

Building a Movement for Change: Why Positive Solutions Trump Criticism in Direct Democracy: by Ken Rollings for North Durham

Imagine a community garden where every neighbour gets a say in what's planted, tomatoes, carrots, or apples, based on what feeds the town best. Now picture a corporate farm where a distant boardroom decides the crops, ships them off for profit, and leaves the community with scraps. That's the difference between the centralised systems we live under today and the promise of Direct Democracy. At its core, Direct Democracy is about giving people the power to make decisions that shape their lives. From local resources like fish or oil to whether we go to war. But building this movement isn't about tearing others down with criticism. It's about proposing positive solutions that overcome obstacles and inspire change. Here's why that approach is the key to reclaiming our communities from corrupt control.

The Problem: Power in the Wrong Hands

Across the world, from England to India to the USA, centralised systems, call them the "establishment" or "Technocratic class", control resources and policies that should belong to the people. Take a fishing village in Britain: the fish in its waters could sustain local families and trade, but corporate quotas and international deals often dictate who profits. Or consider major decisions like military invasions, where populations are rarely consulted, **unless it's a matter of defending their own soil**. These systems thrive on secrecy, coercion, and a lack of accountability, leaving communities feeling powerless.

It's tempting to just point fingers at politicians, corporations, or the "deep state" pulling strings behind closed doors. But criticism alone is a dead end. It fuels division, distracts from progress, and lets those in power dismiss us as complainers. Instead, Direct Democracy offers a way forward by putting decision-making back in the hands of the people, guided by a principle as old as time: the freedom to act without causing harm, loss, or injury to others.

The Solution: Direct Democracy Through Referendums

Direct Democracy isn't just a buzzword, it's a system where communities have a direct vote on the policies that affect them. Want to trade local apples with a neighbouring country? Let the growers and residents decide through a transparent referendum. Should a nation go to war (except in clear cases of self-defense)? That's a question for the people, not a backroom deal. By requiring referendums for major policies, we ensure accountability and strip away the unchecked power of elites who profit from our resources or drag us into conflicts.

This vision aligns with a simple moral code: everyone should have the freedom to live, work, and travel without hindrance, as long as they cause no harm, loss or injury to another. It's a principle that resonates from local councils to national debates, whether you're discussing fishing rights or resisting overreach like ULEZ policies. But making this work means more than just demanding votes, it means building a movement that solves problems, not creates them.

Overcoming Obstacles with Positive Solutions

Sceptics of Direct Democracy often raise obstacles: "What if the majority makes bad decisions?" or "What if communities lack the expertise to manage complex issues?" These are valid concerns, but they're not roadblocks, they're opportunities for solutions. Instead of dismissing critics, we can propose answers that strengthen the system.

For example, to prevent majority tyranny, where a majority vote could harm minorities—Direct Democracy can include constitutional safeguards (mostly already in place), the principle is if the issue affects a whole county the county gets a county wide referendum, the same goes for a town, region, home nation or the whole of the Great Britain or its islands. To address expertise, local referendums can draw on transparent data and input from trusted experts, like farmers who know their land or economists who understand trade. Switzerland has had a Direct Democracy system for over 175 years. Platforms like Pol.is in Taiwan have shown how digital tools can foster consensus-driven discussions, ensuring everyone's voice is heard without descending into chaos. These solutions aren't just ideas, they're proven models we can adapt to make Direct Democracy work.

By focusing on solutions, we avoid the trap of lazy criticism that assumes change is impossible. Those who benefit from the status quo love to throw up irrelevant obstacles, "It's too complicated!" or "People won't care," but these are easily overcome with clear communication and community engagement. The key is to stay constructive, showing how Direct Democracy can empower us without causing harm.

Why Positive Solutions Build a Stronger Movement

A movement built on criticism is like a house built on sand, it crumbles under pressure. But one built on positive solutions is a fortress, uniting people around a shared vision. When we propose practical steps, like referendums for resource control or safeguards for fair governance, we attract charismatic leaders and principled administrators who can't be swayed by coercion or blackmail. These are the people who will carry Direct Democracy forward, not those looking to co-opt ideas for personal gain.

This approach also sets a tone for the community we want to build. Instead of division, we foster collaboration. Instead of pointing out flaws, we offer fixes. Every article, conversation, or social media post about Direct Democracy should spark hope and action, inviting others to contribute their own solutions. This is how we create a movement that's bigger than any one person. A movement that reclaims power for the people, not just swaps one elite for another.

Join the Movement

Direct Democracy isn't a dream—it's a practical path to a world where communities control their resources, decide their policies, and live by the principle of causing no harm. But it starts with us. Write your own ideas for how Direct Democracy can work in your town. Share this article with content creators, local leaders, or friends who are tired of corrupt systems. Visit www.ddrighnow.com to learn more and join a community dedicated to positive change. Together, we can build a movement where solutions trump criticism, and power belongs to the people.

Written by Ken R Rollings for ddrighnow.com. Share freely with credit to support the movement for Direct Democracy.