

Breaking the Austerity Myth: Open space session

In relation to taking forward the ideas below from the *Open Space* session and the sub groups: *Local Ludlow Public Bank*; *Wellth*; and *Explore the Basic Income BI* please contact Mike Layward mike@phonecoop.coop

Overarching theme: What practical actions/steps can we take to break the austerity myths ?

There were about 30 people in the session, we met in a circle and Mike explained the process for open space, which is a system of self organising a meeting with an unlimited number of people in a non hierarchical style.

How it works:

- Anyone who wants to writes a short (7 words or so) action/step/topic they want to discuss on a post it note and place on the wall. They explain it to the group.
- This process carries on till there are a number of topics
- Some topics are similar and with the proposers permission the topics are grouped together
- When this process is completed there are a number of topics
- The proposer sets a circle up and anyone interested joins that group so the room will have a number of circles
- At anytime anyone participating in a group can leave one group and join another.

We ended up with 3 groups:

Local Ludlow Public Bank

The outcomes were:

- Set up a local public bank which will be a Community Interest Company
- Connect with similar groups
- Go to Shropshire Council for seed money to startup the bank

Wellth

The second group was a combination of several ideas:

- Find progressive candidates and young people to stand for Ludlow Town Council elections in 2017
- Joint action with the Green Party to break the austerity myth
- Expand the membership and interest of the People's Alliance group in Ludlow
- The group to be called Wellth From Mary Mellor
- Self education at the root of the group
- Use social media and letter writing to disseminate the ideas of the group

Explore the Basic Income BI

- Research the Basic income the pros and cons and examples (Manitoba Canada in the 1970s) where the BI has been used
- Organise public meetings to discuss the BI and disseminate the concept