Open 2018 talk, with comments

OUR SHARED SOCIAL VISION?

A Global Collaborative,
Sustainable Economy
on Platform Coops!

Very pleased to be at Open 2018.
Lots of friends, old and new. Like
me, working on building a
collaborative sustainable society.
How many of you is this true for?
(POLL – Thumbs up or down
please)
What might this larger vision be
like? Where do we agree? Three
more POLLS to come to see where
those here agree or not.

OUR UNIFYING VALUES?
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

We are part of a broad movement:
Environment, localisation, social
justice, economic democracy,
human rights, equality, much
more. For me what unites us is our
unifying values: caring for people
and planet.

OUR UNIFYING VALUES?
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

A society organised for the wellbeing of
people and planet, NOT for money and
power

(see slide build) 1 About
relationship: cooperation not
competing in the market, 2
Wellbeing: driving force of society,
replacing money and power as the
driving force.

OUR UNIFYING VALUES?
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

(POLL 2: Do you share these
values?)

A TALE OF THE FUTURE?

Here's a potential project that gives a sense of how a global collaborative sustainable society could grow within the current society.

What does a social vision that embodies these values look like? What does it mean to have a cooperative society, from local to global that isn't a top down hierarchy, 'self-governance' not 'global government'?

I'll tell you a fictional story, that describes what it might be like, and we'll see how much we agree or not on its structure.

THE **OPEN COOP** RECRUITS 100 COMMUNITIES!

(map from Transition Network) Imagine: The Open Coop recruits 100 local communities, world-wide, for a five year pilot project to build collaborative, sustainable local economies on platform coops. And, all are connected to provide mutual support.

ALSO RECRUIT BUSINESSES THAT SHARE THE VALUES

It also recruits businesses that share the same values who can see that they are supporting the growth of a (cooperative) market in which they have a strong advantage. That includes local businesses in each of the 100 communities too.
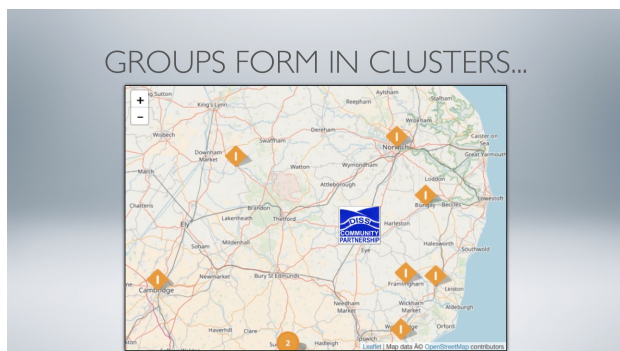
A LOCAL OPEN COOP?

What might this look like at the loccal level? Of course, they would all be different, but would probably all be something like this:
Locally it would be a network of coops and businesses, all independent but cooperating with each other, like in Emiliga Romagna in Italy.

(see slide build to make sense of this complex slide)

First: the 'Connectors' to pull it together over the 5 years. Also, from the start, the 'Geek Squad', a new local business to set up the technical infrastructure: the HOLO hosting, and the platform coops, building over the 5 years.
Other groups would come along as they can. 'Fun Squad' for events at which people meet face to face, 'Care Squad' for all kinds of social care, 'Peacemakers' for handling conflicts and maintain group harmony, etc
All independent and autonomous, but with lots of mutual support to build synergy.

GROUPS FORM IN CLUSTERS...

But the local Open Coops would not form and develop in isolation. That would be hugely difficult. Rather, they would be recruited in clusters for mutual development and support. I think in terms of my town, Diss in Norfolk and the neighbouring Transition Towns that would be likely to join if they could see the power of this vision, with its mutual support.

WORKING TOGETHER...

The same principle applies to the cluster as within it. All are independent and autonomous but working together for mutual support and synergy.

...CLUSTERS WORKING TOGETHER GLOBALLY

And again, the same applies at larger scales too. Clusters of communities working together for mutual support and synergy, so that the whole global network is connected, all learning from each other, all helping each other, while remaining autonomous.

