

Involving the Local People and Land Roots Transport policy

Proximity to home:

In our recent consultation study carried out in Nottingham at the Launch gig (see consultation on website) where we put up a large map of Britain and invited people to put stickers on the **places that members would wish to buy into** a piece of land, we found that the majority of people put stickers within 2 hour drive of home, the rest were dotted around the country in mostly scenic places where people may wish to holiday.

We expect that this will be a pattern.

In another question we asked:

'How often would you like to visit?'

and the large majority ticked "Whenever we want" Indicating ideally that people would prefer no limits on visiting times...day visits at any time would be encouraged...however due to planning restraints overnight stays will have to be kept to prearranged 28 days (see 28 day permitted development right) which also suggests that people would prefer to get to the land fairly quickly.

As Land Roots will be (has potential to be) a local / national / international organisation we will work towards developing a policy that enables and encourages a % of locals to buy in to the land where ever it may be.

Designing for local sustainability = Permaculture as 'permanent culture'

"In order to implement the permaculture global vision, we need local solutions, because every place on earth is different in local climate, land form, soils, and the combinations of species which will thrive. Not only does the land and its potential vary from place to place, but so do the people vary in their needs and preferences and their capacities. Every place and community requires its own particular design." **Permaculture Association.**

Opportunities for Land Roots to develop links with local people:

It is very important that the Land Roots develops good community relations with the local people and that they are happy with Land Roots as their new neighbours. We also recognise that each piece of land will be very different with individual opportunities, prospects and needs, therefore drawing on local skills and knowledge will be essential, so priority may be given to skilled locals. These might be organic farmers, people with traditional trade / crafts / local heritage skills who may have local expert knowledge, who will understand the potential of the land, have an insight into the best crops grown in the soil and an understanding of the local traditions and community.

If Land Roots can enhance the lives of local people by offering (where possible) training and educational opportunities, home, livelihood, organic fruit and veg, exciting eco-events and gatherings etc, (Plus increase in local business for local shops / pubs) it will go a long way towards making Land Roots a success in that area.

Therefore when a plot of land has been sourced we will advertise widely for perspective investors especially (but not exclusively) in the local area.

Land Roots will aim to engage and integrate with local people, parish councils, local schools, farmers markets and local events.

Opportunities for all, regardless of where they come from:

As skills and expertise in certain trades etc may not be easily found in the local area, in and around a particular piece of Land Roots land, individual membership in that land will be open to anyone from anywhere.

Impact on the land.:

Many people love to travel widely in Britain, this can broaden the mind and enables people to learn new skills and teach what they know to others, and Land Roots wishes to enable not limit this opportunity for our prospective members.

However, we do wish to limit the amount of environmental damage done by excessive use of cars, and wish members to be aware of their travel miles and fuel use. Land Roots will therefore work in partnership with environmental travel organisations enabling members to plan their travel arrangements to the Land Roots site responsibly.

Transport :

Transport in the UK currently accounts for a quarter of all CO2 emissions.

Land Roots is working on a sustainable transport policy that encourages and supports more sustainable travel like: walking, cycling, using renewable energy vehicles, car sharing and use of public transport.

To achieve these aims Land Roots will work in partnership with environmental transport agencies like 'Sustrans' and 'liftshare'.

"There is one absolutely fundamentally important point - to achieve low carbon travel with our current technology we will also all have to travel less far." **Sustrans**

Liftshare design and deliver new transport solutions for a wide range of clients including 'Event and festival organisers' This national car-sharing scheme has won awards for its innovative use of technology to benefit the environment, through a database using *liftshare's* software and support services.

Draft Transport / Vehicle Policy, Land Roots will aim to:

- Encourage use of public transport by offering lifts by eco-friendly vehicles from bus and train station to the land.
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- Work in partnership with environmental transport agencies to encourage 'car share' to the gatherings etc.
- Have incentives to travel responsibly: A charge / penalty may be levied to those people who have space available in their car and do not offer to car share? Or reward for responsible travel?
- At the gatherings people will be asked to park in car parking field, and may be offered horsedrawn or cycle transport for their stuff to the camping areas.
- No motor vehicles will be allowed on gathering site during the event unless special reason (medical etc)
- Land Roots Eco-Vehicle fleet: Work towards acquiring or adapting vehicles to be powered with sustainable fuels and energy eg, solar-electric, methane etc plus horse drawn vehicles.
- Keep some work horses on the land (for transport, logging, ploughing and as visitor attraction etc)
- Have pool of recycled practical bikes and silly 'rinky dink' style pedal powered vehicles, for use by residents, members and the wider public. (Bike maintenance workshops, energy from pedal power etc)
- Develop competitions to come up with 'its crazy but it might just work' Innovative Technology Eco-Vehicles! (tie into education / workshops)
- No scrap vehicles left on site without permission
- Reduce the food miles by growing as much food as possible on the land and being mindful of where and how we shop for the things that we don't grow or make ourselves.
- For Eco-Share members that live within a certain radius of the land offer Veg Box scheme to reduce their food miles, transport with eco-vehicles.
- For more 'far away' members possibly offer veg boxes to ride in car share transport if people are already travelling to the area, this will be a way for 'far away' members to keep in contact with the land all year round and they will know where their food comes from.