

# **Communities' role in shaping urban environment: Tallinn neighbourhoods**

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leader of the Urban Idea initiative

**EFAP conference „Public Interest in Architecture“, 12-13 Sept 2013 in Vilnius**



**Opening of the Soo street in Tallinn, 4.09.2013**



## The old Soo street:

- racing corridor with two one-way lanes
- unpleasant street for locals



## The new Soo street:

- good example of community-municipality collaboration
- human-friendly street design
- activating public life through public space

# Who was behind it?

## Telliskivi selts – neighbourhood association of two milieu districts close to the centre

Otse Kontakt Tee avaleheks RSS

Avalehele Vasta toimetusele Prindi Jaga veel

### Elanikud avasid kaua kapitaalremondis olnud Soo tänava (18)

04.09.2013 19:48

**Tallinnas otsustasid kohalikud elanikud terve suve kapitaalremondis olnud Soo tänava ise pidulikult avada.**

Soo tänav sai tegelikult valmis juba kaks nädalat tagasi, kuid linnavalitsus on otustanud selle ametlikult avada alles 16. septembril, kohalik rahvas otsustas seda aga teha täna, vahendas "Aktuaalne kaamera".

Telliskivi seltsi juhatuse liige Kaarel Kalvik ütles, et elanikud ei aja sugugi kiusu. "Asi on selles, et meie tunneme lihtsalt siirast rõõmu selle tänava üle ja kuna saime seekord ise ka kaasa rääkida selle tänava loomeloos alates lähteülesande paika panemisest, siis me tulimegi põhimõtteliselt tänu avaldama ametnikele, kes meid ära kuulasid ja meiega arvestasid," selgitas ta.

Samuti seltsi juhatusse kuuluv Juho Kalberg märkis, et see on esimene tänav Tallinnas, kus on nii palju arvestatud nende soove, kes tahtsid kaasa rääkida, ja üldiselt on kohalikud tulemusega rahul.

"Haljastus ja asjad, erinev tänavakattematerjal, ärme täna seda kirume. Muidu on tore, ruumi on. inimene saab lõpuks õue." lausus Kalberg.

Telliskivi seltsi juhatuse liikmed Kaarel Kalvik (vasakul) ja Juho Kalberg (ERR)

- Soo tänav Tallinnas avati taas liiklusele (2) 30.08.2013
- Pop-up video: Elanikud avasid kaua kapitaalremondis olnud Soo tänava

#### VÄRSKED VIDEOKLIPID

Ligi: ka buumiajal ei saanud me tulumaksuvaba miinimumi tõsta

Nestor eelarvest: riigitöötajatega tuleks sõlmida palgalepped

Aegviidu valla võimekus on läbi teinud ühe suurema töusu

#### VÄRSKED TELEUUDISED

Aktuaalne kaamera kell 21:00

Aktuaalne kaamera kell 18:30

#### VÄRSKED ARTIKLID

- Lähipäevade ilm on muutlik
- Valk: samasugust üksmeelt nagu 25 aastat tagasi ei saavutata tihti
- Eesti ja Läti rahvusballetid



**20 neighbourhood associations in Tallinn**  
with more emerging each year



# Neighbourhood associations in Tallinn (and Estonia)

- \* formed as non-government organisations, voluntary and project-based work
- \* aiming to improve the living environment, public space and neighbourly relations in self-defined areas
- \* since 2006 the „second generation“ of active neighbourhoods
- \* mostly in gentrifying neighbourhoods (Kalamaja, Pelgulinn, Uus Maailm, Kadriorg, Vanalinn) or in garden-city like suburbs (Nõmme, Pirita, Kakumäe)
- \* membership ranging from 20 to 200 people

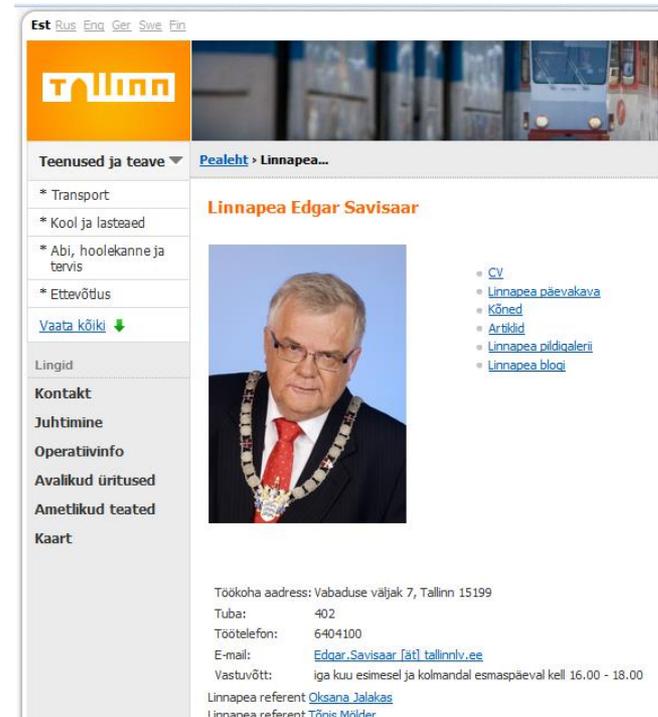
# Active neighbourhoods as the voice of common sense

