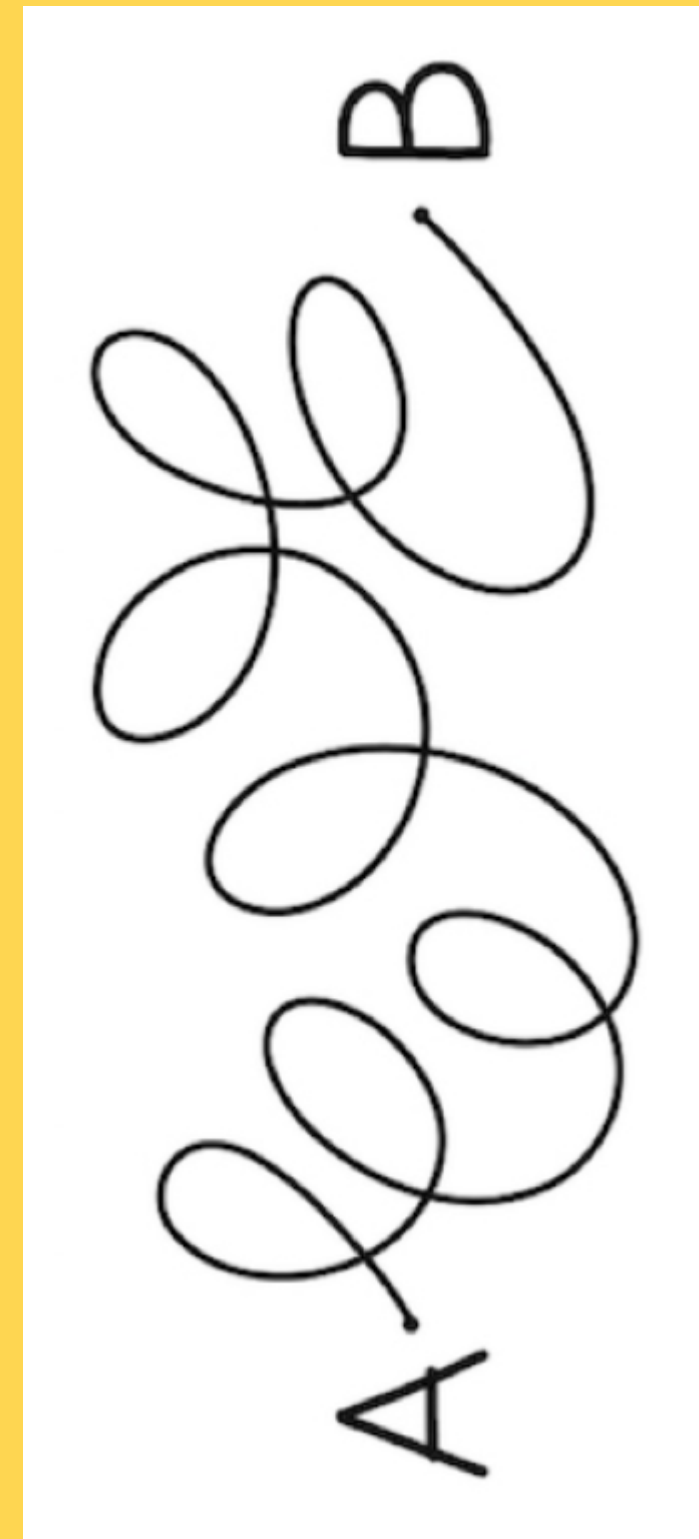
Neighbourhood planning – excessive
consultation process and application
forum

Open and transparent government –
live streaming, access to documents
and elected representatives



Democracy policy in the making

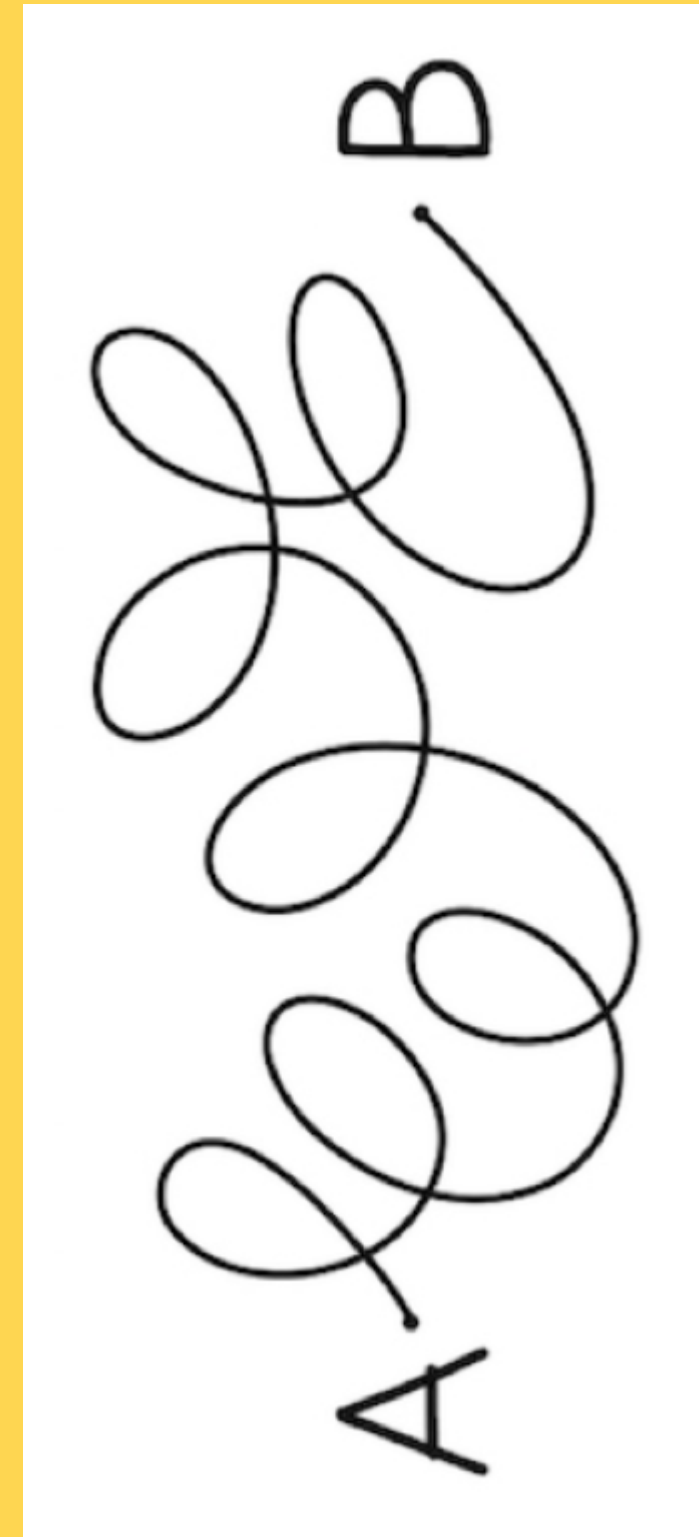
The City of Reykjavik is currently formulating its first democracy policy. The goal is to increase participation and involvement of residents as stakeholders and give them the opportunity to have a say in decision making processes. An extensive consultation process is currently underway in the policy-making process. There is an open online consultation forum on the [Better Reykjavík platform](#), where we encourage people to add their ideas about democratic processes and to comment on other's ideas.



