

Gavray Meadows - Open Event

Come and meet us at
Langford Village Community Centre, 8 Nightingale Place, Bicester, OX26 6XX
on **Saturday 11th June 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.**

Join one of our guided walks leaving from from
Langford Village Community Centre at **10.30 a.m** and **12.00 p.m.**

Dear friends

Our community is forming a new Community Interest Company to own and manage Gavray Meadows in Bicester, securing its future as a precious wildlife haven. The founding members of the Community Interest Company would like to invite you to join us for our open event to chat and find out more. We are keen to hear your views and hope you will want to join us in our work.

We have put together an exhibition to tell you more about the Meadows, our plans for the future and how to become a member of our Community Interest Company. To give you some background information we hope you will find the question and answer format of this leaflet helpful.

We look forward to seeing you on the 11th June and if you have any questions in advance please feel free to drop us an email at info@gavraymeadows.org.

Kind regards

*Founding members of
Gavray Meadows Community Interest Company.*

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How did we get this opportunity to own the Meadows?

We have long campaigned to secure the future of the Meadows. When L&Q Estates took over the housing plans for the adjacent land, they have taken a very positive approach and are helping us to take ownership of the Meadows.



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Where is Gavray Meadows?

Gavray Meadows is the wonderful local wildlife site shown on the plan to the north of Gavray Drive, Bicester

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Have you had help to prepare for taking ownership of the land?

Yes. L&Q Estates have funded Alan Caldwell, who helps communities like ours to set up community companies to own land. We have been working closely with Alan since January to get everything ready. You can read more about Alan's work at www.alancaldwellassociates.co.uk

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How are we going to organise ourselves to be a good landowner and to look after Gavray Meadows?

We know we will have to be really well organised to look after the land and make sure Gavray Meadows thrives as a local wildlife asset. We also know that we will have to be well funded with the expertise to manage the land long into the future. This is why we are setting up Gavray Meadows Community Interest Company (see back page for details).

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Is it certain that we will own this land?

The establishment of our Community Interest Company to own the land will be linked to the planning approval for the planned housing development at Gavray Drive. Through Alan, we are in close contact with the Cherwell District Council about our plans.

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Who is involved?

We are a small (and growing) group of local residents called the 'Friends of Gavray Meadows'. We have been campaigning for a few years to ensure Gavray Meadows is protected as a local wildlife site. You can see our facebook page here <https://tinyurl.com/4p2x3hcr>

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What are our plans for the Meadows?

We want to be custodians of Gavray Meadows and implement a carefully considered management plan to protect and enhance the plant and wildlife of the Meadows. We believe it is a precious place and source of pride for our town and townsfolk.



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Why is it so important?

Gavray Meadows is an oasis of traditional wildlife-rich countryside close to the centre of Bicester, and at the head of a green wedge connecting the heart of the town with the open countryside to the east, retaining the town's link to its agricultural past.



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What is a Community Interest Company?

It is a special type of limited company which exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders. It has an 'asset lock' which is a legal promise that the company's assets will only be used for the purpose set out in its community interest statement.

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What is the main aim of the Community Interest Company?

Our clearly stated aim is 'The protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment and biodiversity of Gavray Meadows'.

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Who owns the Community Interest Company?

Gavray Meadows Community Interest Company will be established as a Company Limited by Guarantee and will be owned by its members. Anyone on the electoral register who lives within the area shown on the map above can become a member. We will also have associate and junior membership.

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Who regulates Community Interest Companies?

In addition to normal company house regulation Community Interest Companies have their own 'Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies'. See here for further information <https://tinyurl.com/47uatrj7>

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Who delivers the work of the Community Interest Company?

The company can raise funds, appoint staff and enter into contracts as any company would do to deliver their plans.

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Who manages the Community Interest Company?

The members elect a board of directors (with a process at each AGM) to manage the land.

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How is it funded?

It will be funded from a lump sum contribution from L & Q Estates, annual service charge on the new houses in the Gavray Drive development and agreed Section 106 contributions through the planning process. The company can also use grants, loans, and crowd funding campaigns.

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How do I get involved?

Anyone within the area of benefit can apply to become a full member. Application forms will be available at the open event on the 11th June and afterwards on our website.

Contact details

For further information please see our website at www.gavraymeadows.org or email at info@gavraymeadows.org