- \* showing municipalities alternative ways how space is understood, shaped and used
- \* defining and re-defining the liveliness of a city, resident-friendly urban design and living
- \* thriving towards systemic change and more sustainable lifestyles
- \* **becoming the experts of local living**

# THE CONTEXT:

## the mayor of Tallinn and his huge propaganda machine

- no real interest to collaborate with associations – „participation“ has become a swear word
- active citizens are seen as pesky disturbers, not as potential collaborators
- majority of land in private ownership – the city government not leading spatial planning processes
- weak collaboration culture



The screenshot shows the official website profile for the Mayor of Tallinn, Edgar Savisaar. At the top, there is a navigation bar with language options: Est, Rus, Eng, Ger, Swe, Fin. Below this is the Tallinn logo and a banner image of a bus. The main content area features the name "Linnapea Edgar Savisaar" in orange text. To the right of the name is a portrait of the mayor. Below the portrait is a list of links: CV, Linnapea päevakava, Kõned, Artiklid, Linnapea pildigalerii, and Linnapea blogi. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with categories: Teenused ja teave (with a dropdown arrow), \* Transport, \* Kool ja lasteaed, \* Abi, hoolekanne ja tervis, \* Ettevõtlus, Vaata kõiki (with a dropdown arrow), Lingid, Kontakt, Juhtimine, Operatiivinfo, Avalikud üritused, Ametlikud teated, and Kaart. At the bottom right, contact information is provided: Töökoha address: Vabaduse väljak 7, Tallinn 15199; Tuba: 402; Töötelefon: 6404100; E-mail: [Edgar.Savisaar@tallinnlv.ee](mailto:Edgar.Savisaar@tallinnlv.ee); Vastuvõtt: iga kuu esimesel ja kolmandal esmaspäeval kell 16.00 - 18.00. Below this, it mentions "Linnapea referent [Oksana Jalakas](#)" and "Linnapea referent [Tõnis Mölder](#)".

# THE OUTCOME:



**Linnaidee (Urban Idea)** is the initiative of Tallinn's neighbourhood associations in which the foundations for future collaboration between residents' associations and Tallinn city government will be framed.

**Expected results of the initiative:**

- **defining neighbourhood associations as local experts**
- **signing good will act of cooperation between the associations and the city government (with the new city council in November 2013)**
- **better knowledge and information exchange between different neighbourhoods**

**[www.linnaidee.ee](http://www.linnaidee.ee)**

**Examples of communities shaping living environment**

## Professorite Küla Seltsis

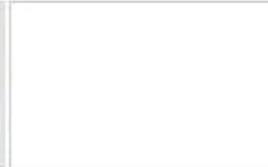
03.08.2012

### Meediaga seotud artiklid

"President väisas Professorite küla",  
Postimees, 4. august 2012



f Soovita 350 President Ilves külastas Professorite Küla Seltsi  
@ Aldo Mett



**‘Branding’ places & neighbourhoods**  
in Professors’ Village, Kopli, Tallinn



**Working with streetscape, protecting the rights of the  
'minorities' (pedestrians, bikers)**

**Baby pram ride in Kalamaja, May 2012**



## Promoting local economy models

Local food markets, flea markets & street cafes during festivals



## **Defining local collaborative democracy**

**Discussion series between city officials, experts and local residents**



## Protecting milieu values

Karlova association's (Tartu) public space committee



## Reclaiming public space

Public sauna party in Kalarand, close to the centre of Tallinn, in July 2012

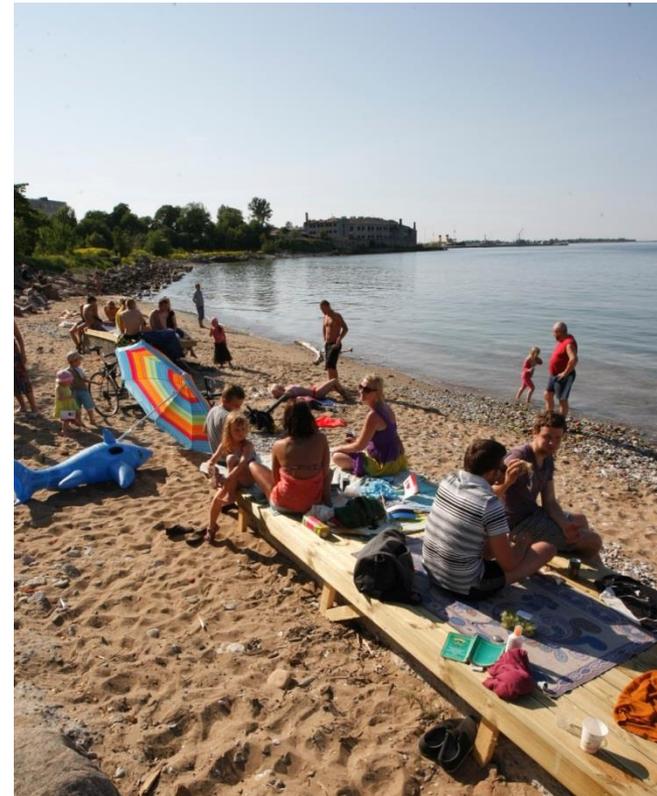
# Kalarand case: how the local community has influenced the detailed plan



# Official plan of Kalarand (originating from 10 years ago):



# Alternative ideas for Kalarand:



**Welcome to Tallinn to discover and discuss more!**

**Teele Pehk**

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