Democracy policy

Key points:

- Dedication
- Stengthening processes
- Inclusion
- One city one policy
- Action plan
- Implementation ongoing -
information and
collaboration



Three main Gateways for citizen's participation+



My District

What would I as a citizen of my district like to see change in my everyday surroundings ? The ideas come from the citizens but is executed by the city.
Collaboration.



Better Reykjavík

Online consultation forum where collaboration takes place regarding various projects for policy making. Discussing ideas.



9 Resident's councils

Open meetings every month in each district where all interested are welcome. The councils operate as a point of contact between the city government and its residents.



Better Reykjavík
Online communication
tool



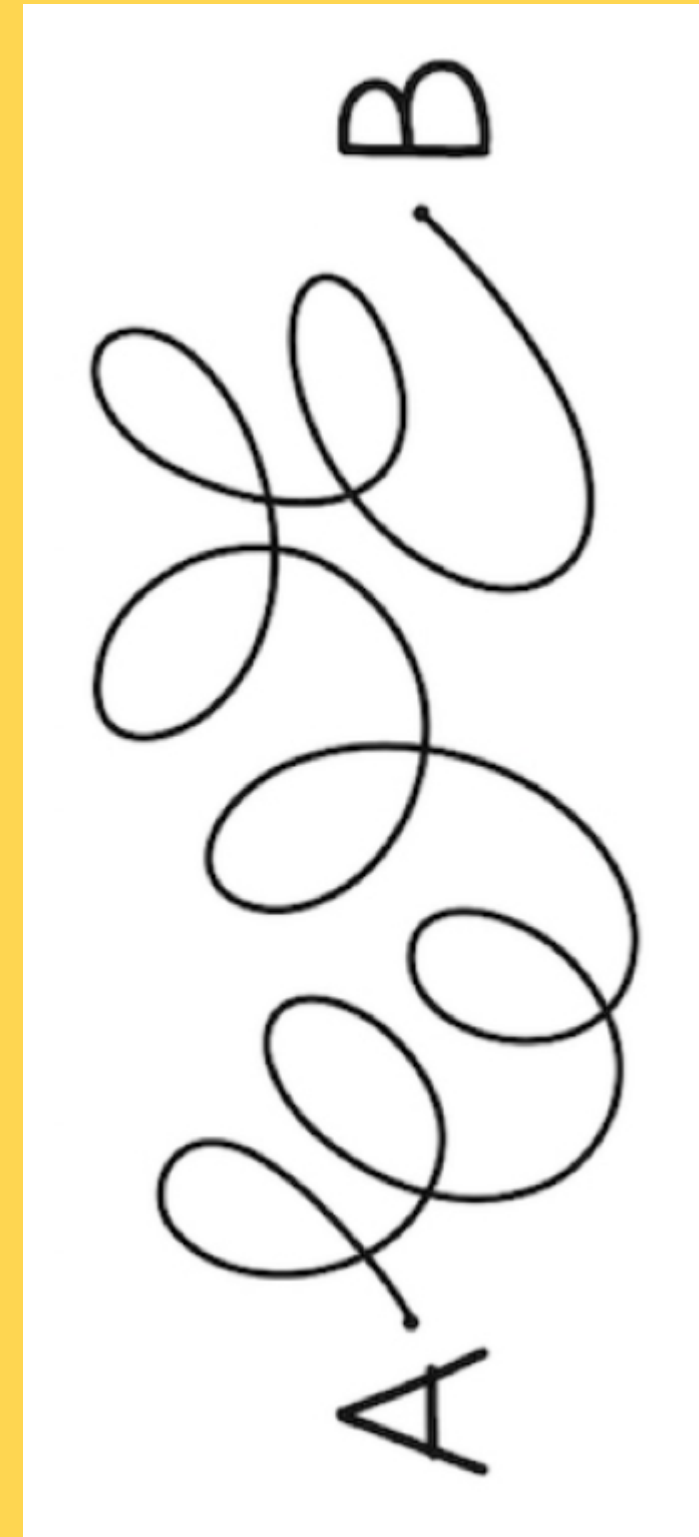
MÓTUM **OKKUR**
LÝÐRÆÐISSTEFNU

Rafrænn fundur 25.nóvember kl. 19.30
ÖLL VELKOMIN <https://reykjavik.is/lydraedisstefna>



Neighbourhood planning

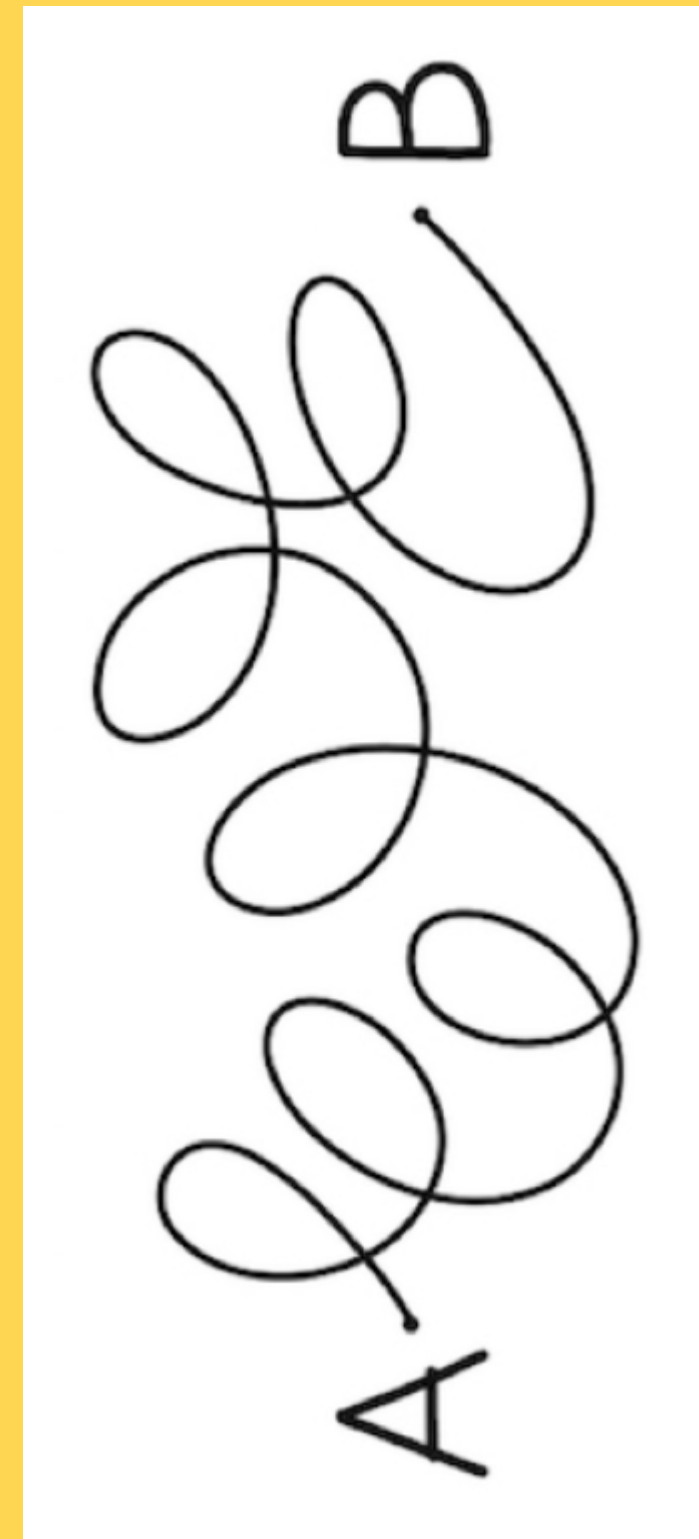
The Reykjavík Neighbourhood Plan is a new planning device that is based on the Reykjavík Municipal Plan 2010-2030. It is meant to ensure a positive future for the city by encouraging modern urban development while also making the city's districts more sustainable and environmentally conscious.



