Umbrella Sussex

Supporting the Sharing Economy in Hastings and Rother

Umbrella Sussex CIC

Aims, Objectives and Principles

About

A collective of non constituted community wealth sharing projects who work together under a single legal structure; a Community Interest Company operating on Cooperative principles.
The purpose of the co-operative principles is to encourage fairness, inclusion and diversity, and make sure there is a clear pathway to new members[i] and projects to join and further strengthen the sharing economy.
Projects must be community led by people who recognise the needs of their own community[ii].

Aim

To facilitate sharing economy projects in Hastings and Rother by providing the company infrastructure (administration, governance and financial processes) to allow projects to develop and thrive).

Objectives

1. Generate enough funds to cover organisational costs
2. Reinvest any surplus our projects
3. Share, fairly, the costs, governance and administration responsibilities for the benefit of the whole
4. Support new sharing economy projects to a steady state within the Cooperative
5. Learn from and share learning with similarly principled organisations

Principles

1. The Umbrella is for grass roots /bottom up development/ community organising projects
2. Any project which meets the aims of the Umbrella and is willing to contribute can be considered for membership

Current Projects: Hastings Library of Things and Make and Mend, Bexhill and Beyond
A Community interest company: Company Number: 14001035
Registered Address: Eagle House, 27-29 Cambridge Road, Hastings, TN34 1DJ
info@umbrellasussex.org.uk

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3. The Umbrella serves the community/communities[iii]* within Hastings and Rother
4. The Umbrella and it's member projects are inclusive- we think about things like physical access to spaces, communicating clearly, trying to avoid “unconscious bias” or discrimination
5. The Umbrella and its member projects make conscious spending decisions, attempting to spend local or with ethical companies such a Fair Trade or B-Corp
6. The Umbrella seeks to use, promote and support open source software and resources
7. Where the Umbrella employees people, it will seek to offer a Living Wage, follow fair recruitment processes and support trade union membership
8. The Umbrella shares learning and experience with local projects and seek to publish resources under a creative commons license
9. The Umbrella supports open data/ information transparency principles
10. The Umbrella seeks to make consensus based decisions

Cooperative Principles[iv]

1. Umbrella Sussex is owned and controlled by its members
2. Membership is voluntary and open
3. Members participate in the economic activity of the business
4. Profits or surplus are distributed under agreed principles which take into account contribution and need.
5. Decision making is by consensus, formalised, for the avoidance of doubt, by a vote which shall be on the basis of 1 member, 1 vote.

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[i] Members of the Umbrella Sussex are defined as one or more legal persons who represent a project which is operated under the umbrella

[ii] Membership of the Umbrella Sussex is dependent on accepting these principles.

[iii] (The Umbrella defines community/ communities in a broad and inclusive sense)

[iv] Umbrella Sussex's legal structure is a Community Interest Company. To be recognised as a cooperative we demonstrate clear commitment to cooperative principles.