

Coloured Cards For Transparent and Streamlined Decision-Making *

	Priority	Decision	Explanation
1	Red	Disagree	I disagree with the proposal as it is written. I am blocking this proposal and I am willing to help find a solution.
2	Orange	Reservations	I have a serious reservation, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am willing to give my consent / • I will not block consensus.
3	Blue	Neutral	I am neutral or basically for it, with some slight reservation
4	Green	Agree	I agree with the proposal as it is written.

The Process for Using The Coloured Cards for Decision-Making:

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is read out to the group.

DISCUSSION

If anyone needs a question answered or requires clarification about the proposal before they can make a decision, they hold up their **yellow card** as they would during a discussion. A member of the proposal team answers the query. A group / community member could also raise a **green card** to provide more clarity or answer the question. Small amendments can be made to the proposal following the question and answer process.

DECISION-MAKING

1. The proposal is read to the group again.
2. A show of cards for decision-making is requested - each person displays a card to indicate their level of support for the proposal.
3. If a **blue**, **orange** or **red** card is displayed people holding those cards are asked to briefly state their concerns.
4. The group is then requested to show their support from the proposal a second time. On the second round a proposal is passed unless one or more red cards are still being raised.
5. The card count of all colours for both cardings is noted in the minutes. Where consent is not reached on the second carding the proposal goes back to the Circle or other proposing team for more consideration and development. The team (Circle) will consider the opinions and any new information that has arisen in the group meeting and may alter their proposal and then bring it back to another group meeting.

* **NOTE: Proxies are not allowed** because people need to be present to listen to the information, comments and concerns of the others and **be willing to change their minds about the proposal**.

REFERENCES:

1. **Allison, Robin** (2020). *Cohousing for Life, A Practical and Personal Story of Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood*, p. 79-86. Mary Egan Publishing, New Zealand.
2. **Earthsong Eco-Neighbourhood** Coloured Cards: www.earthsong.org.nz Sarah West 3 November 2020