My district



Participatory budgeting project launched in 2012, 787 projects have been executed.





**HVAÐ
KÝST
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**HVERFID
MITT
KOSNING**

hverfidmitt.is



HOW DOES IT WORK?

MY DISTRICT IS A:

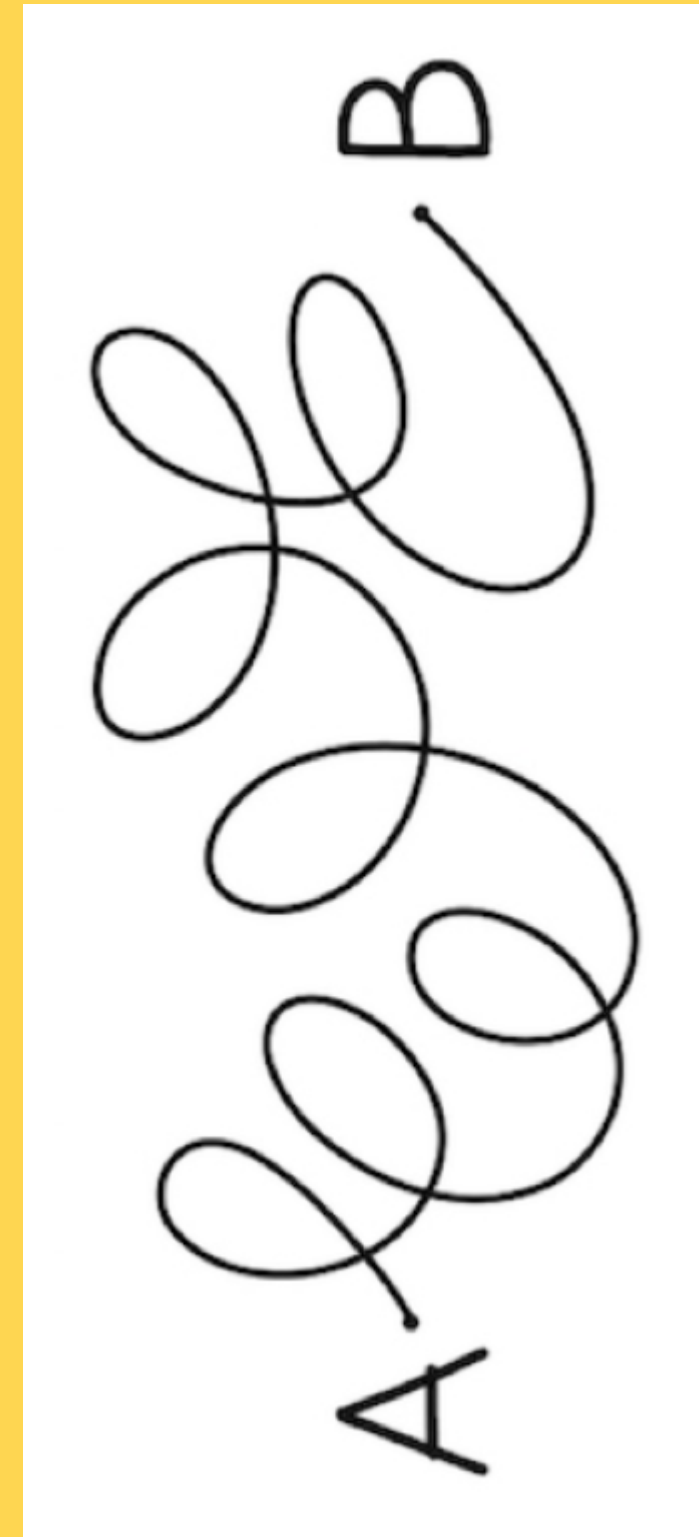
COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE CITIZEN AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION FOR PRIORITISING AND DISTRIBUTING FUNDS FOR NEW, SMALLER-SCALE PROJECTS IN THE 10 DISTRICTS OF REYKJAVÍK



2 year timeline

- Oktober – idea collecting
- November to January – administrative reviewing and selecting of valid ideas for voting
- February to March – predesigning and collaboratory work
- April to May – voting
- September to Oktober – collaboration with authors of the ideas and stakeholders
- January to September – bidding, implementing and executing

And the cycle begins again 😊



5,3 MILLION EUROS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE 10 DISTRICTS OF REYKJAVÍK

To ensure minimum amount for the smallest districts, one-quarter of the funding is divided equally among all districts. The rest is divided in direct proportion to the number of residents in each district.

