**SHALBOURNE COMMUNITY GROWERS**

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to reduce food miles, reduce packaging and work with nature by embracing ecologically sensitive farming to grow produce, so reducing energy, waste, and pollution. Consumers will be directly involved in supporting food production; we wish to decrease dependence on fossil or imported energy, encouraging proper land stewardship by protecting the soil, maintain low or no chemical inputs, increase biodiversity, and conserve landscapes and cultural heritage, in particular for future generations.

OUR VISION

A fair, local food system that reconnects people to where, and how their food is grown and restore local food sovereignty. To engage with our community to share knowledge and experience of growing, cooking, preserving food and reducing waste.

Our Goals

To build direct and trusting relationships between landowners, growers, and consumers, so that people have access to fresh food, which is seasonal and from an accountable source: By following “agri-ecological (organic) principles” we are going to produce healthy, safe, nutritious, and minimally processed food without pesticides at an affordable price.

OUR OBJECTIVES

* Grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs for local residents and businesses, based on organic principles.
* Provide education in its widest sense, for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
* Allow skills to be transferred through working and learning together, growing, cooking, and preserving rural crafts.
* Provide an opportunity for people to exercise, for the benefit of both mind and body.
* Host “eat-in” lunches to combat rural isolation, promote social inclusion and community cohesion.
* Reconnect with where our food comes from.
* Develop an appreciation of nature and the world around us.

OUR VALUES

**Principle of Health** - to sustain and enhance the health of the soil, plants, animals, humans, and planet as one and indivisible.

**Principle of Ecology** - food production should be based on living ecological systems and cycles. We will work with them, emulate them, and help sustain them.

**Principle of Fairness** - our relationships will ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

**Principle of Care** - our work should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

A major part of the progression of this project has been the support, encouragement and faith shown to us by the landowners at Carvers Hill Farm, where the site is located. Mr and Mrs Griffiths, who own the farm, have kindly offered us a tenancy agreement which includes the use of the commercial glasshouses, permission to fence off a section of an arable field (to protect against rabbits) and to move an old polytunnel frame onto the site. The project will inevitably bring more footfall to the farm and, with that, some level of disruption. We would like to thank them both for giving us the opportunity to get this project off the ground and give us the chance to engage with the local community, grow the links and share the knowledge of growing our own food and looking after our local natural habitats by introducing eco-agricultural practices. The project is not only about growing food but will aim to educate local groups and individuals by providing a safe outdoor place for learning.

The weeks and months ahead will be busy with all the preparations, we welcome any interest and support and will keep you posted with our plans and developments.

**Lois, Polly & Wendy**

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