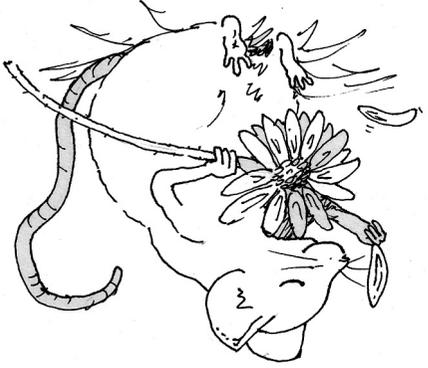


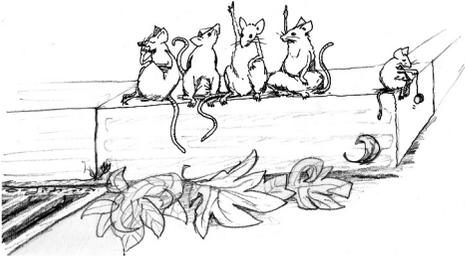
CONSENSUS



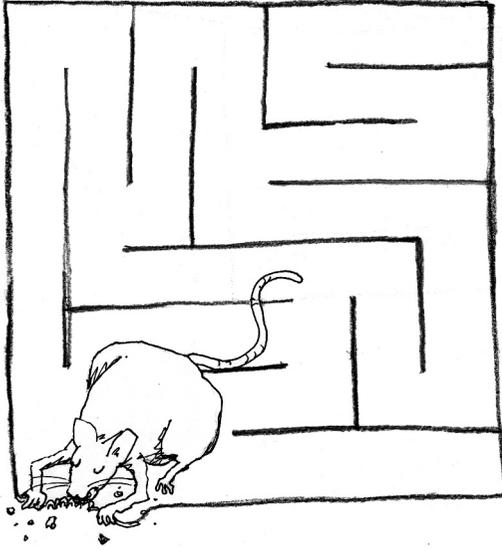
MAKING NICE DECISIONS WITH

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.

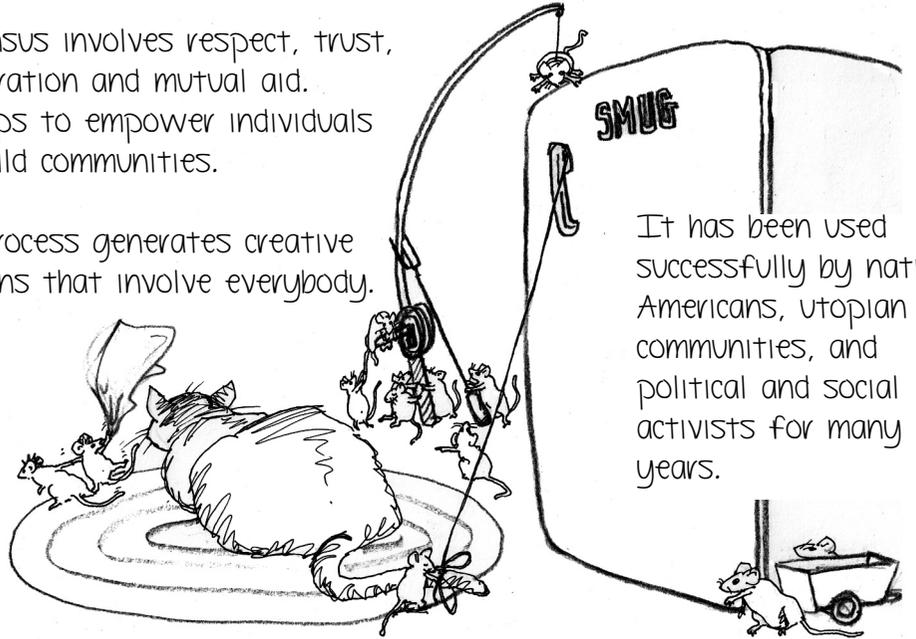
- Don't be afraid of disagreement. A range of opinions provides more material for good solutions.
- The block is a strength of consensus: it means individuals' needs can't be ignored.
- If blocks are happening check you're all sharing information and discussing things enough.
- Participate: speak, listen,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

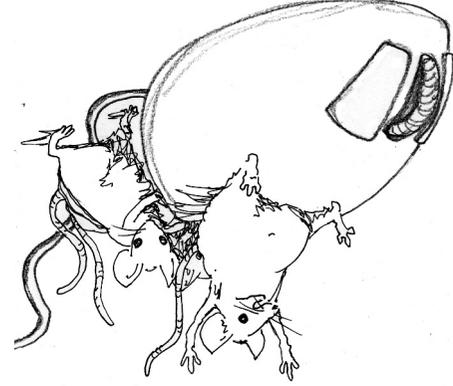
Consensus involves respect, trust, co-operation and mutual aid. It helps to empower individuals and build communities.