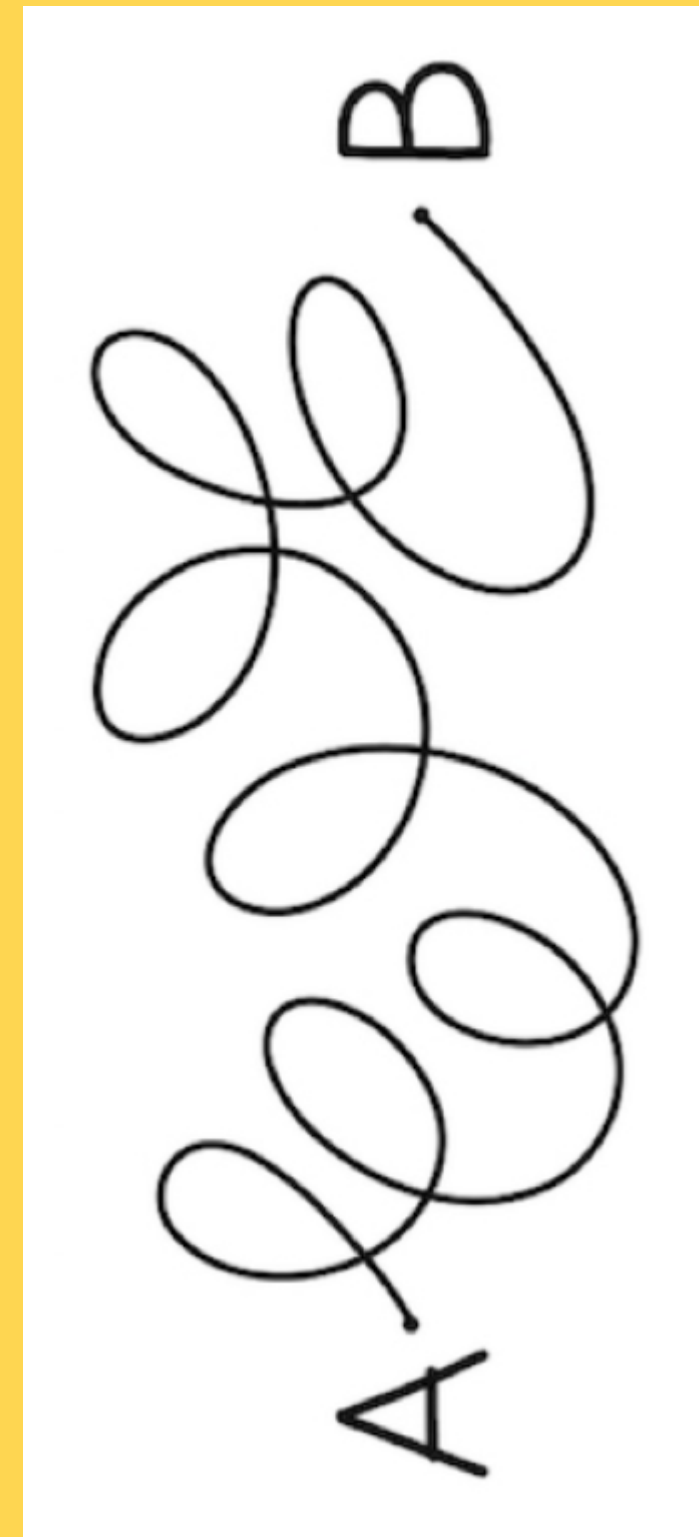


2019

Last year we completed our 8th execution of the project.

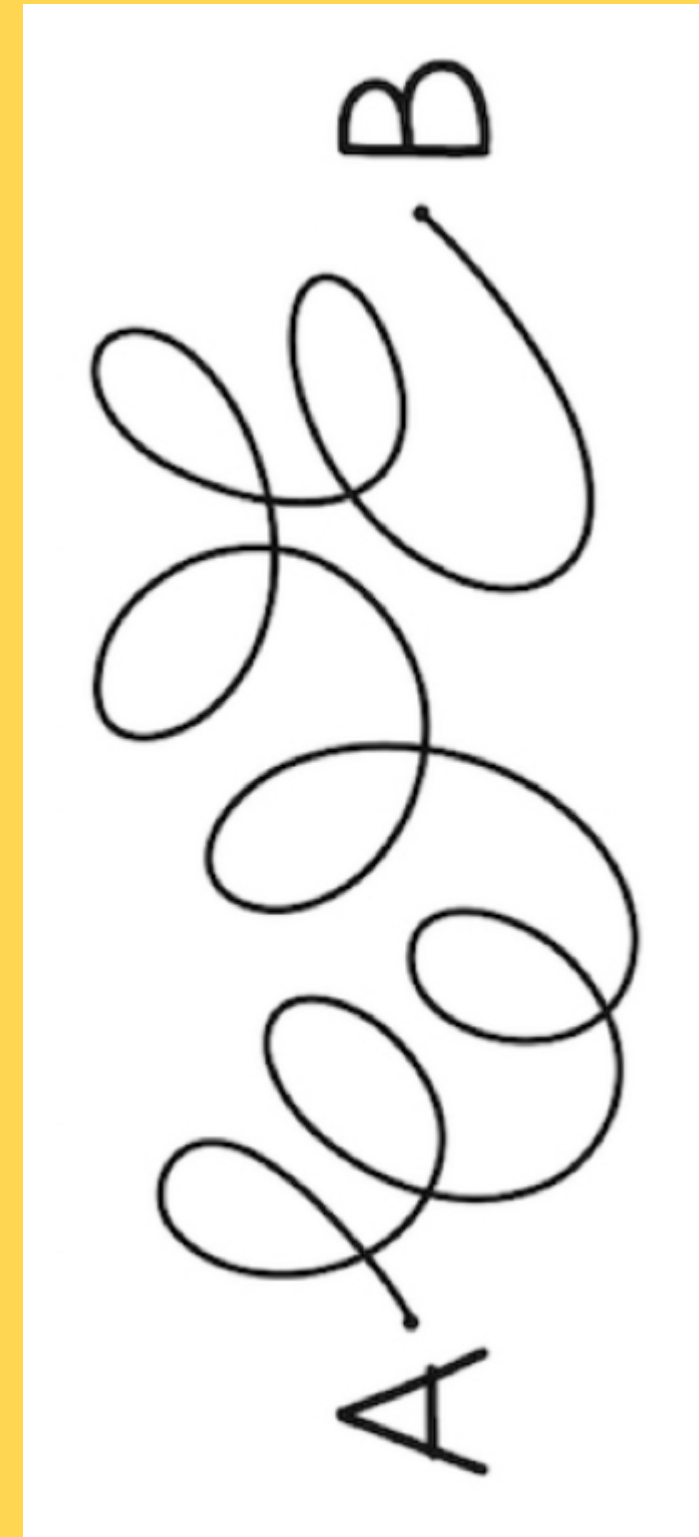
Idea generation in April with 39.000 visitors, 37% of the voting population. Total of 1054 ideas were collected which is a record number of ideas. Valid ideas where 406 and on the ballot we had 236 ideas.

Voting in November with 12,55% turnout and 91 new ideas elected.



2020

In the beginning of month we started collecting ideas for the 9th time. Already 555 ideas submitted.



