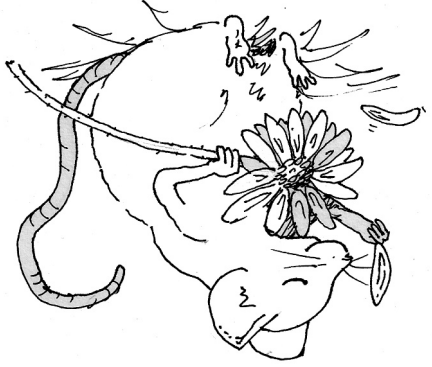


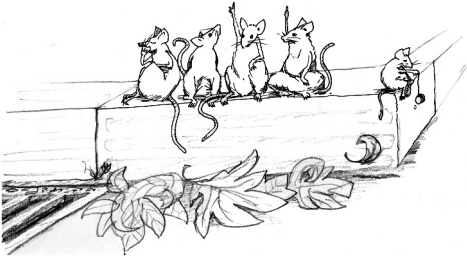
CONSENSUS



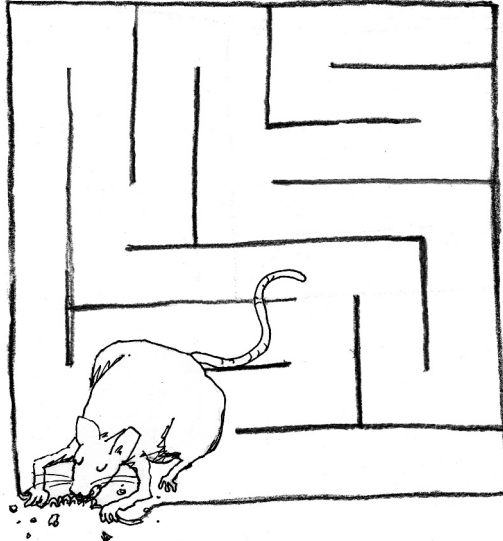
MAKING NICE DECISIONS WITH

Even in a democratic society,
many decisions are made by
just a few individuals.

Leaving the others feeling
disempowered,
disinterested,
despondant...



Consensus decision making is a
way to actively participate in
decisions that affect your life.



Free to choose your own path.

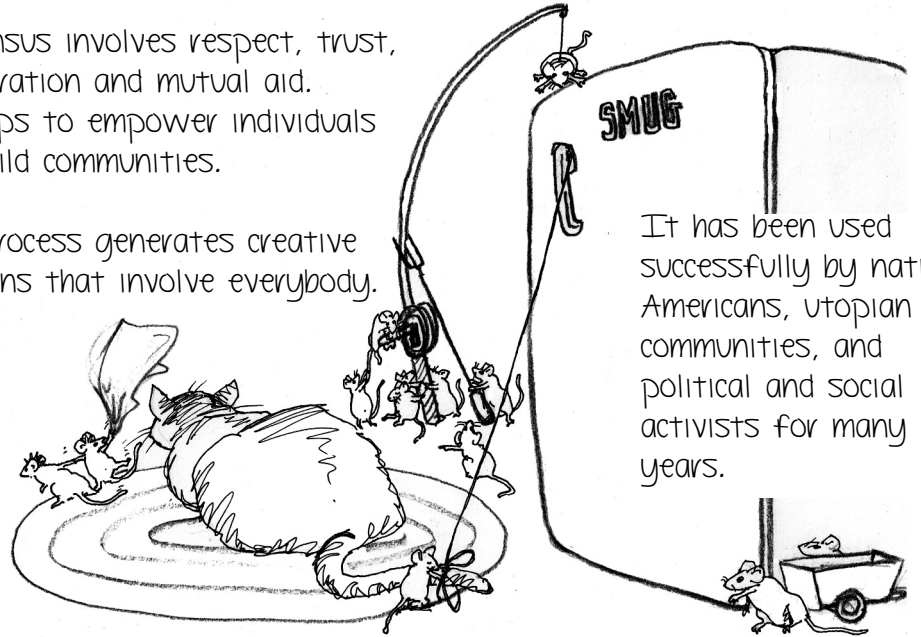
- Don't be afraid of disagreement. A range of opinions provides more material for good solutions.
- The block is a strength of consensus: it means individuals' needs can't be ignored.
- If blocks are happening check you're all sharing information and discussing things enough.
- Participate: speak, listen, proactively look for solutions that include everyone.

TIPS

- Speak up if you don't understand.
- Be adaptable in your opinions, to help the group reach agreement.
- Help create a respectful and trusting atmosphere.
- Express your opinions clearly, and as early as possible.
- Listen actively; let others finish their point and take time to consider it.
- Practise self-restraint, is what you are going to say helpful?

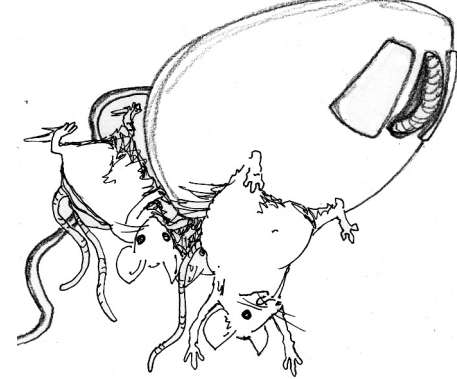
Consensus involves respect, trust,
co-operation and mutual aid.
It helps to empower individuals
and build communities.

