Do we really need to park democracy in the doorway of NGOs?

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Introduction

• Anti-democracy

• And what is the Carver model?

• Key position – Structures determine behaviour – not the other way round (Counter-intuitive under a neo-liberal regime of the self)
So what do the problems look like?
The Context that Produced Carver

• Histories – we’ve lived through
  – Normal then – normal now? – big shift in Zeitgeist in a generation

• Tyranny of structurelessness
  – Carver’s quick-fix solution to yesterday’s problems

• Rise of Neo-liberalism
Neo-liberalism – community development

- Norms dominant and norms subjugated
- Resisting Neo-liberalism on the outside while it sneaks into our boardrooms on the inside.
- Consultants – inadvertent reproduction
- The need to turn the structural analysis gaze inward
Carver model in operation
The funnel

• Silencing and normalising gazes and escalating cycles of caution and surveillance.
  – Alternantively may also form an uneasy alliance of power between Board/CE (resonant of hegemonic practice)

• Antidemocratic exercise of power
  – wider organisation (staff/volunteers) excluded
  – Community excluded
Wider Community impact

• A journey:
  • First – the loss of community influence
  • Second – community relegation to a market place
  • Third - the re-framing of community organisations as ‘service providers’

• Implications
Looking forward

• How we changed our minds – or the journey from ‘we know’ – to ‘what we don’t know’?

• Back to Community development principles

• The need for conscientisation first

• Things to hold onto!
Some thoughts

• Keep the passion alive:
• ‘organise’ (verb), not organisation (noun):
• Reclaim our connection to our community:
• Eschew the competitive ethos of ‘the market’
• Reclaim our language and labels: - ‘chief executives? Boards
• Democratise, Include staff, volunteers, users, community…
• Embody our community development principles & values.

• And, if we revert to a Carver governance model - do it consciously and with consideration of its effects.
References

REFERENCES
(The Authoritative Website for the Carver Policy Governance® Model, http://www.carvergovernance.com/pg-np.htm Downloaded 30-1-15
Always looking outward

- Causal explanations then and now
- Behaviour and structure