OUR GROWTH

Progress over the years



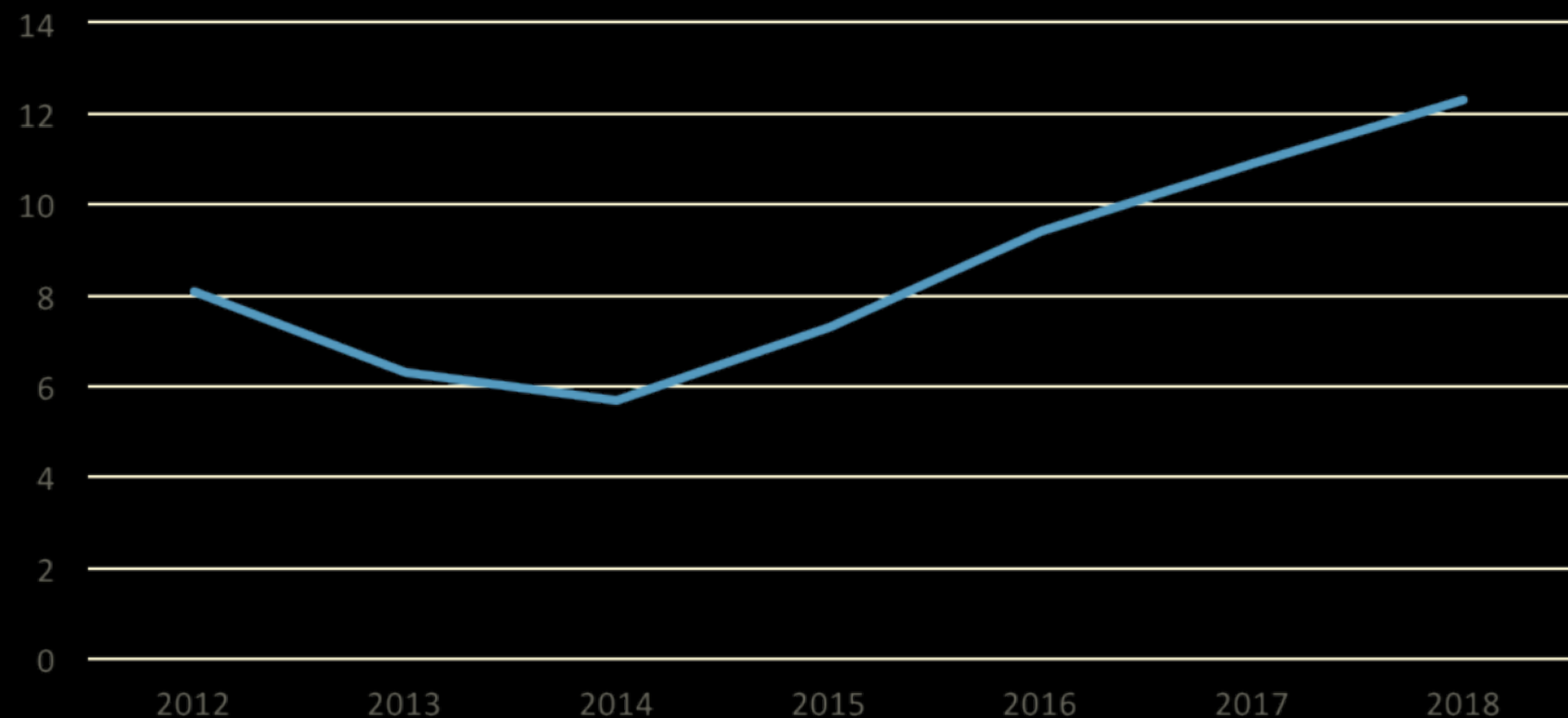
In 2018 we lowered the voting age from 16 to 15 but still managed to grow!