...CLUSTERS WORKING TOGETHER GLOBALLY

This kind of multi-level structure is the pattern for a global collaborative society, with autonomous groups at every level, but also with mutual support and synergy between them. This approach to a large scale, bottom-up, self-governing structure builds on ideas of commons, peer-to-peer, viable systems, sociocracy, etc.

At all levels, groups retain control,

but work together. (VOTE: Is this how you see a global collaborative society?)
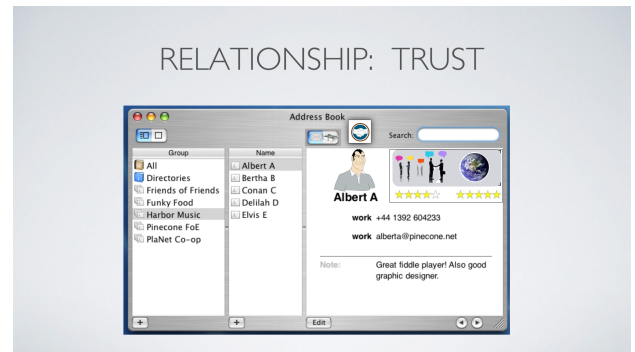

SOFTWARE STARTING POINT

Now for the final section: This is a conference on Platform Coops and we started with the idea that they are a critical part of the infrastructure for the local collabortive, sustainable community vision I have been describing.

So... what does this say about the starting points for those platform cooperatives? What do we need for the initial software?

I see the software starting points –
before and during the development
of the different groups in each
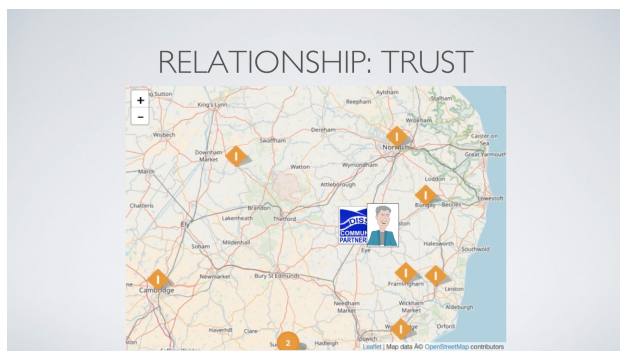local community – as covering two
areas:
1 A social network based around
relationships of trust, and steered
by reputation.
2 A local exchange system in which
people use money, but also freely
exchange favours with people they
trust (i.e. A gift economy).

RELATIONSHIP: TRUST

(Sorry that I'm not very good at
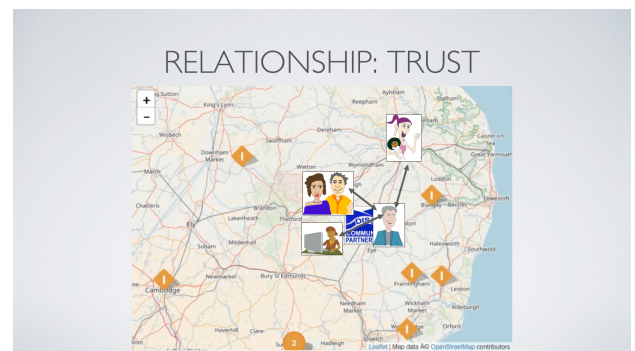user interface design.)
Here's an address book, or
community directory with trust and
reputation included.
What happens when I press the
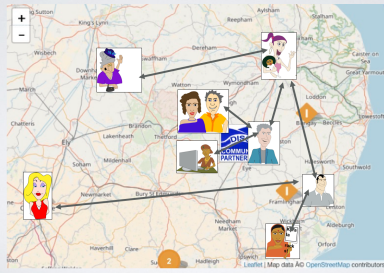trust button for **Albert A**? What is a
trust network?

