

Principle FIVE

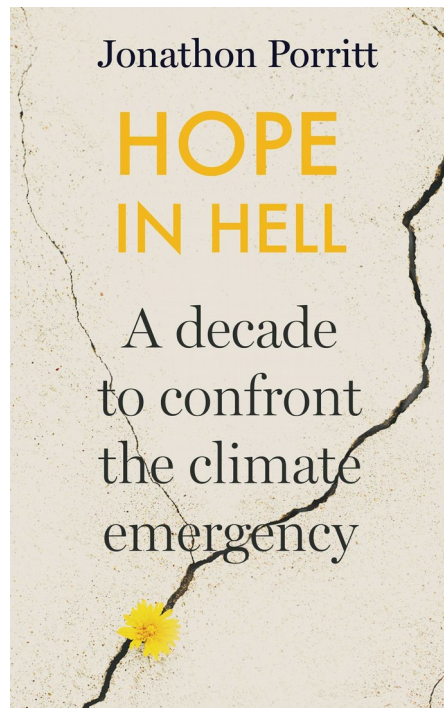
P5

December 2020

The AGM took place by videolink via www.meet.coop
the online meeting co-operative

Jonathan Cook, Dennis Chambers and Chris Olewicz were
re-elected as the Principle 5 Directors.

The meeting decided to start a reading group and because of
the climate emergency, the book decided upon is



anyone who would like to take part, please contact
steve@sheffield.coop

It was also decided to continue the study group, regular additions will be posted on the newsletter.
This month we are looking at the Co-operative Party.

Some background information:
[The Co-operative Party](#)

[Report from Co-operative Congress 2005 \(Co-op News\)](#)

and this is a current Co-op Party campaign:

[Co-op Party creates online tool to find council 'food champions' \(Co-op News 4th November 2020\)](#)

All of the past study papers are on the website:
<https://www.principle5.coop/p5-study-programme-unit-1>

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"Mind our business" report launch (1 December 2020)

The on-line launch on **1 December (14h to 15h30 CET)** of the report "***Mind our business: the transformative power of sustainable and inclusive business models***" it will be made public on that day.
Concord and Cooperatives Europe.

According to the EC, [there are 2 million social economy enterprises in Europe, representing 10% of all businesses in the EU, employing more than 11 million people – about 6% of the EU's employees.](#) The report explains why and how populating the economy and international supply chains with sustainable and inclusive business models (SIBMs) would help the EU advance on its various objectives and identifies how the [external economic cooperation and external action policies of the EU and its member states](#) can support such proliferation, if there the sufficient political will.

[Programme for webinar](#)

You can register [here](#).

The Co-operation Town movement was discussed at the AGM.

Cooperation Town is a network of community-led food co-ops, organising on streets and estates across the country. Cooperation Town co-ops are small buying groups, providing their members with free and affordable groceries, sourced in bulk and distributed at a very low price.

Cooperation Town food co-ops are owned by their members and run according to local needs. Members decide collectively on how to organise and are responsible for the day to day running of the co-op.

While each Cooperation Town co-op is independent, the network is designed to share resources and support across the movement.

The vision is for a food co-op on every street in every town.

What's the difference between a food co-op and a food bank?

Food co-ops are part of the Cooperative Movement, which means that they follow the [seven Cooperative Principles](#).

Unlike a food bank, where recipients are means tested and have no say in how the service is run, food co-ops are owned by their members, who decide together what to buy and how to run the co-op.

They are not-for-profit groups, set up to meet members' needs and are controlled by the people who join them. They are based on solidarity, not charity.

While members have to contribute towards the cost of their shopping, food co-ops offer a great value for money.

They are the most affordable – and sociable – way to get food.

How to start a Cooperation Town food co-op

The meeting agreed that Principle 5 should take a particular interest in this movement and be supportive where required.

The Principle 5 Resource Centre will be closed to visitors until the COVID – 19 restrictions are lifted, but please contact by email if you would like to arrange a future visit.

Resources and information is still available by email: contact steve@sheffield.coop

The Co-operative News index can be searched at:

<https://www.coopnews.principle5.coop/>

Back editions of the newsletter are available to read on the website home page:

<https://www.principle5.coop/>

and for all the latest from the Co-operative Movement see:

[Co-operative News](#)

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<https://www.principle5.coop/>

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