

# Consensus-building

This is an example of a way you can build a collective group agreement on an issue.

1. Prepare a question you would like the group to focus on (For example: How can we make the estate cleaner and greener?)
2. Ask people to write down, on their own, any ideas they have in answer to the question. Make it clear that there are no right and wrong answers.
3. Ask people to get together in pairs or small groups to share their ideas.
4. Ask each small group to agree on six ideas, and to write each idea on a large post-it note. Each idea should consist of no more than 5 words and contain one concept only.
5. Ask each small group to choose their favourite 3 ideas. The facilitator should collect these 3 from each group and display them on a wall or chart at random, reading them out loud as they do so.
6. The facilitator should then ask the full group to say if any of the ideas match up. If so, these can be put together in columns.
7. The facilitator can then ask if any of the remaining answers match any on the display; if so, these can be placed on the wall next to them.
8. When all answers are displayed and in columns, begin naming each column so that it answers the original question.

