

+ GROUP PROCESS



Consensus

Consensus is the most inclusive form of decision-making. However it is sometimes misunderstood and can become tyranny by the dissenter!

As we see it, all participants have the right to be heard, but not to veto. The dissenting voice must either ask for time to make a better case, or else step aside and agree not to impede implementation.

We use a powerful but simple system using coloured cards for facilitating discussion and making decisions. This coloured cards method is used at Earthsong and allowed a group of ordinary people to create a major innovative housing development. Who says consensus doesn't work!

+ Our Communication Agreements

1. I will use "I" statements, and speak for myself, not others
2. I will speak succinctly (short and to the point)
3. I will take responsibility for owning and naming my own feelings
4. I will respect others' rights to speak without interruption
5. I undertake to respect other's privacy by not discussing outside the group other people's personal issues, which may arise within the group process
6. I undertake to value and respect different contributions and perspectives of all individuals
7. I undertake to keep relationships within the group clear by dealing with any problematic issues directly with the persons concerned.
8. I recognise that we work best together when we remember to have fun!