RELATIONSHIP: TRUST

How do we set up a network of
trust?
When I join the local open coop, I
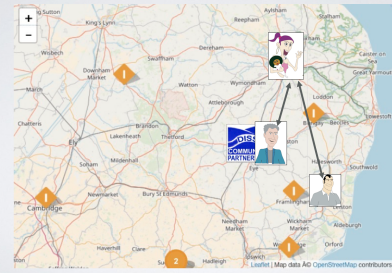do so with people I trust, and mark
them as such.

RELATIONSHIP: TRUST

The people I trust also join with
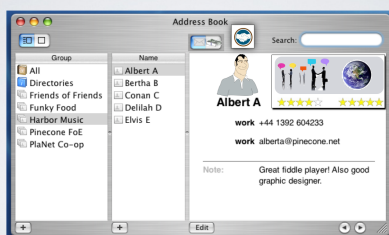others that they trust.

And so it fills out rapidly. I find there are many people who are trusted by those I trust, and so on. There is no-one who is anonymous, there are no trolls. Now what happens when I hit the trust button for Albert?

It shows me that he's linked to me through Sarah.
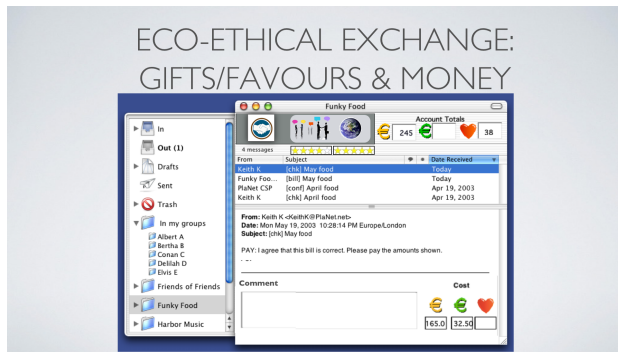
RELATIONSHIP: REPUTATION

Now let's look at reputation. People are now very used to online reputation and use it extensively. eBay found very early that it needed to build in reputation.

I am proposing not just a generalised, vague sense of reputation. Rather it goes back to the basic values: reputation for serving people and planet, rated separately. For businesses as well as individuals.
I see this as the most important point of this talk. This is the mechanism for toppling money and power as the social driving force! Anyone can have a good reputation. Good reputation needs to replace wealth as a personal goal.

ECO-ETHICAL EXCHANGE:
GIFTS/FAVOURS & MONEY

And now to put this together with
an exchange system.
This exchange app: (you can do a
better design, I'm sure) includes
trust and reputation.
It offers a choice of exchange as a
gift or favour, or for a choice of
national or local currencies.
And that's it, the whole vision, as
far as I can express it in 10
minutes.

Relationship:
A social network that includes
Trust and Reputation

Exchange:
Gifts/favours and Money

WHAT DO YOU GET AT FIRS

Now for our final vote: I'm curious
to see how much agreement there
is on this. Do you agree that for
this infrastructure for a
collaborative, sustainable
community we need a social
network with trust? With reputation
for serving people and planet? An
exchange system that includes
gifts/favours as well as money? I
hope this will inform our future
discussions.

A SOCIETY THAT
CARES FOR PEOPLE
AND PLANET

IN CONTROL OF
OUR LIVES

A GLOBAL
BRAIN?

part of a bottom-up truly democratic
society.
As a final, totallly over-the-top
comment, perhaps this vision could be
seen as the development of a Global
Brain? A new level of consciousness on
Earth!

**Now for some concluding
remarks:**
This can become the new common
sense. A vision of a society that
really works will take off fast.
The World Wide Web only started in
1992 and now, only 26 years later
is ubiquitous and totally
mainstream. I predict that this
social vision will be mainstream in
your lifetime!
We will be in control of our lives as

A talk by Dr Gary Alexander
founder member, Open Coop
author of **eGaia**,
Growing a Peaceful , Sustainable Earth through Communications

Feel free to contact me with your comments at garyalex@erthconnected.net