

A small presentation on...



Elizabeth Chamberlain

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Contact: elizabeth.chamberlain@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Evidence | Resources | Policy | Opinion | Signposting: www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/thebigsociety

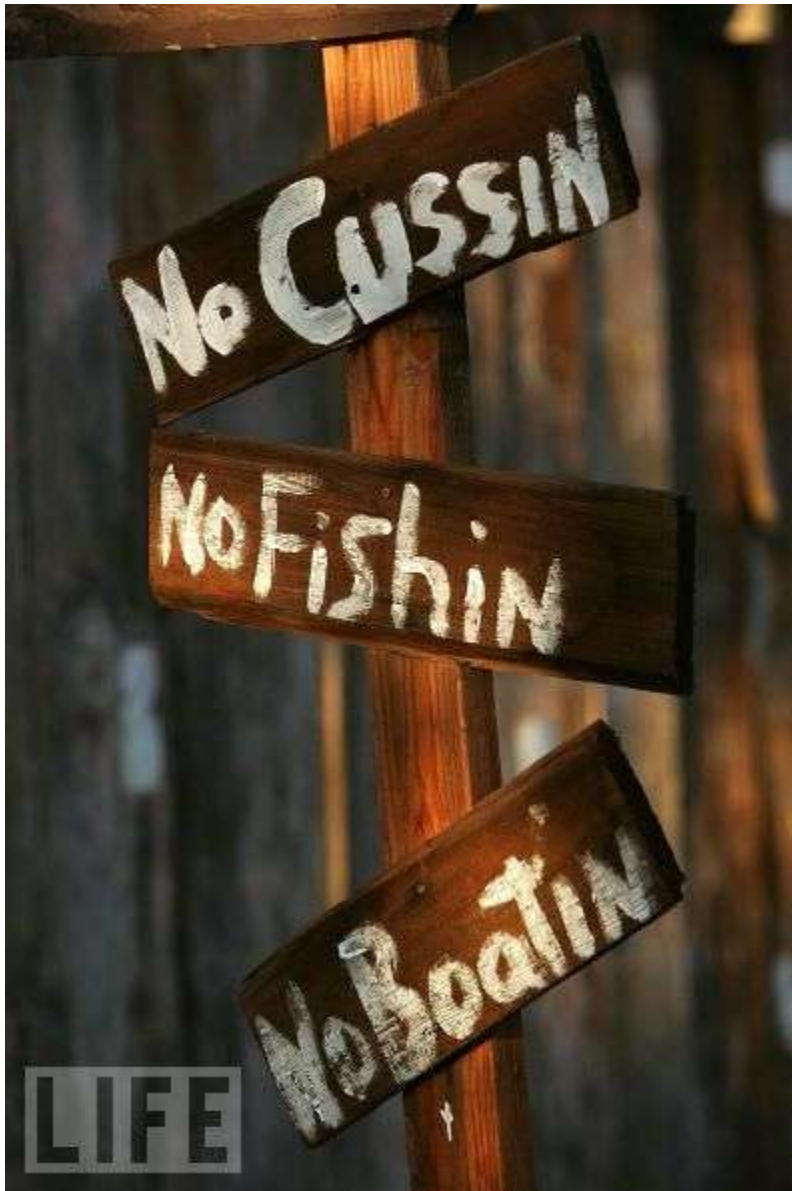
What is the Big Society?

'a society where people come together to solve problems and improve life for themselves and their communities; ... where the leading force for progress is social responsibility, not state control.'

In short, it's a vision with **5 themes**:

1. Give communities more powers
2. Encourage people to take an active role in their communities
3. Transfer power from central to local government
4. Support for the voluntary and community sector
5. Publish government data

“...the best ideas come from the ground up, not the top down. We know that when you give people and communities more power over their lives, more power to come together and work together to make life better – great things happen.”



Give
communities
more powers

Encourage people to take
an active role in their
communities



Transfer power from central to local government





Support co-ops, mutuals,
charities and social
enterprises

Opening up public services



Publish
government
data



Implications for regional structures

Localism Bill

- Abolishment of Regional Development Agencies
- Creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships
- Regional Growth Fund

Implications for environmental charities

- vulnerability to cuts
- pledges in the Comprehensive Spending Review
- recognition of what is already happening
- opportunity to embed action on climate change across civil society