The process generates creative
solutions that involve everybody.



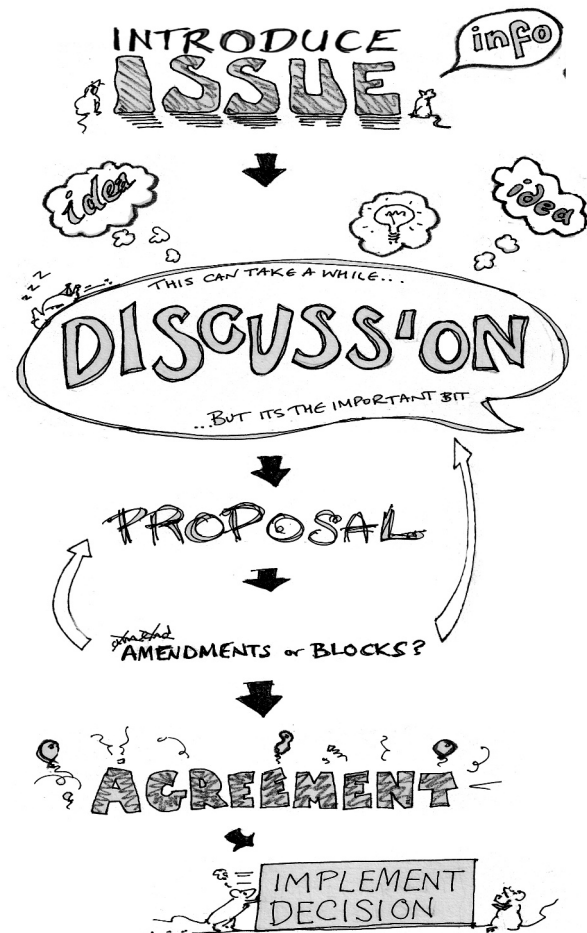
It has been used
successfully by native
Americans, utopian
communities, and
political and social
activists for many
years.

This work is anti-copyright
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remains anti-copyright.
2012




For more about
consensus and facilitation:
www.seedsforchange.org.uk


CONSENSUS PROCESS



GLOSSARY



Block: a fundamental disagreement. We need to think again - find a new proposal.



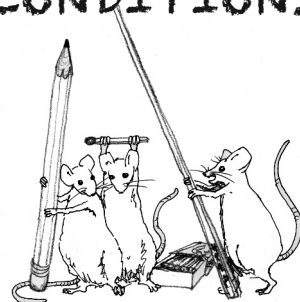
Proposal: synthesize ideas and suggest action.

Agreement: support proposal and willing to carry it out.

Reservations: raise some concerns, but allow proposal.

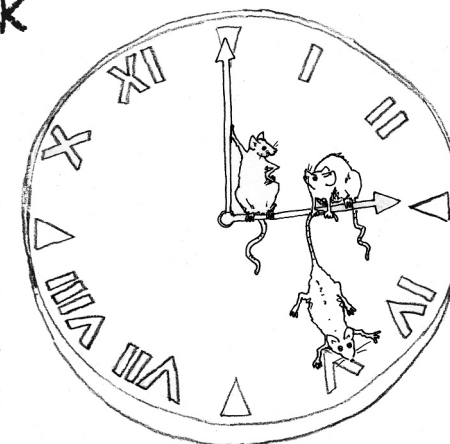
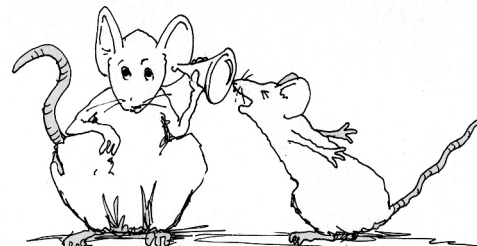
Stand aside: don't support the proposal, but do not prevent others going ahead.

CONDITIONS TO MAKE CONSENSUS WORK



Everyone agrees and understands a clear **PROCESS**, and commits to using consensus.

Really **LISTEN** to what people are saying, and try to understand their point of view.

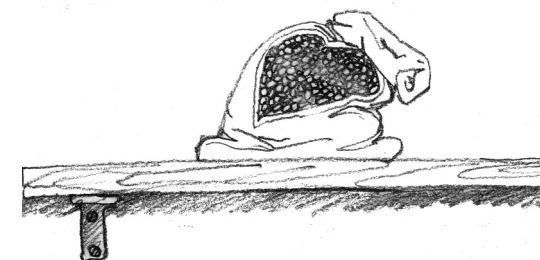


It takes **TIME** to make a good decision for everyone.



Good **FACILITATION** means summarising ideas, checking vibes, managing process and time, and ensuring everybody has a say.

Be **OPEN** and **HONEST** about what you want, and what you need.



We need to **TRUST** each other to work together for a **COMMON GOAL**.

