

# (Penny and Andy's) STOP THE ROT CAMPAIGN

## Areas of Interest

- International perspective limits and shapes our national perspective e.g.
  - Poverty
  - Climate
  - Trade
  
- Voluntary and community sectors
  - Historical & political role
  - Independence
  - Capacity to challenge/influence the state/status quo
  - A structure for a voice and activities - grassroots and representational bodies
  
- Civic and political involvement
  - Centralised power and intervention
  - Collapse of democratic interest/involvement
  - Spoil Your Vote
  - Local power and autonomy

## What we don't like

- ☒ Top down
- ☒ Privatisation/fragmentation of public and civic arenas
- ☒ Hierarchical/expert/professional frameworks
- ☒ Funding regimes/compacts/so called partnerships
- ☒ Standardisation not standards
- ☒ Form not content (eg. vacuous involvement/empowerment practices)
- ☒ Materialism
- ☒ Co-option of ideology (they can have it we can't)
- ☒ learnt helplessness
- ☒ ineffectual representational voices

## What we want

- ☺ practical strategies to reverse trends
- ☺ initiating/building the discussion
- ☺ come back grassroots politics and manifestos
- ☺ pluralism, variety and local diversity to be seen as strengths
- ☺ building communities of interest

- ☺ recognition of power inequalities - a new settlement
- ☺ incentives to participate
- ☺ service delivery to be community driven with secure funding base
- ☺ promoting/implementing complexity theory

## Opportunities so far to explore

- 👍 *Homelessness discussions* - building the discussion. Improving the sector's representational voices/creating a user-led agenda. Penny's action learning event (May?) + possible User-led action learning set/developing communities of interest (April onwards)
- 👍 *Institute of Advisers* - building the discussion. Andy/Penny's contribution to conference (May) - Andy's speech = "I told you so" & workshop on developing a grassroots voice in the advice sector.
- 👍 *E. Anglia second tier agencies* - building the discussion. Role of voluntary sector. Andy/Sean's event. (date?)
- 👍 *Social Action For Health* - community driven service delivery plus other elements of what we want. A case study in how to make it happen.
- 👍 *New Economics Foundation* - a blind spot to role of voluntary sector in their stated aims, which otherwise reflect our areas of interest. Sell them a piece of work that provides a critique of what's happening, describes the components of a vibrant vol. organisation (find where they are & find out what makes them successful), and produce the elements of a manifesto.
- 👍 *Baring Foundation* - their new independence programme (deadline May). Three opportunities:
  - as a funder for NEF work & Safh case study
  - sell NEF work as providing them with the foundations for their overall programme, ie to inform their evaluation of the programme
  - persuade them we should do their programme evaluation.

## What next? NOTE BARING FOUNDATION DEADLINE of 30<sup>th</sup> May for submissions

- ☎ Andy to talk to Safh about possible Barings application
- ☎ Penny to draft email to NEF
- ☎ Andy to see if Maggie B. has Barings contact
- ☎ Penny to follow-up SYV interests
- ☎ Andy to talk to Sean about E Anglia and generally