

# Joining and Leaving

## RR Joining Procedure - First Steps

### Welcome

Welcome to the Radical Routes Joining Procedure. If your co-op is considering joining Radical Routes, you will also need a copy of *The Members' Pack* and *The Application To Join Form* (there's a copy in the Members' Pack, page 8.1.)

You can get the Members' Pack from the Radical Routes 'Internal Communications Group' (ICG), whose job it is to help you through the Joining Procedure.

### Purpose

The joining procedure has three main aims:

- 1) To make sure your co-op understands how Radical Routes (RR) works, and is aware of all the commitments that go with RR membership.
- 2) To give existing members of RR the opportunity to get to know your co-op.
- 3) To enable your co-op to demonstrate its commitment to RR before joining.

### Gatherings

- 1) To show your commitment, your co-op is asked to send at least one representative to at least three **consecutive** RR Gatherings (they take place every three months). You can join at the third of these Gatherings.
- 2) If your co-op misses a Gathering, you will have to start the sequence of three consecutive Gatherings all over again, unless there is an exceptional reason.
- 3) At each Gathering (except the one where you intend to join RR), your co-op should attend the 'Meeting for Prospective Member

Co-ops', held at each Gathering. At this meeting, you will be able to talk to someone from the ICG about the Joining Procedure and how it is going. This is when you can ask for an '**ICG visit**', an essential part of the Joining Procedure (see overleaf).

- 4) To receive notice of where the next Gathering is, you can pay a Service Charge of £7 per quarter to RR. This is advisable, but not compulsory. (All Member Co-ops pay a Service Charge to fund the basic administration of RR.) This should be sent to Bridge St. Workers' Co-op, 5 Bridge St, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6BS.

### Workshops

- 1) At each Gathering, there are four workshops for prospective members:
  - i) Introduction to Radical Routes
  - ii) Introduction to RR Finance
  - iii) Facilitation
  - iv) Consensus-building

These workshops are designed to give you the information and skills needed to be effective and constructive members of Radical Routes.

- 2) By the time you join, each workshop should have been attended by at least one of your members. The more of you who go to these workshops, the better.
- 3) At each Gathering, there are two Business Meetings. By the time you join, at least one of your members should have attended at least one Business Meeting.

Your representative will be asked to sign the register as it is passed around the Business Meeting.

ICG Contact: Izi, Fox Housing Co-op, Werndolau, Gelli Aur, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8NE.  
Tel: 01558 668 798 Fax: 01558 668 088 Email: rogerm@rawgem.co.uk

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## RR Joining Procedure - Timetable

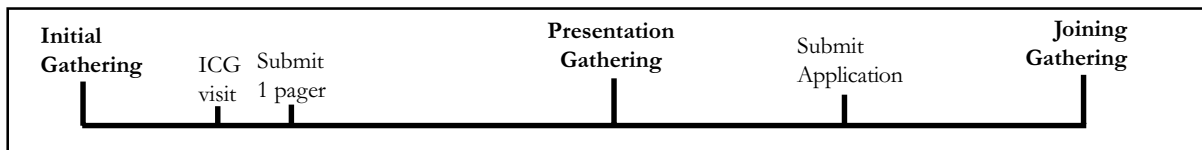
### Seven Steps

There are seven more steps your co-op must take in order to become a member of the RR network, which you will have to complete in the following order:

- 1) **Have a visit from the ICG.** All members of your co-op must attend this meeting. At the meeting, the ICG rep will explain how RR works, and explain the commitments involved in being an RR member. They must give you a copy of the Members' Pack.
- 2) Send one page of information about your co-op to Secretarial Group to go out to RR.
- 3) At the following Gathering, make a short (10 minute) presentation about your co-op and its members during a Business Meeting. The Presentation should explain who is in

the co-op, what radical activities they are involved in, and what the co-op is about.

- 4) Send a completed Application to Join Form to your ICG contact person *and* to the Radical Routes Secretarial Group within six weeks of the Gathering where you did the Presentation.
- 5) If your co-op is accepted at the next Gathering, send a copy of your Registered Rules and Certificate of Registration/ Incorporation to the RR Secretary.
- 6) Buy a £1 membership share - also from the Secretary of RR.
- 7) As a member of RR you are also required to invest a minimum of £50 in Radical Routes' financial base - 'Rootstock'.



### The Timetable

Let's say you are trying to join as quickly as possible. You will attend three Gatherings. Let us call them the *Initial Gathering*, the *Presentation Gathering*, and the *Joining Gathering*. The process will take six months. The timetable will run as follows:

- 1) Attend *Initial Gathering*.
- 2) Within 5 weeks of *Initial Gathering* - ICG visit to your co-op.
- 3) Within 1 week of the ICG visit - submit 1 page of info to Secretarial Group.
- 4) Attend *Presentation Gathering* - make a presentation to the Gathering.
- 5) Within 6 weeks of *Presentation Gathering* - submit Application to Secretarial Group and ICG.

- 6) Attend *Joining Gathering* - the network will make its decision.

### Registration

- 1) Please note that you cannot become a Full Member of RR until and unless your co-op has been fully registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies or with Companies House.
- 2) If registration is imminent, you can be accepted as a member pending registration.
- 3) Until your co-op is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies or Companies House, you will not enjoy voting rights.

If you have any questions about how to join, please do not hesitate to contact anyone in the ICG - our job is to help new co-ops through this process. Your very first port of call is Izi (number overleaf).

Good luck!