More conversations and stronger offline presence than ever before

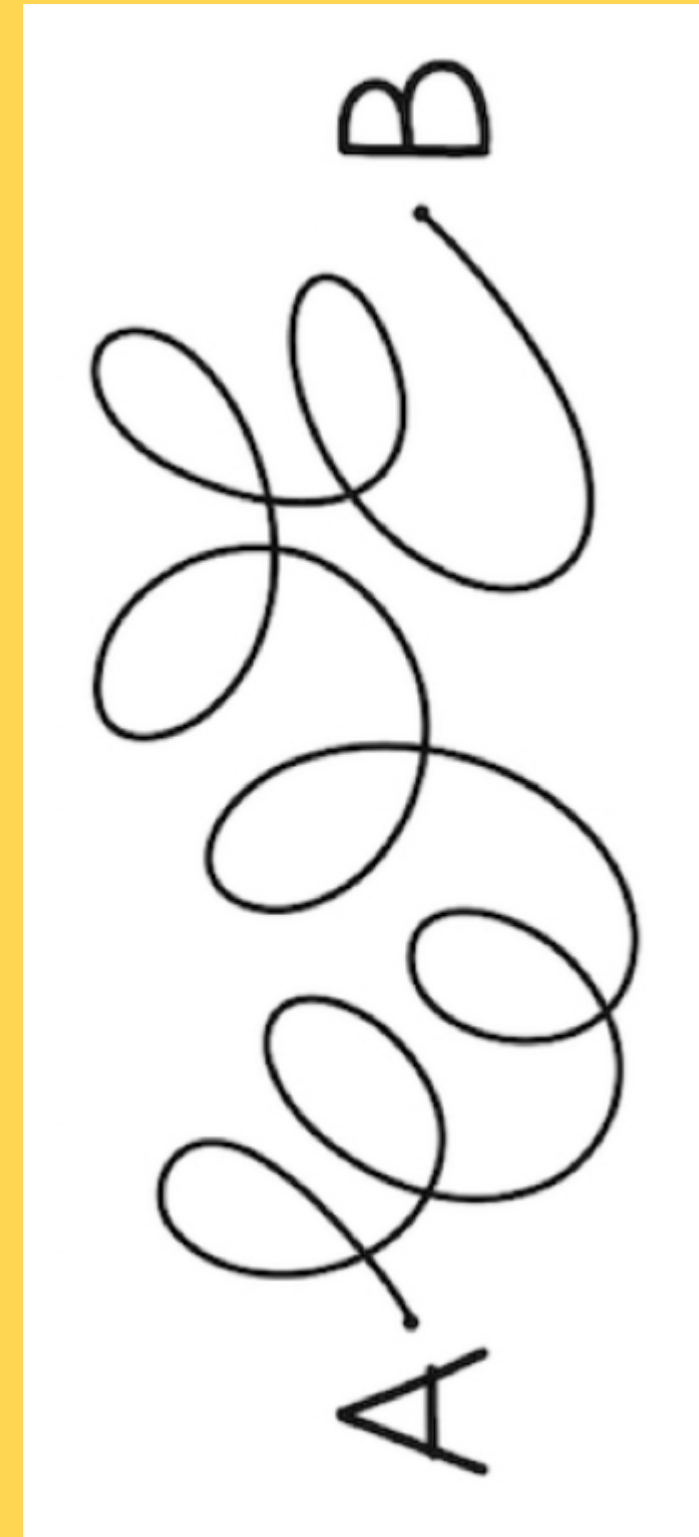
From 8,2% í 12,3%

And in 2019 12,55%

Voting participation from 2012-2018



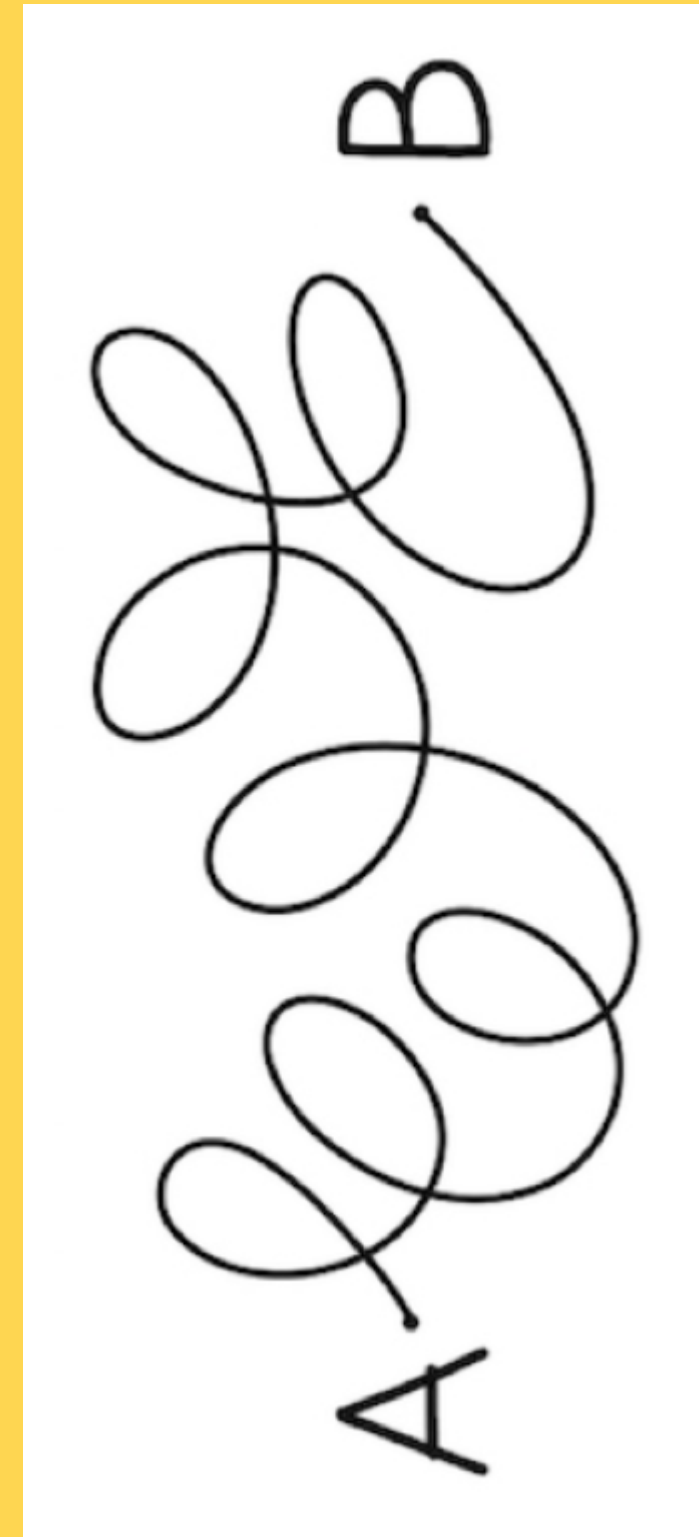
**OUR
EXPERIENCE
AND LESSONS**
about intensive
Never fully developed
Learning experience for
everyone
Hard to reach groups
beyond the „usual
suspects“
Dialogue and co-operation
is the most important part



Biggest challenges

Turnout

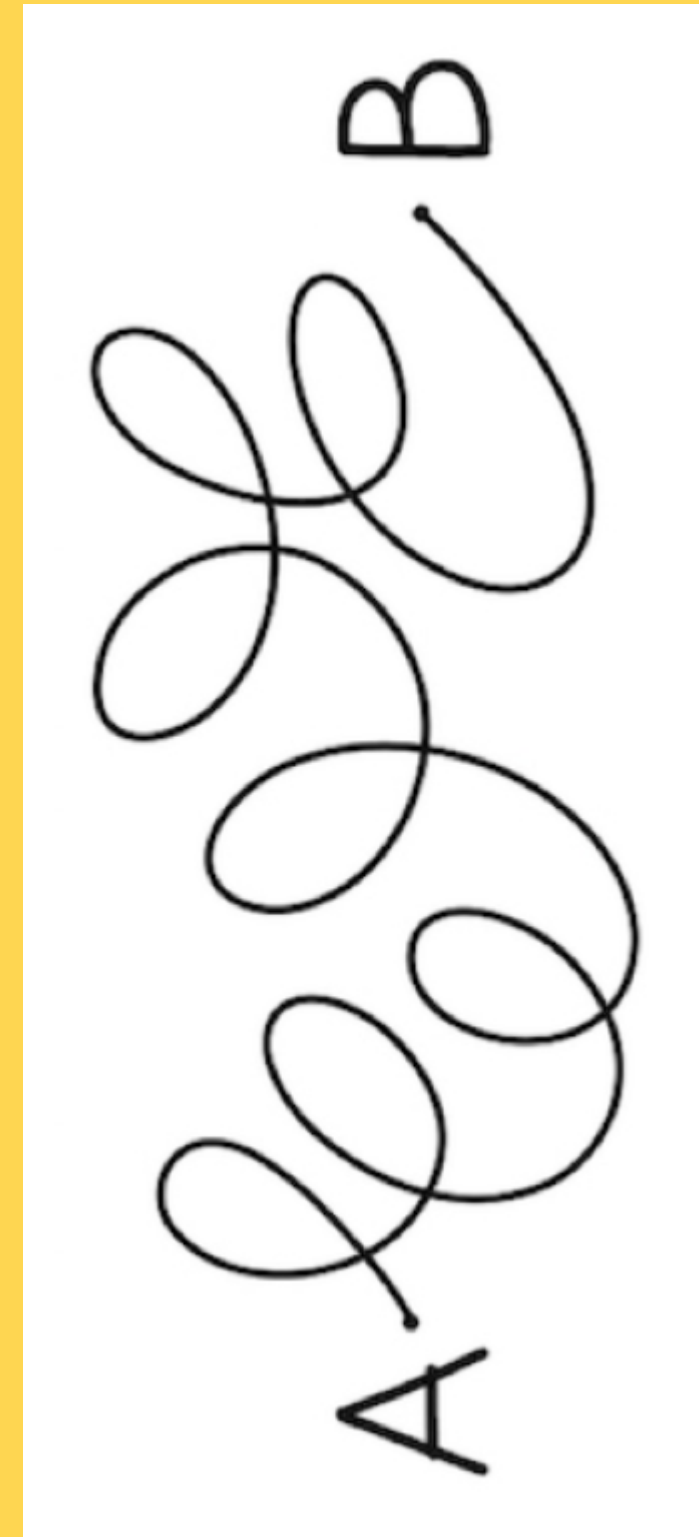
NIMBY



Added value

Great value in the
"discussion" when the
ideas are reviewed within
the administration.

The project gives both
administration and politics
a feel for the districts, how
the people feel and what
they need.

