

cymunedau bach dyffryn tywi

towy valley small communities

membership

- living, working or involved in the Towy Valley

aim

- provide services, facilities, supplies or products which promote and/or are within the ethos of the Transition movement for the benefit of the members, e.g.
 - services which are not provided elsewhere because they are not economic but which have other benefits such as local development and resilience, the substitution of finite resources with renewable ones, removal of debt dependence
 - services which are provided but which can be provided in a more sustainable way in competition with the other providers
 - services which can be provided locally rather than remotely
 - services which don't rely on the exploitation of other people

philosophy

- the services, facilities etc. will be provided through subscription to each individual project
- projects are to be run with a view to the overall benefit to the community
 - whilst they need to be economically viable they need not aim to be economic in that it may be considered beneficial to employ members of the community rather than purchase the same service more cheaply elsewhere or if they rely on renewable energy rather than fossil fuels

administration

- day to day by executives/specialists - e.g. a treasurer to oversee finances, a secretary to oversee bureaucracy etc. but no committee other than the entire membership
- decisions on direction, projects and roles to be taken by the entire membership
- one person, one vote, what constitutes a quorum?
- project and special responsibilities are held collectively and oversight responsibility can be taken on an ad-hoc basis. Projects will be actioned by a project group but whilst its recommendations generally will be expected to be confirmed by the membership, decisions will still be the responsibility of the membership.
- security concerns - what is not acceptable - conversion to capitalist principles, for example
 - how to avoid intentional or unintentional wrecking strategies
 - how to avoid stagnation, oscillation
 - probably not worth worrying about; these will be avoided by having a suitably robust democratic system (e.g. 66% majority) and/or consensus decision making practices

financing

- membership subscriptions to cover non-project costs and to build-up a general projects fund on a regular basis and equally from all members. Funding to get projects started will be determined at the inception of each project; if everyone agrees, it will be funded by everyone, increasing the next subscription cost. If not, then investment subscriptions may be offered and terms defined at that point, shares, donations etc. Generally on the basis of "this is how we did it for such-and-such a project".
- investment subscriptions to develop a project to operational status
 - investors' benefit is the use of the facility either at no subscription for a period or at a beneficial subscription or priority.
 - who subscribes?
 - what happens if a project is cancelled with assets?
 - what happens if a member withdraws (moves away, objects to changes)?
 - these questions seem to lead to a "share" concept for this kind of funding
- operational subscriptions to use the facilities of a project at a beneficial rate
- facilities available to non-members at an unsubscribed rate
- what about people with a too-low income?

ownership of assets

- only an issue for specific projects with limited investment subscribers - otherwise all assets belong to the union and will be donated to local charities if it is wound-up.
- do we own according to investment?
- do we not own and any outstanding assets must be donated to local charities?

projects

- projects to be operated as a workers' co-operative
- subscribed to by members who receive the service at a preferential rate and with priority
- always available to non-members but at cost (plus) and after members have been serviced