

## Responses to Survey on a Community Credits Scheme

No. people <sup>1</sup>	Are you willing, in principle, to commit to a certain annual amount of volunteer work for the Community?	Would you be willing, in principle, to make a monetary donation in lieu of volunteer work?	Would you prefer to see some non-monetary form of "value exchange" (e.g., LETS) used for a "community credits" scheme?	Do you have any other comment on the general principle of a 'community contributions' concept?
1 (2)	Yes	No	Probably yes, if managed properly by someone of ability and integrity	If your question means perhaps treating the community account like a bank account and residents receiving 'credits' for hours of work done or other recognized inputs, then that may work well and would surely expose passengers.
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	I am all for the scheme!
2	No	Yes	Yes	No additional comment.
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	The difficulty with a community contributions scheme is (a) keeping track / recording the contributions; and (b) what to do about people who don't contribute. Maybe a monetary donation is the answer.
2	Yes	If we were away	Preferably not because of the admin required, and when we need to replace volunteer work it is generally with a paid worker which means collecting money.	Not at the moment but we are happy to contribute further. Am very much wanting new villagers to get the message of responsibility before they buy in – it has worried me for some time that this has been diluted.
1	Yes	Yes	No	Would prefer such a scheme wasn't needed. Keep it simple. Am also happy to pay higher levy if needed to make community grow successfully.
1	I am willing to commit to a certain amount of voluntary work within the community.	I am not willing to make a monetary donation in lieu of voluntary work over and above the community fees we already pay.	I strongly support the idea to use a non-monetary form of value exchange within the community. This is how I believe a community should operate.	I hope a community credits scheme will allow the levies to actually decrease, not only prevent them from increasing. They are at present stretching my budget and I am concerned about the future and my

				ability to remain living in the village if they continue to rise.
1	Yes, but no more than 20 hours per year. This would be in addition to any work I might do in the immediate vicinity of my lot on common land, but would include any neighbourhood group common land work.	Yes, if it was an amount of, say, \$50 or \$100, and not worked out on a "per hour" basis.	Absolutely not	<p>(a) First, agree on what needs to be done. So far this is all hypothetical. I have attended too many working bees where I have stood around, wasting my time, with no clear idea of what to do and in some instances not being allowed to do it. This is a waste of my valuable time and it would be a terrible thing to force people to volunteer - or pay - and then abuse them in this fashion. It is an abuse. I am not keen to do any volunteer work under the general direction of someone else. I would prefer to know that "this" needs to be done and then do it. I don't need a social outing.</p> <p>(b) Identify what ESSENTIAL SERVICES need to be done and what it costs for the village to pay for that to be done; eg. weeding mound, 1 session \$50 - and charge that. Don't say, "You have to do 20 hours a year and that will cost you \$250" or whatever sum. Only cost individual plans. If there is no list of identified jobs then you can't charge anything if someone doesn't do them.</p> <p>(c) Only "jobs" that are essential to village maintenance, identified and approved by the community can come under this plan. Nothing that falls into the category of "optional" or "might be nice to do". Eg. I am opposed to "forced community" (such as the previously proposed charette) and can't spend whole weekends in false</p>

				<p>bonhomie, and certainly would not be prepared to pay anything towards this sort of notion, nor provide volunteer labour. So only legitimate, agreed, approved, essential work or services.</p> <p>(d) This exclusion would have to include things like the village pizza oven and even the community centre - nice things to have, but not essential.</p> <p>(e) Other non-essential services volunteering to be encouraged (eg. Pizza oven, charettes, etc. etc.) but not to form part of this scheme; ie. not compulsory, totally free choice. This is to protect ourselves against being forced to work on things we don't agree with, or being caught up in someone's 'pet project' at the expense of more essential work.</p>
2	Yes	Yes	---	---
1	In principle, yes.	Yes, this system works well at our school.	This would be great. A village LETS scheme would be excellent. However, this would take much more organizing, and there are issues with equity of work. I would be interested in a 1 hour of work for 1 hour of credit scheme.	I think it is essential that this issue is addressed, or we will start to see young people on low incomes leaving the village, and that would be very detrimental. I think that we need to attract more people from a diverse background, culture, and income level, in order to ensure a healthy diversity within the village. Thanks for providing this opportunity to address the issue.
2	<p>Yes, we already do some volunteer work.</p> <p>But we should define which activities are included. The only activities that should be included are those that are vital for the village to operate eg. finance-treasurer, reports-secretary, sewerage</p>	We would need to know which activities are included. We would not make a financial contribution to a scheme that included non-core undefined activities. We would not contribute to a scheme that included art and music pursuits. This scheme could be open to abuse, unfortunately.	No, there are already lets schemes in the south that people can access if they wish.	<p>We feel that it is essential that we only spend the money that is available via levies. Spending has to be reduced to keep levies at a reasonable level.</p> <p>We also feel that reporting of expenditure needs to be improved. I have asked for information about paid</p>