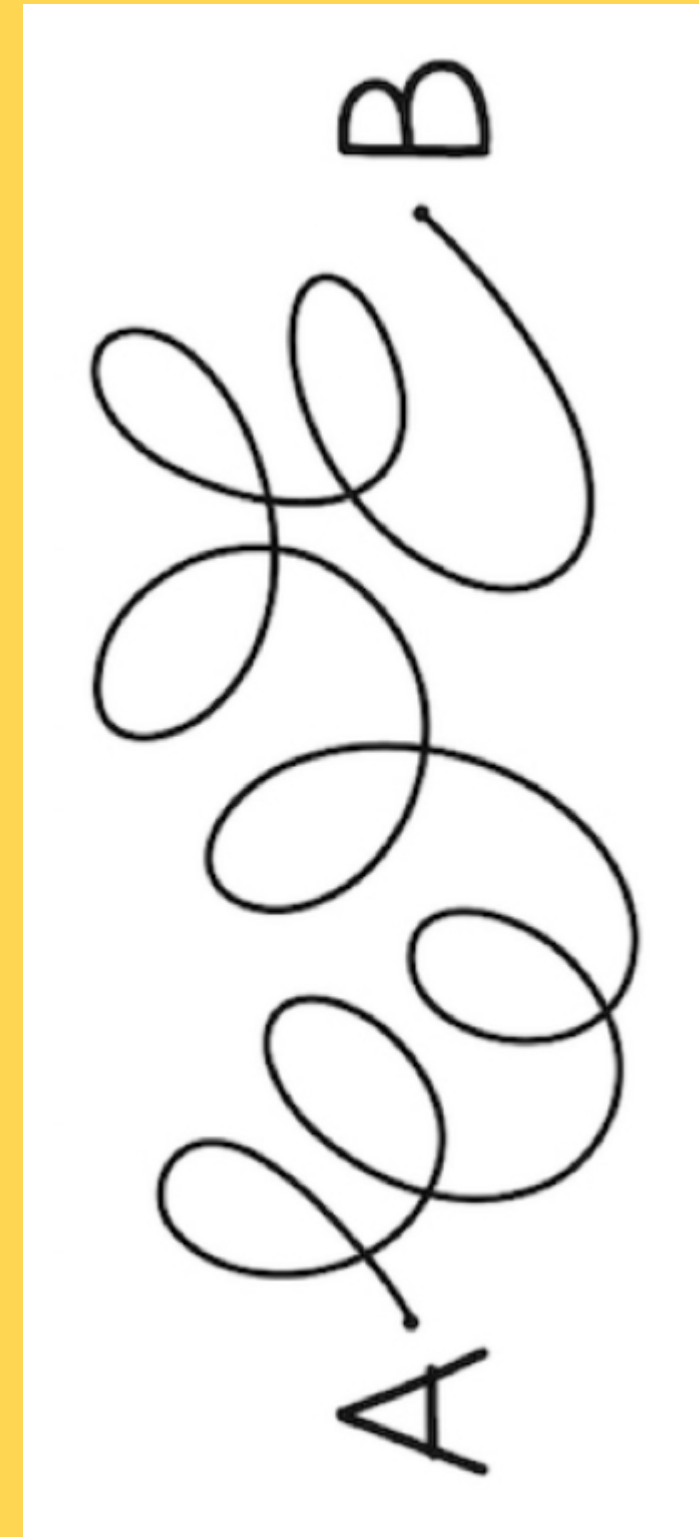


Changes 2020

Timeline
Every other year

More collaboration
throughout the system

Maintenance and security
ideas not valid in My
District; transferred to the
platform Fix it.



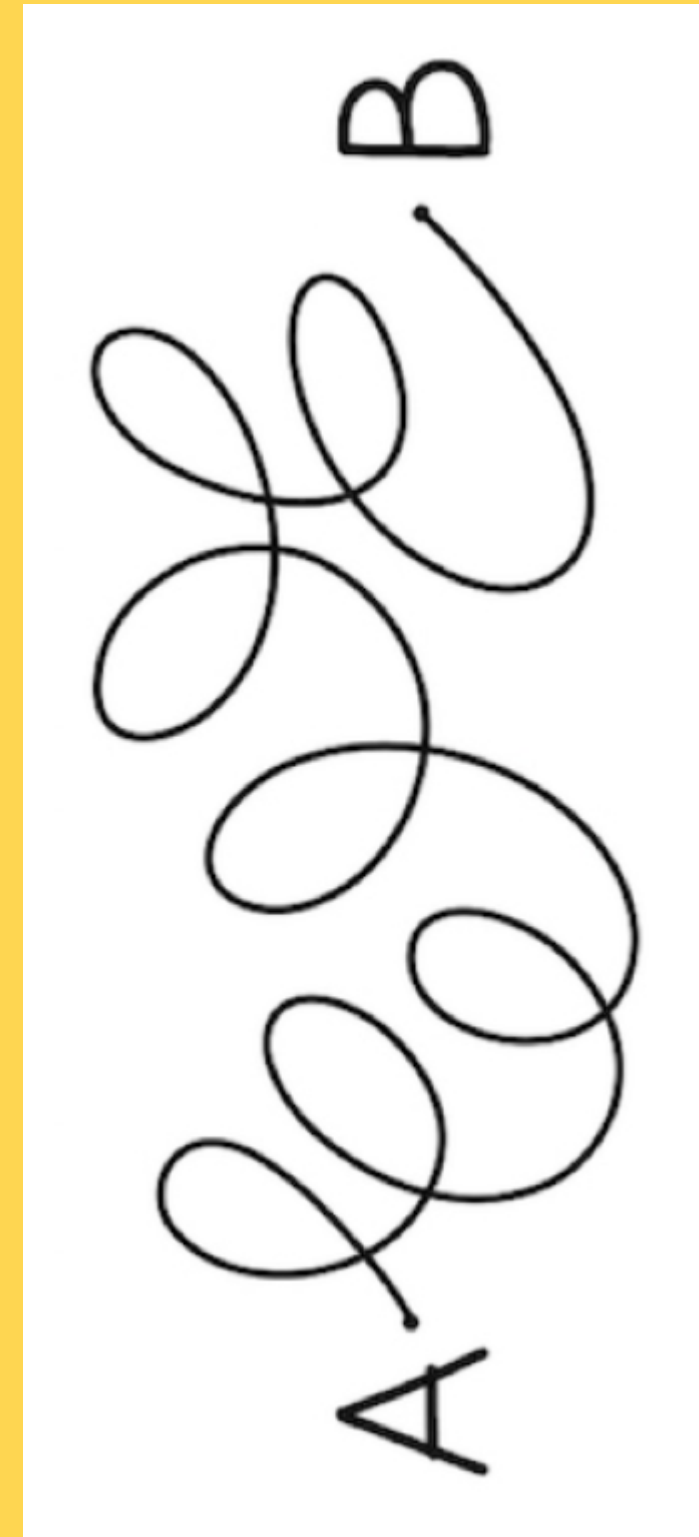
Resident's Councils and background

- A way to keep neighborhoods involved/informed
- Resident's Councils a one year old project
- Based on Neighborhood Councils that were their predecessors
- Politically elected steering group provided the foundation for new Resident's Council's
 - Three members politically appointed
 - Two members representing grassroots in each neighborhood
 - One member selected by a random choice
- Nine Resident's Councils in different city parts



Practicalities

- Each Resident Council meet once a month
- Serve as a point of contact between institutions of the municipality and each neighborhood
- Mainly a consultation and advisory platform
- Limited money spending powers
- Meetings are open, everyone can have their say or raise issues
- Great opportunity for formal institutions to gain insight into the „neighborhood soul“



