

COMMUNITY ORGANISING





Community Organising is the process of bringing people together who share common interests or concerns to take collective action and creative positive change in their community. It involves building relationships, identifying shared goals and developing strategies to address issues such as housing, education, health, or social justice. The goal is to empower community members to have a stronger voice and influence in decisions that affect their lives.

this is what we are aiming for

Lone Wolf



Work alone -
policy work
and meetings

Mobilisers



Protests
and
marches

Organisers



create
networks and
serpate work

The Iron Rule of Community Organising: Never do for others, something that they can do for themselves.



We create power by relationships.

Relationships can be built by shared interest.

Power = the ability to make change

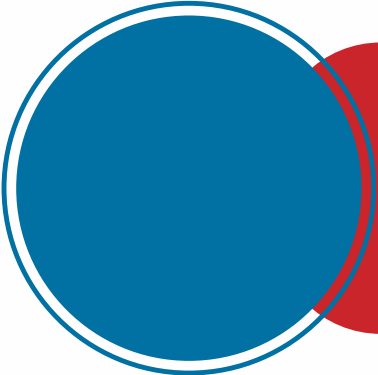
We can find out someone's shared interest by 1-2-1 conversations.



1-2-1'S

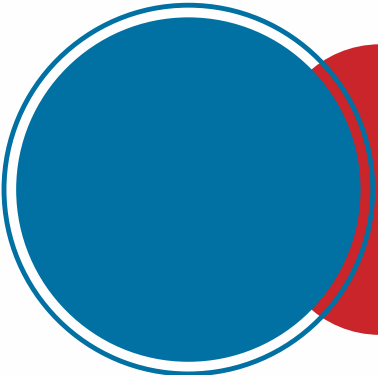
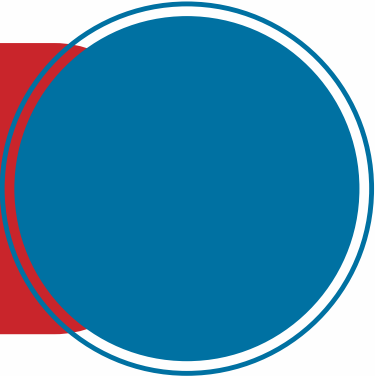
HOW DO THEY WORK

A 1-2-1 is a personal, intentional conversation between two people, usually an organiser and a community member. It's not just a casual chat; it's a structured meeting designed to build a relationship, understand what matters to the person, and explore how they might want to take action.



IT'S USUALLY AROUND
30–45 MINUTES, HELD IN
PERSON OR ONLINE.

THE ORGANISER LISTENS
MORE THAN THEY SPEAK.



IT FOCUSES ON THE PERSON'S
VALUES, EXPERIENCES,
MOTIVATIONS, AND

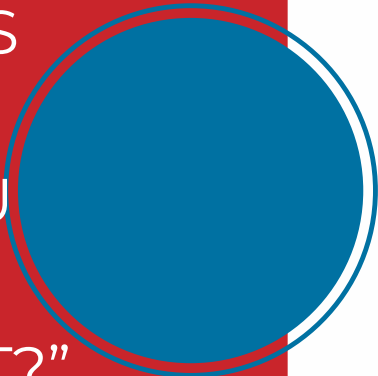
THE ORGANISER ASKS OPEN
QUESTIONS LIKE:

“WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS
COMMUNITY?”

“WHAT CHALLENGES ARE YOU
FACING?”

“WHAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT?”

“HAVE YOU EVER TAKEN ACTION
ON SOMETHING YOU CARE



WHY ARE 1-TO-1S SO IMPORTANT IN COMMUNITY ORGANISING?

THEY BUILD TRUST

CHANGE HAPPENS THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS,
NOT JUST IDEAS OR PROTESTS.

THEY UNCOVER REAL ISSUES

LISTENING CLOSELY HELPS ORGANISERS SPOT
PATTERNS IN WHAT PEOPLE ARE STRUGGLING
WITH.

THEY DEVELOP LEADERS

PEOPLE OFTEN DON'T SEE THEMSELVES AS
LEADERS UNTIL SOMEONE LISTENS TO THEIR
STORY AND INVITES THEM TO STEP UP.

THEY CREATE COMMITMENT

A PERSONAL INVITATION IS MORE
POWERFUL THAN A FLYER OR MASS EMAIL.

HOUSE MEETINGS

HOW DO THEY WORK

A house meeting is a small, informal gathering (often in someone's home, a dorm room, a café, or a community space) where people come together to share experiences, discuss common issues, and begin to take collective action.

It's not a lecture or formal meeting. It's more like a guided conversation that brings people together to listen, connect, and build power around shared concerns.

How Does a House Meeting Work?

-  usually 6–12 people, so everyone can speak and be heard.
-  It lasts about 60–90 minutes.
-  It is hosted by someone trusted in the community, often a local leader or organiser.



The meeting follows a structure:

01

Welcome and purpose – Why are we here? Why now?

02

Story-sharing – Participants talk about their experiences with a specific issue (e.g., housing, transport).

03

Identifying patterns – What themes or shared struggles are emerging?

04

Moving toward action – What should we do next? Who else should be involved?

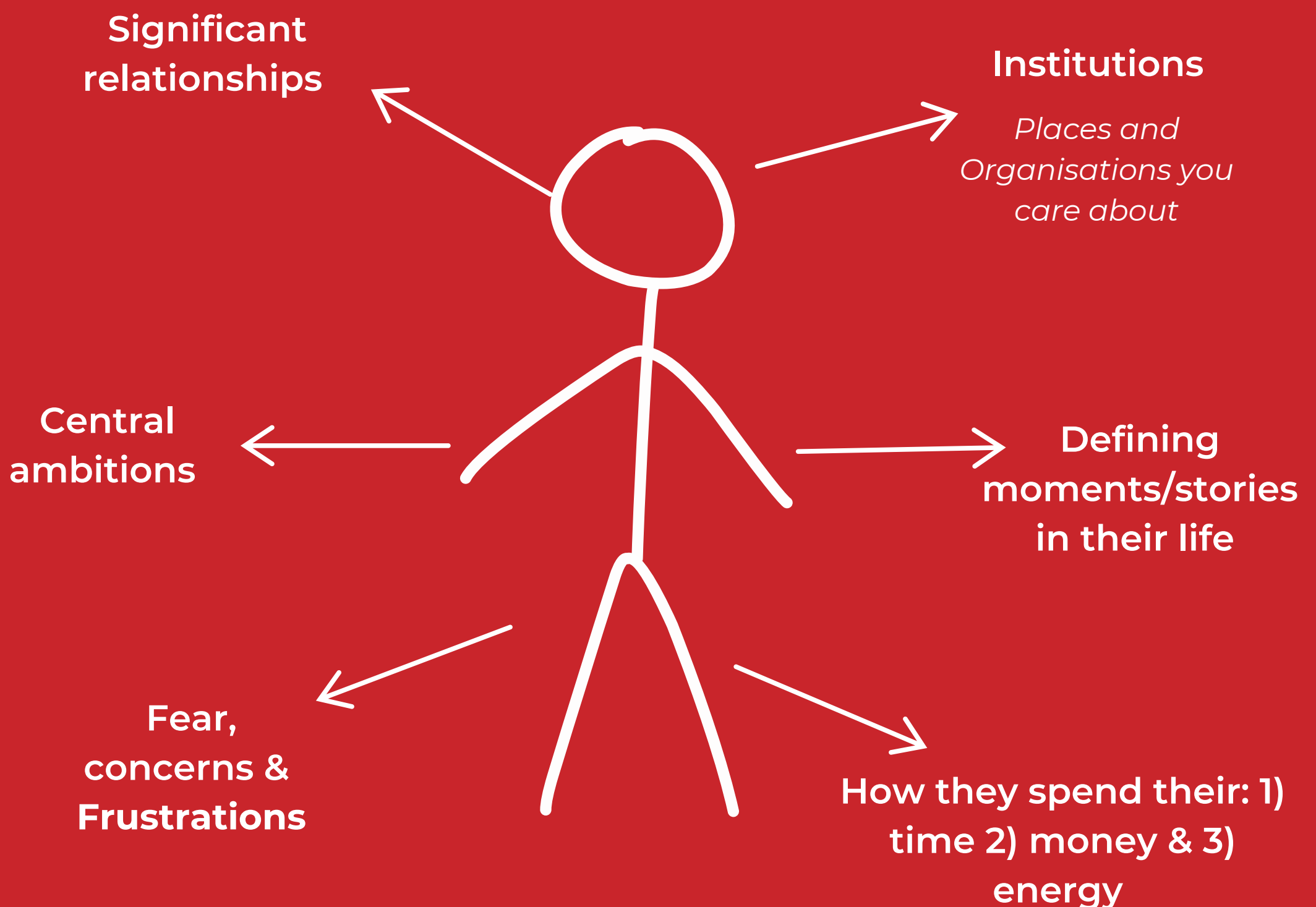
05

Invitation to act – People are asked to commit to a next step, like joining a campaign, meeting a decision-maker, or hosting another meeting.

STICK

PERSON

Using a stick figure guide is an easy way to support in a 1-2-1 if you are feeling a little lost on what to ask. The Stick Figure helps organisers build a full picture of the person they're talking to—not just what they care about, but also how they might be ready to act and lead. It turns a simple chat into a powerful tool for connection and leadership development.



EXAMPLES IN HISTORY

The Suffragette Movement

Community organising was central to the success of the Suffragette movement. Women from different backgrounds came together to challenge the laws that denied them the right to vote. They built strong networks through meetings, rallies, and local women's groups. These grassroots efforts helped them educate the public, raise funds, and coordinate protests and campaigns across the country.



Organisers like Emmeline Pankhurst and the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) trained women to be leaders, speak publicly, and confront political institutions. They used petitions, marches, and acts of civil disobedience to keep pressure on the government. Through this collective action and community-driven strategy, the movement gained national attention and eventually led to women winning the right to vote.



EXAMPLES

IN HISTORY

Rosa Parks and Community Organising in the Civil Rights Movement



Rosa Parks is often remembered for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. While her act of defiance seemed simple, it was deeply connected to years of community organising. Parks was not acting alone, she was a long-time member of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and had worked on civil rights issues long before her arrest.

Her refusal to give up her seat was a planned action supported by local civil rights organisers who had been preparing for a test case to challenge bus segregation. After her arrest, Black leaders and organisers quickly came together to launch the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They formed the Montgomery Improvement Association, led by a young Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and organised carpools, rallies, and meetings to keep the boycott going for over a year.

Through this large-scale, grassroots effort, Black community members showed their collective power. Their unity and determination led to a Supreme Court ruling that ended segregation on public buses. This victory inspired other civil rights campaigns and showed how community organising could create real change.

In short, Rosa Parks' brave act was supported by a well-organised movement, and it sparked a powerful example of how community organising can bring about justice and equal rights for Black people in America.

EXAMPLES

IN HISTORY

Community Organising and the Revival of the Welsh Language in Wales



In the 20th century, the Welsh language was in serious decline. English was dominating schools, workplaces, and public life, and many feared that Welsh would disappear. In response, people across Wales began using community organising to protect and promote their language and culture.

Grassroots groups like Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Society), formed in 1962, played a major role. They brought people together from all over Wales to campaign for equal rights for Welsh speakers. They organised peaceful protests, sit-ins, and direct actions—such as painting over English-only signs and demanding bilingual road signs. These actions raised awareness and put pressure on the government.

Community members also organised Welsh-language playgroups, schools (Ysgolion Cymraeg), and cultural events like Eisteddfodau, where music and poetry in Welsh were celebrated. These efforts helped pass laws supporting the language, including the Welsh Language Act 1993 and the Welsh Language Measure 2011, which gave Welsh official status in Wales.

Thanks to decades of grassroots organising, the Welsh language has seen a revival. It is now taught widely in schools, used in media and public services, and spoken proudly by new generations.

EXAMPLES

IN HISTORY