

1. What's the big idea?

-Evaluative

- ranking ideas
- self-critical
- always question the 'big idea'

-Vision events

- how to create a vision in a wider group
- big group: slow but leads to dissipation
- small group: fast
- depends on group type/event
- creative spaces/social centre space

-Problem of leaders

- one persons big idea
- vulnerable if this person leaves
- how to avoid this, e.g. NBA India

-Process

- transparency of process, how to train and educate a wider group
- create different groups, divide tasks and increase participation

-Transparency

- incentivise participation or set threshold (barriers/time/money)????
- define clearly what is/is not your concern
- get input from your community, have your channels open
- needs time
- stay in the loop
- participatory appraisal
- group agreement
- document history of decisions
- clear minutes of decisions
- not just words
- clarity on words/misrepresentation

-For everyone or for self interest?

- looking for existing groups visits to them
- self-selecting
- looking for existing groups and visiting them

- need to keep nagging council
- good plan with small group so don't compromise
- different groups coming in later will change idea

-Translation-different ways of stating aims

-words and images

-for those sustaining project

- self-selecting
- just for those with your values?
- boundaries
- large scale

-Evolution of idea

- flexible/adaptable
- conscious process
- David Fleming: Spiral Thinking, lean thinking
- expand and include a wider audience (Ken Wilbur)
- positioning ideas
- Ken Wilbur
- Joanna Macey

-Systems thinking

- arrive naturally.
- feedback
- key people v wider group.
- balance between them
- inclusive v exclusive
- PEST analysis
- holistic
- holons???
- connected
- feedback

-Be clear on next/achievable steps

- small, manageable chunks
- avoid stagnation
- root causes for ideas not symptoms
- create ideas and brainstorm sessions
- ranking ideas
- focus

-Different levels of participation

- acknowledge what exists, magnify it, not replicate it
- justice/values
- community/love
- party politics/party members
- transparency/different levels of involvement
- getting people talking
- not out of the blue
- need to bring people together

2.How will you resource your group?

- mutual aid

-Building blocks

- what you already do
- materials already used etc.
- effective/people resourcing
- SMART goals

-Continual update

- avoid stagnation
- evolution

- flexibility
- sliding scales of involvement
- adapting ideas to what is available

-Networking

- other groups
- sharing
- resources

-Long term outcomes

- not just what's achievable now

-Non-monetary resources

- energy
- skills
- experience
- LETS schemes
- Time bank (hour by hour)
- Freeganism
- Freecycle
- Freeconomoy: skills shares, land, tools

-Legal

- constitution
- limited company?
- co-operative?

-Financial

- loan stock
- credit union

-Ethics

- where do we get resources from?
- need to consider ethics in process (e.g. using open source, ethical banking etc) in all aspects
- transparency (what will happen to the money/resources? who will deal with it etc)

-Feasibility study

- financial model
- speculation/needs
- data analysis
- learn from other projects

-Volunteers

- burn out
- hierarchy
- core group v occasional (range of involvement for different levels of time etc)

-Membership base

- using resources already in our networks before looking to exterior sources (money/skills etc)
- good for sustainable group work: needs group cohesion and independence from exterior

groups

- empowerment of group to learn more
- capitalising on what we have
- being realistic about limits
- being ambitious!
- regular contributions

-Sharing equipment

- Beg/borrow/steal**
- appropriacy**
- using what's available**
- gifts in kind**
- universities**
- social centres/community spaces**

-Research local resources

- facilities
- outreach function
- being flexible
- local businesses
- council

-Fund-raising

- proposals
- revenue costs
- building communities
- money
- street fund-raising
- skill share
- proposals
- revenue costs
- awareness raising at the same time
- lots of small amounts
- grants for capital costs

-Organisational structure

- skills and structures
- autonomous working groups
- wish list
- good planning
- transparency
- facilitation
- advice/seeking professional guidance
- lists of skills/resources etc
- sharing information with wider networks

3.What legal structure will you use?

- transparency
- accountability

-Ltd £250

- for business purposes mainly

- NGO
- share holders

-Community interest
-social enterprise

- Charity** £
- education+ other act
 - 5 trustees out of the org to rule
 - 6 months to establish
- Cooperative company** £500
- CDA
 - owned by workers

-Limited liability partnership £25

- good member agreement

- Land trust**
- land and housing and farming
 - LILAC
 - shared ownership

- Unincorporated voluntary association**
- direct democracy
 - social centre network
 - citizens advice bureau
 - guides: "cultivating cooperatives", "keeping it legal"
- appropriateness (matching structure to size and need)

4.What group process will you use?

