

23rd November 2023

Dear Supporter

I am writing to you on behalf of Histon & Impington Green Spaces, the registered charity behind the Abbey Fields project, to invite you to become a member as our local organisation steps into an exciting new phase in its journey.

In the three years since Long Meadow and Croft Close Set-aside were put up for sale as part of Abbey Farm the community has set up the charity and a support group called "The Friends of Histon & Impington Green Spaces", raised the necessary funds and secured the land in perpetuity. It is a huge achievement and you have played a valuable part in it.

Looking forward, the first priority is to look after the meadow and the set-aside as places for biodiversity to flourish and people to enjoy nature – and learn about it too, if they wish. But the charity also has a wider ambition to help secure a better network of green spaces for the people of Histon and Impington – current and future - despite development pressures and the threats to our local green spaces. Both for looking after Abbey Fields and for pursuing this wider ambition, the charity needs the continued support, enthusiasm and active involvement of people like you.

We have opened up Histon & Impington Green Spaces to become a membership-based charity and are encouraging all our supporters, volunteers and donors to join, bringing together all the people who have shown an interest in caring for our local green spaces and nature in general. Becoming a member of Histon & Impington Green Spaces is an opportunity to keep in close touch with what the charity is doing, show your support and get involved in a variety of ways.

Members can get actively involved in shaping the charity's future programmes and plans, either at General Meetings or in working groups on specific themes. At General Meetings the membership will also elect the trustees who run the charity and can put forward topics for discussion. We also intend to organise special events and social gatherings for members. We understand that each member's engagement with the charity and their involvement in its activities may be unique and we want to create a space for everyone to participate in a way that appeals to them.

Over the past year the organisation of the many activities at Abbey Fields and elsewhere has moved from the Friends group to the charity, Histon & Impington Green Spaces. Having simplified the organisation and administration, it is planned to wind up the Friends group shortly.

The more members we have, the more the charity can do and the bigger impact we can have in securing the future of our green spaces. So do please sign up and be part of the movement to ensure a green, nature-filled future for Histon and Impington.

Yours faithfully

Robert Bensted-Smith

Chair, Histon & Impington Green Spaces