

Strong Foundations Sustainable Futures

Powered by Members:
Strengthening Active Membership

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2026



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What we'll do today

- Understand what “active membership” means
- Explore different ways members can participate
- Identify barriers to getting involved
- Think about priorities for your co-operative

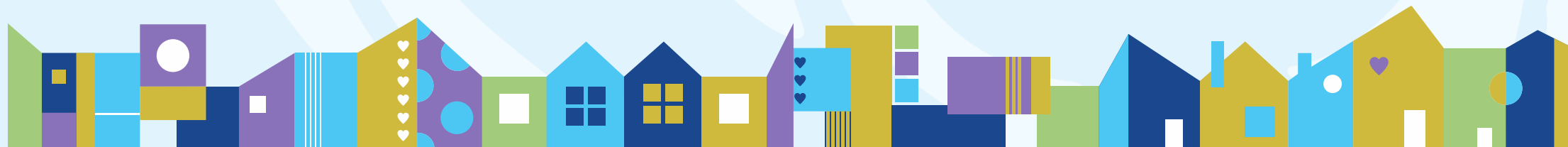


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What does “Active Membership” mean?

A definition of active membership might be:

“The informed and inclusive participation of members, at a level and in a form that works for them, through which they exercise ownership, influence decisions, support their community and sustain the democratic governance of the co-operative”.



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Active Membership

The challenge for every housing co-operative is not simply to encourage participation, but to create a culture where every member understands they have both an opportunity and a responsibility to shape the future of their co-operative.

Think about

How this feels for your co-op?

The challenges you face around active membership and what is working in your co-op

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Why Active Membership matters

- Housing co-op members are owners as well as residents
- Democratic governance depends on member involvement
- Active membership can support better decisions and services
- It can strengthen community, trust and succession
- The aim is meaningful participation — not simply more meetings



What is Active Membership?

- Informed and inclusive participation
- At a level and in a form that works for each member
- Members exercising ownership and influence
- Supporting the community
- Members sustaining democratic governance

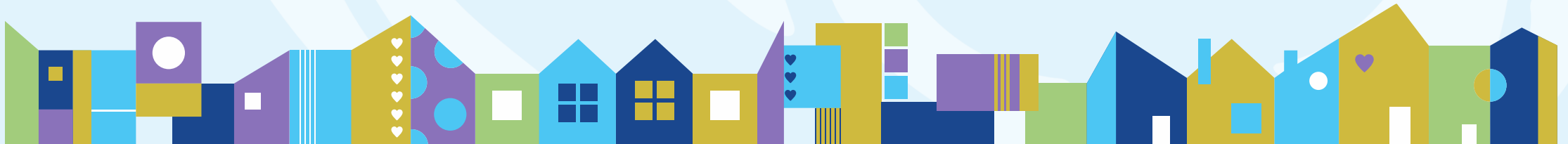


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Active Membership - What gets in the way

Common barriers include:

- Time, work and caring responsibilities
- Accessibility or support needs
- Not understanding membership
- Too few ways to participate
- Lack of confidence or experience
- Feeling that involvement will not make a difference

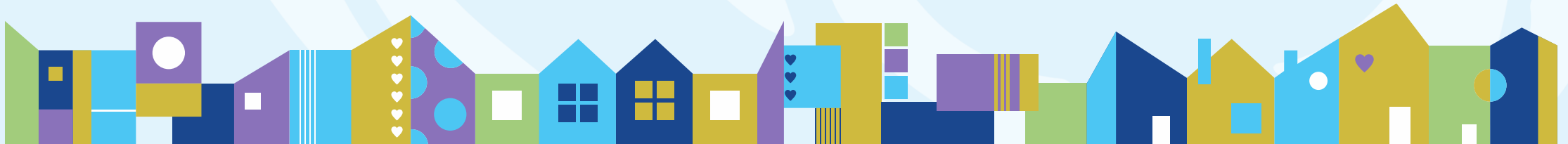


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Activity 1: Barriers + Solutions

Think about the barrier on your table

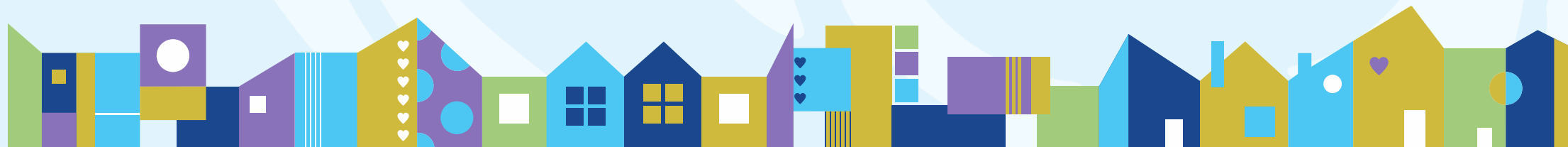
- What is causing the barrier?
- What could the co-op do differently?
- What could you try within 3 months?
- Who needs to be involved?
- How would we know it worked?



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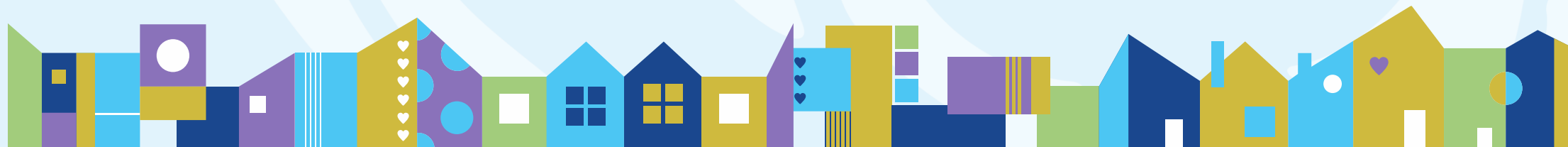
The “Active Membership” menu of opportunities

- 5–15 minutes: quick feedback, surveys, ideas, one-off help
- 30–60 minutes: focus groups, walkabouts, member discussions
- 2–5 hours: working groups, events, scrutiny, training
- Ongoing: Governing Body, project leadership, mentoring
- Different routes can lead to deeper involvement



Activity 2: Complete the sentence ?

“One thing I think my co-op could do differently to encourage active membership is...”



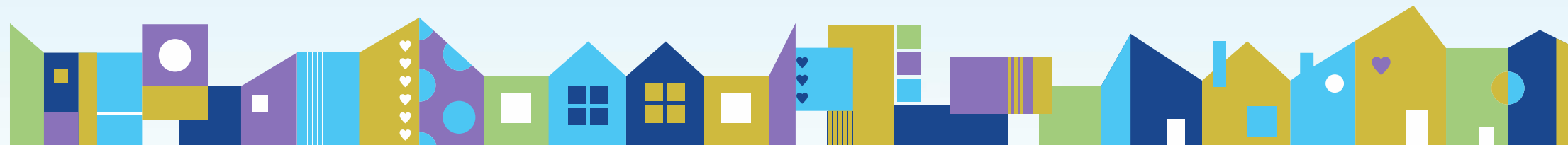
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