- Mediation**
- framework
 - designated person to facilitate face to face meetings

- Organised management**
- mandate for organised management
 - delegation
 - rotation/election equal rights
 - core membership-to make certain decisions
 - interested parties

- Transparency**
- documentation
 - finances
 - open source
 - open organisations
 - viable systems
 - model guide

-Responsibility and aims of groups

- manifesto
- constitution
- group charter
- clear purpose
- roles can be set out
- tyranny of structurelessness
- be aware of informal hierarchies
- define/acknowledge the structure

- social relationships between people
- how do things get done?
- power dynamics
- open space

-Wider communication

- email lists
- website
- outreach
- training
- skill-share workshops
- popular education to develop better quality process
- consensus decision making
- induction to the organisation process
- open meetings
- minutes
- consensus decision making
- working groups > whole group
- the group agrees decisions about structural framework

-Models for how groups make decisions

- what group process will we use?
- research
- flat system of decision making
- balance between moving stuff forward when participation so fluid, with functions of small tight unit
- Indigenous processes of decision making. Western models of decision making (CDM) can exclude marginalised communities because of Eurocentric consensus model which can feel very 'ends' orientated

-Social relationships between people

- group processes you use will depend on building and monitoring good relationships
- looking at power dynamics
- strategies, techniques: non-violent communication, psychology, facilitation workshops.

5.Dealing with buerocracy and paperwork

-Workflow

- paid work v voluntary work
- administration

- archiving

-Professionals

-volunteering their experience too (they are part of the group)

-Outreach

- avoid overload of knowledge on website/flyers
- avoid sending too many emails
- seek advice from people with relevant knowledge

-Business plan

- clarity of vision
- search on-line for examples
- in house skill building
- education

-Specific tasks for groups and individuals

- sharing the load
- support and acknowledgement

-Transparency

- strategic transparency
- avoiding unnecessary leapfrogging or bureaucracy

-Local authorities

- in touch with them about legal requirements
- HSE
- utilities
- eco options
- self-generation
- business rates and discounts
- type of organisation

6. Getting others involved and reaching out?

-Communication strategies

- using pictures
- translation
- accessible (music, films at local cinema)
- simple, recognisable logo

-Events

- stall at community events
- inclusive
- creating networks
- partnerships
- stall at community events
- diverse approaches

-Media

- futerra tips for us
- human story
- 32 word press release (short and sweet, who, what, where, why?)
- media liaison person

- media policy
- positive, sexy fund-raising

-IT

- priority on electronic but also use paper
- email
- websites
- blogs
- social networking
- social media
- NGO and resources

-Publication

- welcome pack for newly involved
- orientation session

-Levels of involvement

- volunteers/paid staff
- membership
- where? Separate meetings, diversify and try to be inclusive, move out of comfort zone
- hierarchies

-Talking to people

- 2 way communication
- local area
- friends
- street
- helping others do this
- linking to groups and seeking other groups that are similar and different

-Where do people spend their time?

- start locally
- innovative promotion
- banner drops
- workplace
- unions
- pubs
- home (door to door, spoof Mormons, leaflets, events)
- church (spoof church?!) synagogues etc
- schools
- youth groups

-Methods

- street theatre
- street art
- look at the skills in your group and prioritise

-Protecting the group although you are inclusive

- consensus (as a means of ejecting spies etc)
- membership policy
- trial period for membership?

-Something to do for new people

- supporting new people, buddy system
- join a working group, delegate workload
- preserving a functional organisational structure that is flat and hierarchical

7.How will you sustain your organisation?

-Issue

- young people
- moving on/restless/individualistic/sticking for long term

-Solutions

- including a range of generations getting people settled in the community
- students: People and Planet, keeping in touch with mailing lists
- training
- tea and empathy
- feeding people
- regular breaks

-Viable systems model

- operational units
- conflict resolution
- synergy -internal eye
- forward planning -strategy -external eye
- identity; shared purpose
- on-line systems guide
- shared ways of affirming that visioning/celebration/meditation/personal level engagement avoiding burn out

-Setting new goals to move on

-Structures/rules umbrella network

- stay constant even when people involved change
- not static
- initiators aims to step back and pass over to community
- welcome pack making clear
- how to dissolve /what to do with assets
- constitution
- admin role
- funding

-Staffing

- volunteers? Coordinators?
- cooperatives part time staff to do 'core work' be 'institutional memory', cooperative does the rest. (don't advertise; under the radar).
- when nearly collapsed because of no rent.
- work-jobs fulfilling
- financial? Grants? Income generation?

-Co-counselling

- healing with disapproval
- family
- spirituality

- training in active listening skills/crisis skills support networks
- creating supportive environment for sharing emotions
- face to face

-Relational roles

- relieve pressure
- police representative/liaison
- police seen as people
- understand structure
- talk to those who make decisions

-Having good materials

- not reinventing the wheel
- explain aims etc
- separate work life balance
- meet new people
- networking
- celebrate what we have achieved 'milestones'
- avoid stagnation
- golf course/pub chats
- eat meals together, provided by organisation
- feedback system

-How long to exist for? What if you succeed?

- feedback system
- build in evaluation?
- sharing vision so doesn't collapse?
- is there still a need?