

Sheet ④ The basics

Common Good Awareness Project –Farmhouse Resource Centre

What is an Independent Resource Centre?

An independent resource space is a place we can meet, find out about things that are of concern to us and the community. Information that is not easily available elsewhere. Where we can meet discuss, organise and plan community activity. All kinds of community activity.

Why do we need them?

There is so much going on around us that is having a profound effect on how we live. Much of the changes abroad are having a devastating effect on community infrastructure. Much of the time the community is locked out of the debate about things that will affect them the most. We are also sometimes encouraged to worry about things that have no concern to us. An IRC is a space where we can meet discuss and produce representative documentation both of our concerns and solutions that could go towards answering these concerns that are favourable to the community interests. Here we can also examine that which on the surface looks worthy, but further down the road could be detrimental to community interests.



How do we create them

We first look around to see what we have first. What work is going on. What other institutions we could join, help, collaborate with, set up coalitions, form a vision of aims and structures that allow participation. Find out the work we do not need to repeat. Flood the community with information to build capacity, assess interest. Use the resources we already have and are available to us to redefine and strengthen core issues and what our resource wishes to both develop and challenge.

How will we decide what they are for

We write up a manifesto that encompasses our aims and goals through the process of organising and putting together of such spaces. We can start with basic human needs and proceed from there. "Everyone has the right to work, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection for himself and his family [and] an existence worthy of human dignity.. everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care." Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948