

Summer Leys Community Panel

Why a Panel?

- We believe that local people have a unique insight into their area, and the green spaces and sites that they use. We want to harness this insight and knowledge by creating a Panel that will play a key role in discussions about the future management of Summer Leys.
- We think this is particularly powerful when local people work alongside those who work in the countryside professions. When their knowledge is combined there is a lot of scope for creative thinking about the issues that the site presents.
- This is an approach that we want to use at sites across the Nature Improvement Area. We have already tested this idea and the Northampton Washlands Panel worked effectively to produce a draft action plan and set of recommendations for the site.

Key task of the Panel

- To create an action plan for the future management of Summer Leys, that takes into account all of its uses, plus conservation and recreation issues and pressures.
- To make recommendations that reflect an agreed set of parameters, as set out at the start of the process.

Panel membership

- There will be about 18-20 people in total on the Panel.
- Members of the public who have an interest in or use Summer Leys will be in the majority, chosen on a first-come, first served basis, providing that the full range of users are represented. Representatives from both Natural England and RSPB will also be members.

Panel meetings

- Helen Bovey who is an independent facilitator will facilitate the meetings (telephone 07775 633205; email helen@icarus.uk.net).
- Each meeting will have a clear task to complete.
- The meetings will be designed in a way that gives everyone an opportunity to take part and give their views on what is being discussed. They will not be in the style of very formal, sitting around a table meetings with a Chair person.
- It will be a time bound group – the Panel will complete the tasks outlined above and then disband.