Opportunities for Resident Councils

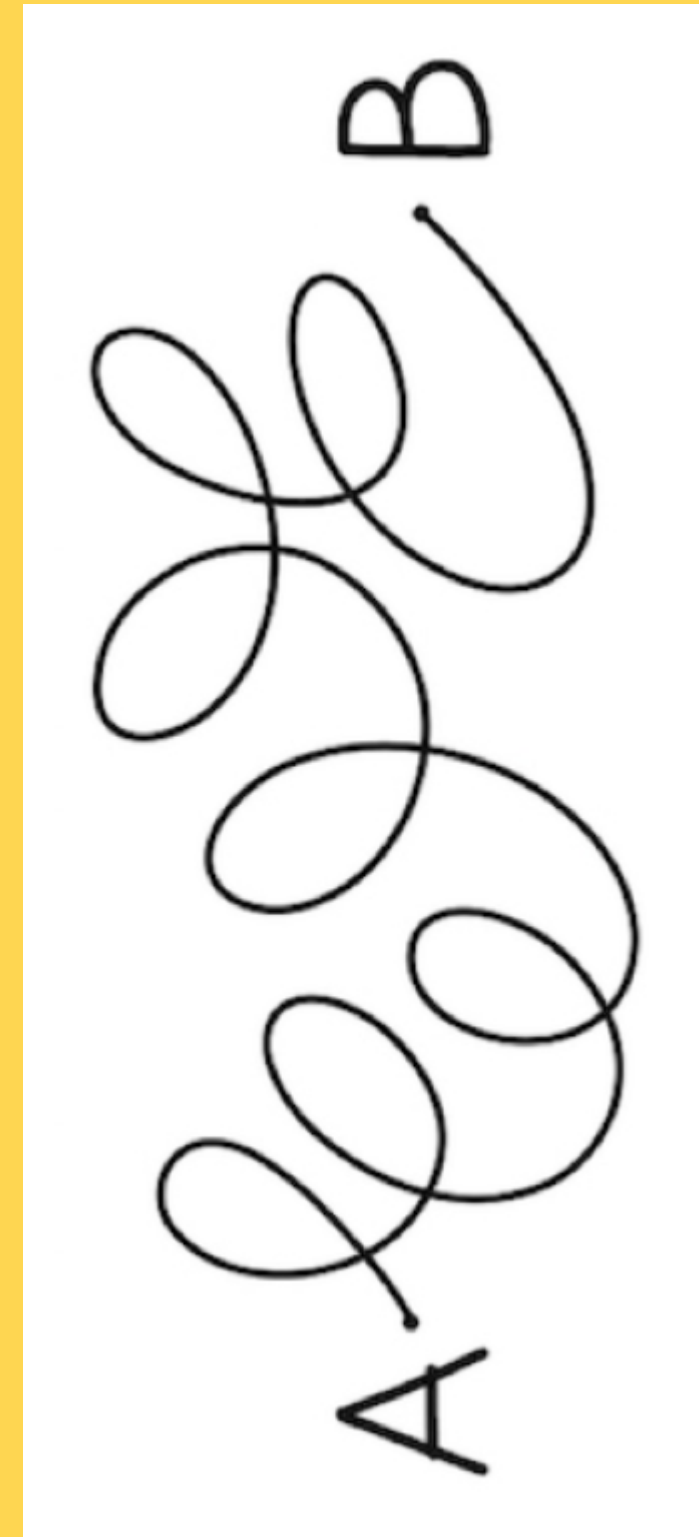
- Strengthen connections and communication between city government and it's residents
- Advisors on „neighborhood based“ services
- A say in Reykjavik's investment and maintenance plans
- Strengthening social capital in the community
- Increasing information flow
- Promoting zonal plans and a window to have their say



Challenges

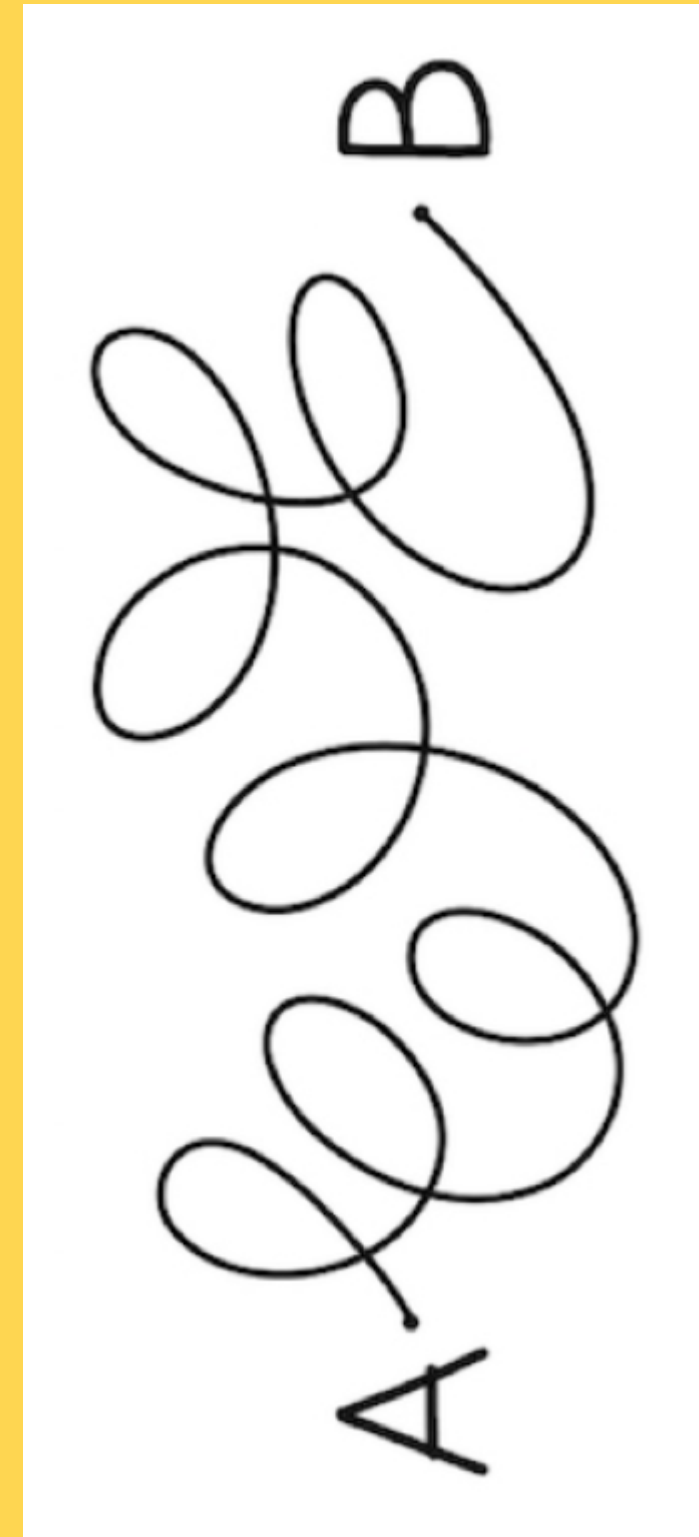
- Difficult first year with Covid but opportunities
 - Live streaming of online meetings
- Forming practices and procedures
- Very labor intensive
- A lot of communication
 - Neighborhood
 - Formal institutions of Reykjavik
- Getting everybody onboard
- Raising interest in local community and forming a „culture“ for Resident's Councils

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Thank you

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- sigurlaug.anna.johannsdottir@reykjavik.is



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