The process generates creative solutions that involve everybody.



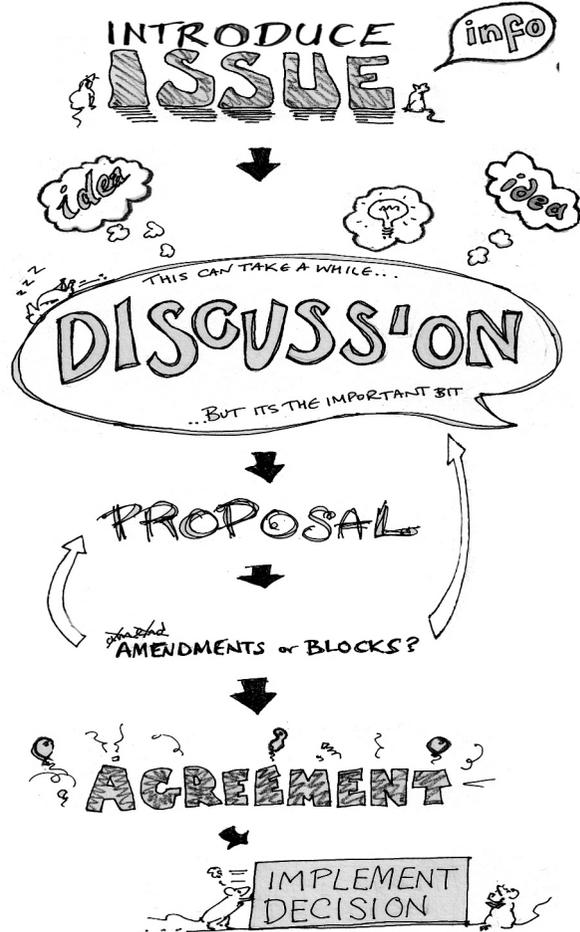
It has been used successfully by native Americans, utopian communities, and political and social activists for many years.

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



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 2012

CONSENSUS PROCESS



GLOSSARY

Proposal: synthesize ideas and suggest action.

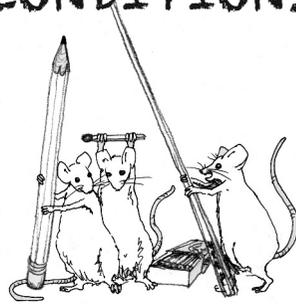
Agreement: support proposal and willing to carry it out.

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

Reservations: raise some concerns, but allow proposal.

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

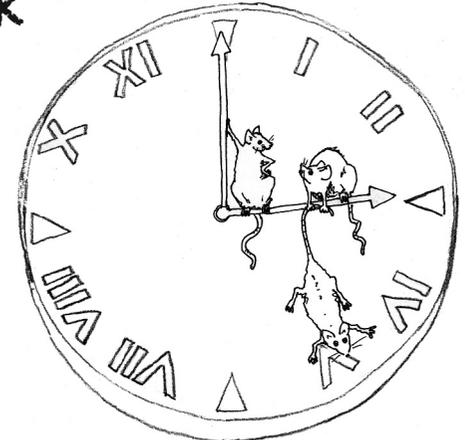
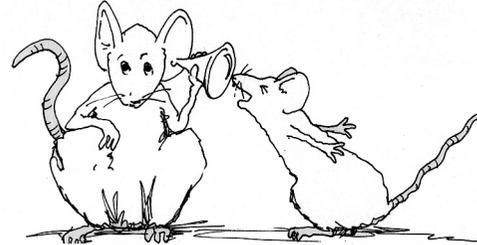
CONDITIONS TO MAKE CONSENSUS WORK



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



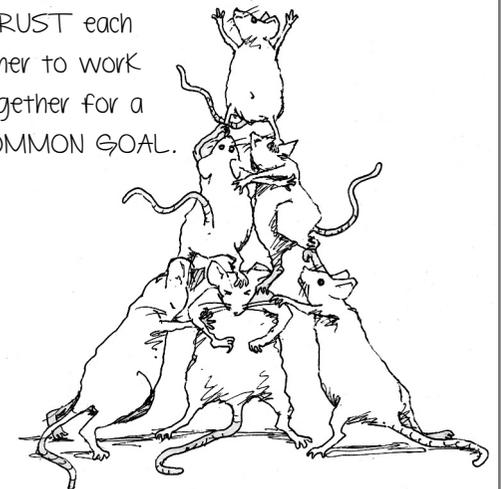
Everyone agrees and understands a clear PROCESS, and commits to using consensus.



It takes TIME to make a good decision for everyone.



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



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.