	<p>treatment maintenance, etc. Some of these roles are hard to fill but essential.</p> <p>Other volunteering activities in arts, music etc should NOT be included as they are not essential. As a non-professional artist and musician I volunteer my time, attend rehearsals etc. but this is a personal choice and should not be subsidised by the community. Participation in something that you enjoy is its own reward.</p>			<p>weeding but have never received an answer. This is a concern as weeding may come under the new scheme. When volunteering becomes paid work you have to take care that records are kept in a form that any one can look at them and know exactly what is happening.</p> <p>Administering and reporting on this scheme will take more time and energy and may not be recorded properly. I would not feel comfortable with this Scheme unless good administration practices are in place. It would be better to just cut spending.</p>
2	<p>We do, and will continue to do, as much volunteer work for the Community as we feel able to tackle at any particular time, but we are not prepared to commit to any specified number of hours. We would also want to choose the tasks ourselves from the range of genuinely necessary work items, according to our personal skills and enjoyment of the work type.</p> <p>So, we are prepared to commit to specific tasks, but not to specific hours.</p>	<p>We make, and will continue to make, monetary and/or goods donations to the Community to the extent we feel able to afford at any particular time, but we are not prepared to commit to any specified dollar amount beyond our levies. We would also want to choose the items or projects to which we contribute, according to our personal interests and assurance of real community need.</p> <p>So, we are prepared to donate to particular projects but not to general administrative funds.</p>	<p>We believe there should always be value exchanged in any transaction – even if it is just enjoyment, appreciation and fulfillment experienced in return for time and inputs. Trouble is, the community is not yet good enough at providing even this basic value exchange. Currently, those who volunteer their time are as likely to get “kicked in the teeth” with criticism as they are to experience appreciation.</p> <p>We don't think LETS is the answer as it does not give enough flexibility of products and services from the wider local business community on which to spend LETS barter credits.</p> <p>In addition, the LETS “cheque-book” type of recording system is too clunky for what we need and would take a lot of time to manage for internal recording of contributions. It would be different if we could have</p>	<p>Anything we do needs to be based on some form of value exchange. If we need more volunteers and donors, we shouldn't make them take on onerous commitments to “hours” and / or “dollars”. We need to pay attention to what makes people, individually and collectively, feel worthy, fulfilled, appreciated and, above all <u>supported</u> for meaningful necessary inputs, whether they are paid in dollars or some other form of value that makes sense to them. The Community needs to give value to its volunteers and donors, not just vice versa.</p>

			our own monetary notes, coins or tokens – perhaps this might be feasible for a more fully developed Village offering a reasonable variety of internal services and products.	
1	Yes! Will all volunteer work count or only some – e.g. being a committee member vs. coordinator? Many people do more (than say 50 hrs/yr); will they now do less? Are all volunteer hours equal – e.g. watering plants vs sewerage testing or organizing markets?	Yes! I would personally prefer to do the volunteer work but if I was away for any length of time I'd pay.	I'd like <u>both</u> : Maybe 4 tiers – paid work in \$, and volunteer (not recorded) within the Village – paid work in LETS – and volunteer (recorded for community contribution) Maybe payment could be in LETS <u>or</u> \$ e.g., an older person could sell a painting for LETS and pay their community contribution if they were low on cash.	Great!
1	Yes, very much so, especially when we live in our new house early next year.	Yes, if I was unable to do voluntary work I would certainly be prepared to make a monetary donation instead.	I'm not sure how LETS works but believe it may provide a system useful for the Village to practice. Perhaps it could be looked into if our own systems fail.	The idea of regular volunteer days to assist NEC projects and maintenance would be good. I also think that other community projects such as a community centre or farm initiatives could have specific working bees organized on similar lines to the amphitheatre which was very successful.
1 (2)	I believe in principle in volunteering - however there are times throughout life when there is no time to spare. Next year for example is shaping up to being one of those years. We expect to be building, I still have our youngest child at home, and work part time. However - once in the village, and with both children at school, I would be very keen to be able to volunteer some of my time. So - simple answer: yes - longer answer - depending on life's circumstances!	No - Having brought into the village only recently (and therefore not being aware of any previous understandings) – we understood that our levy is what pays for work going on around the village. We are now realising that this is not considered to be enough - however, we cannot now adjust our financial means to this. The levy as it is was a serious consideration for us. Increases in what we would have to pay (ie - to contribute if not volunteering) would be a burden - and would only result in us having to	If that means that people who are volunteering are recognised for this - then yes. I know there are people who put in a lot of time for the village - and feel that they should be recognised.	I think that it is fantastic to encourage people to contribute - but that it cannot be forced.

		work more - which I would see as being detrimental to us as a family.		
1	Yes	Prefer working but, if unable to volunteer at any time, I would pay.	LETS is a great concept I have been involved with in Victor Harbour. I totally support this – also a mix of barter and cash works for those who feel they haven't any goods and services to offer	---
1	Not happy about “committing”	Not happy about “committing”	No. Keep it simple. Use national dollars and help people find credible paid work to fund their levies.	Volunteering and donating are great but should not be forced. If there is a job needing to be done, first employ the skills of a Village member before searching the local community and then searching in the broader community. Let's keep our money here in our village.
1	Yes	No	Not sure what you mean but definitely prefer to trade jobs and time to money.	---
1	yes	---	---	---
1	No	yes		

Notes: 1. “1 (2)” means the number of people for whom the response was made was not actually specified but appeared likely to be both partners of a couple.  
2. ( --- ) means no response was given to that particular question