Save money, save space, save the planet, Hastings Library of Things

Statement

We focus on the communities wealth. We don't need to own things, we need access to them, and to each other. That's community. That's why we ask people to join, to be part of something, equal and all contributing what we can.

Principles and Aims

Our principles explain what we believe in and how we try to treat people.

We ask members to follow these principles.

- The library is be open to anyone who wants to join, and it should be welcoming and approachable
- The library is member run for everyone's benefit: We work together, trust each other and listen to each other
- Members should get involved, and they say if they think the library is not following our principles

How do we apply our principles? An example

We trust people- if things break, we understand, if things aren't returned, we find out why and see if we can find a solution.

Our principles

Money:

Fees: The library isn't free as it needs money to run. One of the ways that members contribute to the library is by paying what they can. Some people pay more as they can afford more, but we don't tell people what they should pay: There is a basic rate and people can choose to pay more if they want to. Fees will always be set at the lowest

possible level that means we can keep running. Openness: We will share our accounts with members at least once every year. Profit: The library is not profit making. If we have more money than we need to run we will spend the money to improve the library or reduce the fees.
Community Organising: We think that people inside a community can work together and make their lives better. Members run the library and are in charge of it.
Inclusion: We will do our best to make the library open to everyone. We will think about things like physical access to spaces, communicating clearly, trying to avoid “unconscious bias” or discrimination. Members are encouraged to raise issues that affect them or other people and help us all make the library safe, welcoming and accessible
Planet: The library lets things be reused and stops people having to buy new things. We repair where we can so things last longer. We try to use environmentally friendly products and transport.
Local economy: We spend money locally with independent businesses as that keeps money local.
Co-operation: We work with other community groups as we can help each other and the community when we work together.

Aims

Aims are things we try to do, based on our principles

We try to learn from what we do- good or bad. As we grow we might want to change some of the things we do. When we make changes we will make sure we stay true to our principles.

Hastings Library of Things Aims

- To have lots of members helping to run the library and make sure that the volunteers feel valued and are supported
- Work with other groups who are doing similar work and learn from each other
- To support ideas like a swop-shop, make and mend services and skills sharing
- Grow our membership numbers, and get members from all over the Borough
- Cover our costs