

PERMACULTURE SOUTHAMPTON – PLANNING OVERVIEW

An overview of the initial thinking and design of the Permaculture Southampton sessions.

These ideas arose from a conversation between Adam Brown, Helen Plowman, Richard Parker, Richard Pitt and Suzanne Baker who met on 26 April to review the first session and look ahead to the next one.

Plan for the day

Optional practical activities in the morning and a 'bring and share' lunch.

- [1000 to 1230] Hands on experience on the farm
- [1230 to 1330] Bring and Share Lunch
- [1330] Welcome / arrival activity. Help everyone to be present. Short (about 2 minutes).
- [1330 to 1500] Permaculture Principle – aiming for good teaching/presentation, focus on David Holmgren's ideas, illustrated using Aldermoor Community Farm and application to each person's own contexts. A maximum of 15 minutes of taught session followed by questions for deeper enquiry in groups.
- [1500 to 1630] Open Spaces – our way of focusing on topics wanted by group members. Group members convene the conversations they are interested in by posing a good question. Other members interested in that conversation turn up and join in.

Other supporting elements

- Time keeper – gong! Easing and communicating the flow of the gathering e.g. 5 minute warning of starting, 1 minute warning of end of conversations.
- Helper roles – on the day group members are needed to help facilitate the group - set up chairs; welcome desk and badges; host drinks; recording talks; making notes on what arises from group work; pack away
- Invitation to share (in up to 3 minutes) your experience of applying the current principle to yourself, your kin and community, Southampton, or globally.
- Skills share board – what can you offer the group, what help are you seeking?
- Private Facebook group for sharing our enquiries around these principles.
- Email newsletter – for reminders, reports and help preparing for the next session.
- Recordings of the talk (on Aldermoor Community Farm website)
- Recordings of the feedback of each group (1 minute summary)
- Action sheet – suggestions for how to investigate the principle for ourselves. Available online after the event. Helps us participate even if can't be there one week. Suggestions for how to read the chapter. What part of this chapter really spoke to you? Find out how to...
- Bring your own mug!

Themes/Purpose/Values

- this is a group thing not an individual thing: we are gathering together to learn about permaculture together, applying what we learn to ourselves and our context
- we will get to know what we each can contribute to the group – an important awareness and source of richness for us.
- permaculture is more than knowing how to grow our food organically
- we encourage meeting and mingling

ALDERMOOR COMMUNITY FARM

- the group will grow/develop – designing the group comes with time. We don't have to implement all our ideas for the group immediately.
- we should try to use Aldermoor Community Farm as a living example.
- **NEW PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**
- we will try to have some kind of history for new people to see where we have come from.
- it is Richard Pitt's vision – he should lead the permaculture principle sessions for the beginning to let it come to birth and see what it's like.