

Independent Resource Centre Govan

Sheet ⑤ Who is the project for?

Common Good Awareness Project –Farmhouse Resource Centre

This project is for folk who want to engage in their community. Who are needing information on what happens around them. How they can access resources in there community and where these resources are. Also. Questioning and understanding how decisions are made. Building community resources. Working with others and building community solidarity and networks. Working with other communities in shared problem solving. For instance. How do we improve facilities and involvement of young folk in helping to build, support and take responsibility for their own projects and community infrastructure. How do we set up mentoring programs, connecting young with old, lost skills, new skills. Create community documentation, historical background, recognising achievements and expanding our knowledge base.



What's it got to do with me?

We are living in an era of austerity. The first things that disappear in these times are the resources of those who need them most. Many of these things disappear because many communities are even unaware of their existence, or we are fooled into giving them up, or they are just taken with no reference to ourselves. (Example Common Good Fund) We need to ask. Do you think things will get better on their own? Should we leave things up to those who have more interest in the well being of banks? Do you sometimes feel isolated and that you are the only one with these kind of worries?

In times of cuts, job lose and shortage, there is an very understandable tendency for folk to look inward and look after the family unit. But we can not change things in isolation. 99.9% of social change has been achieved by the opposite, solidarity. Many of the developments in communities, through austerity measures; commercialisation, television, shopping, debt, resource closure, and such like, increases isolation.

In times of austerity there is a need for self determined communities and institutions that represent community interests. The Farmhouse, with participation from the community could be one such place. The thing is, things are tough for people and they are going to get tougher. This project is not about telling folk how to solve their problems or about making life a bit easier for them. It is about trying to set up structures that might help folk do that themselves. It is about looking at setting up some basic uncontroversial principals and aims that we can agree upon that will help to build solidarity. The solidarity that will be needed if we are to get any kind of real and lasting change.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH