

A World to Win – there's a climate for change

Notes from workshop on PRODUCTION/WORK/CONSUMPTION

How could things be organised differently

Building of new homes should not separate working from living - reduce unnecessary time and energy travelling. Result could cut working time and increase productivity.

We consume so many unnecessary things and all that we consume takes resources and energy. We need to focus on what we need to live and to survive - to identify needs rather than wants. We need to identify how production, work and consumption can form according to production for need.

Human nature as selfish and greedy is not necessarily an accurate portrayal of human nature, rather it is just how it is portrayed currently.

More people need to realise what they can do.

People are totally unaware; we have great power to change things. We all are looking for something cheaper but it is not cheaper in the long run.

We need to increase awareness of the system. Young people seem very unaware. Education very important, but not ignorant education, rather education that teaches values and proper evaluation of options.

In fashion for example, there is often an awareness amongst consumers of the sweatshop conditions these products get manufactured under, but people buy the items anyway, there is a failure to relate to the meaning of this information.

Solution to this problem would involve a development of a system where land and resources should be owned by workers and producers.

There are forms of common ownership that can serve as examples which exist even within this common system, such as the National Trust.

All things seem homogeneous, it is difficult in our society to see the impact of people.

We have possible too much focus on what the general population think or do not think - in times of crisis people do extraordinary things, but we need to show that self interest and collective interest are interrelated.

We all live in a world where we are consumers and not creators, we need to use different parts of our brains, different modes of thinking.

No sense in re-inventing the wheel - we should look to existing examples of successful practices across Europe and in the world.

There is an immediacy about what we are faced with. The key is energy - personal and collective.

If the market dominates the sector, then the pattern of production/work/consumption will remain unchanged.

The answer is common ownership/co-ownership, not large scale ownership - either state or corporate.

Ownership and control are fundamental.

Attitude of consumers needs to be changed.

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