

Character - "Salesman"

Team are given a limited view of how the current task fits into the big picture

Useful where time and efficiency are important

More satisfactory than "General" as team don't feel they're being kept in the dark

Bridge Example

"Put that girder over here, because we're going to use it to make a frame when we get some more of them"

Hillwalking example

If someone is injured, but not badly, the leader may explain why things are being done in order that other team members learn a little. It may be used to give an experience, such as "we're climbing this hill (that you may not want to) because there is a stunning view from the top."

Character - "Consultant"

A greater level of understanding of the whole picture is generated.

Team member's Learning is had through discussion of the plan

Leader, as the most experienced has control, but seeks involvement by the team

Consultation leads to feeling of ownership and greater satisfaction in the project

Requires a greater level of understanding of the task by the team members

Bridge Example

"This is my design for the bridge, can anyone see anything I've missed before we start?"

Hillwalking Example

The leader may have decided upon the destination, but there are several routes to it: "we are going up this hill to see the view, here's my proposed route on the map, can anyone see a problem with my route?"

Character - "General"

Team require no idea of how the task fits into the 'Big Picture'

Useful where time is of the essence, works best when the team can appreciate this too.

Often mis-used by uncomfortable leaders perhaps in the lower levels of Maslow's Hierarchy of needs

Bridge Example

"Put that girder there"

Hillwalking example

In emergency tasks may need to be done immediately without time consuming explanation. An incident may be followed by the leader taking complete charge and telling people what to do: "Phone 999", "get the first aid kit", "we're stopping here"

Character – "Teacher"

The team have a clear picture of their immediate part of the overall picture

Begins to develop the team's abilities: next time they may be able to do this part of the task on their own

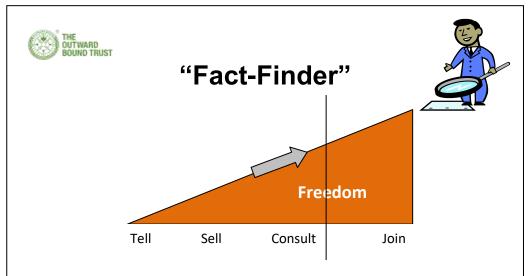
Team begins to learn, leading to higher levels of satisfaction in the team

Bridge Example

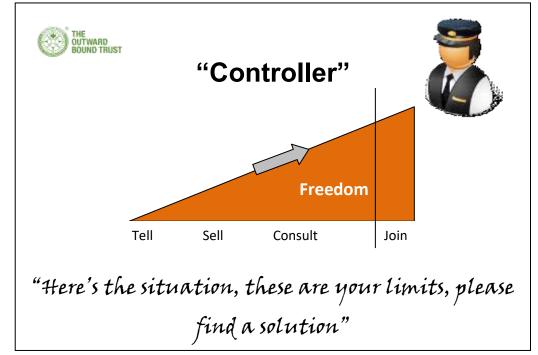
"You're going to bring these girders over here, to make this part of a bridge, by doing this with them, does everyone understand what's going on?"

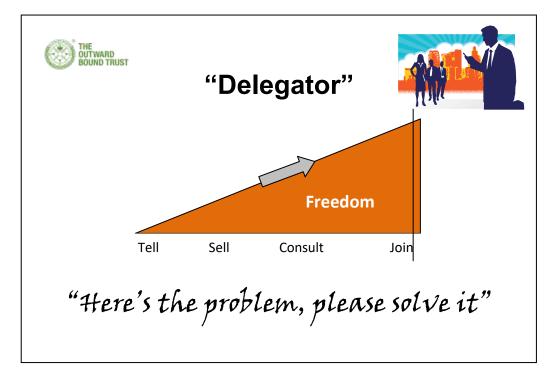
Hillwalking Example

The route and destination may have been chosen, but the leader will now explain why it has been chosen: "there's a fantastic view over this hill, so we're going up it, but if you look on the map, the best way is this way here, does everyone understand?"









Character - "Controller"

Leader sets parameters in the beginning, then team continues alone

Leads to real learning about how to use principles taught

Implicitly relies upon a great deal of understanding of team's abilities. And trust.

Careful consideration of parameters can result in adequate control and high learning

Bridge Example

"Can you build a bridge across the river allowing access from A to B" The parameters are set: It will be a bridge, but what sort?......

Hillwalking Example

"Lets go hillwalking!". The team decide the location, route, difficulty, but they will be hillwalking. They will then navigate the route they have chosen using techniques passed on by the leader, picking the appropriate techniques themselves.

Character - "Fact Finder"

Leader makes decisions based upon information gathered by the team

Team's opinions, assumptions, prejudices and preferences can be included in the decisions

Team make all the decisions but with leader as safety net, a great learning opportunity

Bridge Example

"Can you design me a bridge, I'll review your design and then you can build it"

Hillwalking Example

We're going hillwalking in this area, which of these mountains do you want to go up?" The team will then navigate using techniques taught by the leader as they are needed

Character - "Delegator"

All of the task at hand is delegated to the team

Relies upon team understanding the problem completely

Relies upon the team understanding less tangible factors such as 'ethos'

There is a high level of trust as leader is responsible for something without any control There is an opportunity for the leader to join in as an equal

Bridge Example

"We need to be able to cross this river"

(This may still limit the full creativity of possibly stating "we need to be able to get from A to B" whilst acknowledging that there is a river between them. *Must we cross*?)

Hillwalking Example

We may be in a lovely mountainous area, but full freedom can be given to the team, perhaps trusting that they will do more than just stay in bed: "what does everyone want to do today?" or "take me hillwalking today"