

# Our strategic priorities

## Framework

The **objects** of Histon & Impington Green Spaces 'for which the charity is established are, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment in the parishes of Histon and Impington by the advancement of biodiversity'.



The **vision** of Histon & Impington Green Spaces (HIGS) is that the people of Histon & Impington will be the custodians and beneficiaries of an expanded network of wildlife-rich, green spaces that present and future generations can access and enjoy.

The **mission** of HIGS is to secure, by acquisition or otherwise, long-term access to land in and around Histon & Impington and enable this to be managed for these twin purposes:

- nature conservation; and
- the community experiencing nature for its enjoyment, health and wellbeing.

The first spaces for these purposes are Long Meadow (LM) and Croft Close Set-aside (CCSA), collectively known as **Abbey Fields**. Here we are seeking to protect and enhance their biodiversity. Importantly these areas will be for local people to enjoy, to savour their serenity and to connect with nature.

## Our values

The **values** of HIGS are:

- **High standards.** We seek high standards in all we do, with a collaborative environment in which everybody can contribute according to their interests and skills.
- **Rooted in our community.** We are based in and working for the benefit of Histon & Impington. We depend on the community's goodwill and will act accordingly.
- **Committed to our future.** We recognise the advantages that people get from living in proximity to wild green open spaces. Our focus is not just on living in the present but in acting positively to address the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.
- **Sensibly ambitious.** We know that there is more to do and that we must balance our ambition with our capacity to deliver to a high standard.





## Our strategic priorities

Recognising the above, we have set five **strategic priorities**:

- Taking care
- Doing more
- Reaching out
- Being ready
- Securing new spaces.

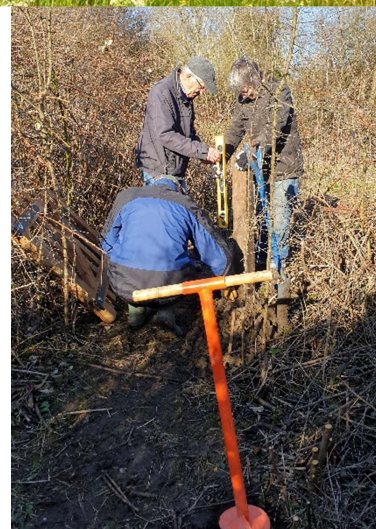
No strategic priority is more important than any other but one, **Taking care**, is fundamental and provides a foundation on which all others stand. **Being ready** is the precursor of **Securing new spaces**.

### Taking care

We will manage the charity and our existing spaces legally, safely and sustainably, in a manner consistent with our objectives and with the consent of our stakeholders.

This strategic priority embraces the following actions:

- Ensure the good governance of the charity: that it operates safely and legally; actions are informed by the membership and appropriate expertise; moreover that volunteers are well motivated and supported.



- Ensure the charity’s viability with high member retention and sufficient recruitment. Furthermore, the Charity is attractive to potential trustees and other volunteers, so encouraging participation in running the Charity and in delivering its programmes.
- Manage CCSA and LM to maintain or increase their biodiversity value and ecological resilience, while enabling their use and enjoyment in a manner consistent with HIGS’ messaging during the fundraising campaign and in line with the Charity’s objects
- Develop a medium-term funding programme and financial management regime, so that the charity is financially secure and appropriately funded for achieving its ambitions.



### Doing more

We will do more with what we’ve got, making good use of our people and existing spaces, and responding positively to new opportunities, all the while **Taking care**.

This strategic priority embraces the following actions:

- Use our land and human resources to inform our community on countryside, biodiversity and, in conjunction with relevant local organisations, heritage issues
- Support as resources permit the management of existing wild green spaces in the parishes (north of the A14) for biodiversity together with public access in line with this.
- Contribute to and join in (where consistent with other objectives) with the activities of other organisations advancing biodiversity within Histon & Impington and in and around the Greater Cambridge area, including retaining CCSA’s County Wildlife Site status <sup>1</sup>.

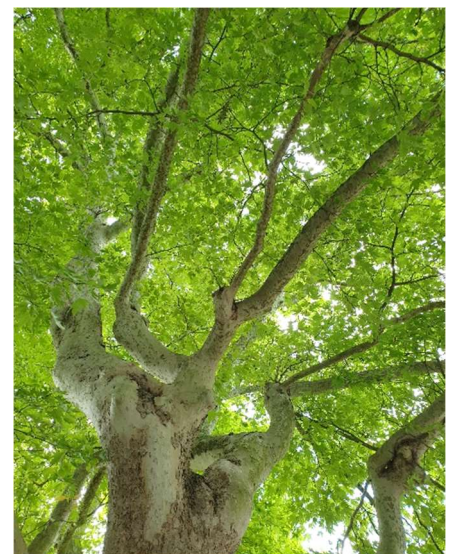


### Reaching out

We will be active members of our community supporting others with similar aims, building strong alliances and the resources which we need to be successful.

This strategic priority embraces the following actions:

- Strengthen the local supporter base
- Ensure that the Charity, its activities and plans are understood and supported by the Community, with proactive consultation on proposals as appropriate
- Build relationships with other key stakeholders including Histon and Impington Parish Council and other landowners within and adjacent to the



<sup>1</sup> Note that the impact of HIGS action, according to its Objects must be within the Histon and Impington parishes. Conservation, protection and improvement of the environment outside these parishes is not covered by HIGS’ remit.



Community together with other organisations advancing biodiversity within Histon & Impington and in and around the Greater Cambridge area.

### Being ready

We will ensure that we are able to recognise and prioritise opportunities to secure additional wild green spaces for biodiversity and access. Where appropriate, this may include connections between our spaces or to other access points.

This strategic priority embraces the following actions:

- Build a knowledge base including but not limited to land in the Community, its ownership and plans for it, potential for access to nature, funding mechanisms and other means of securing land, and sources of relevant expertise
- Use the knowledge base and relationships developed through **Reaching out** to explore opportunities to secure suitable additional spaces
- Maintain a list of opportunities ranked by predetermined criteria and initiate actions to capitalise on them
- Build a reserve fund to cover the initial costs of professional services and such other actions necessary for rapid responses to opportunities that arise out of preparatory studies or by chance<sup>2</sup>, allowing us to **Secure new spaces**.
- Informed by the knowledge base develop a financial resource suitable for jump starting rapidly raising liquid funds for securing a new space.



### Securing new spaces

Where a highly ranked opportunity shows potential early availability, or an unforeseen opportunity compatible with the Charity's mission presents, we will mobilise to pursue this, including attending to due diligence, assessing opportunity costs and funding arrangements.

It embraces the following actions:

- Add to or otherwise protect the villages' complement of biodiversity-rich green spaces
- Make incremental additions to the existing estate in accordance with the Charity's general priorities.



<sup>2</sup> The funds to be sufficient to allow a sensible decision to be made to proceed (or not).