



AT SNAKEHALL FARM

Growing Differently

Paul Robinson
By Email: pauljwrobinson@gmail.com
Reach Community Solar Farm

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Reach Community Solar Farm Members

Re: Can you help us Thrive to Survive at Snakehall Farm during Covid-19

I am reaching out to past supporters and firm farm friends we have made over the past 30 years to help us weather the storm created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Back in March we had to close our farm gates to the very people we were established over 30 years ago to support, our Co-workers; people with additional needs. Since that day we have been pushing forward with our growing, transforming our Ely Greengrocery into a non-contact delivery service and reaching out daily with phone chats, video calls and Prospects Parcels to our Co-workers now all socially isolating in their own homes & residential care. Like everyone else, it has really rocked the foundations of our usually thriving charity, we have gone from planning our next venture to worrying about how to survive.

We are now planning how and when we can start supporting our 60+ Co-workers in meaningful placements back at Snakehall Farm. We just want to have our people back. As a charity without charity beneficiaries our heart has gone out of our enterprise. We are geared up to grow people first and foremost and now we need to work out how to bring everyone back safely. This is our plea to your members in time for your AGM.

I am contacting you as I know you have supported capital improvements at Snakehall Farm previously and I hope that you can help us transform Snakehall Farm into a Covid-19 Secure Site and help us bring our Co-workers back? We are looking at creating safe zones for our Co-workers to work in smaller groups and at a social distance. We would like to raise funding and capital grants in a number of areas:

1. We need to improve our site flow with Co-worker friendly visual signage, we are thinking keep your "Tilly Tractor" distance is better than saying 2 metres apart. We have budgeted £100 for some visual signs.
2. We would also like to install an additional hot water hand wash area, as we need to create 3 distinct areas to avoid pinch points. We have costed this to be £400 and will do the labour in-house.
3. We would also like to create Co-worker PPE packs which are sealed and stored hygienically on site. These would be sealed containers with hand sanitiser, mask, visors and a safe place for them to store their belongings too, avoiding cross contamination. Our recently installed Locker Area is now too small to use during the pandemic. So we need a quick and affordable solution that can be sterilised and wipe cleaned easily by staff. We have budgeted £15 per head x 60 = £900

**The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm, Swaffham Road, Reach,
Cambridge, CB25 0HZ**

maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk 01638 741551 www.prospectstrust.org.uk

Certified by the Organic Farmers & Growers

Reg. Charity No 1048584 Co. Ltd by Guarantee 3087221 Organic Registration Number UKF003870

4. Finally, we would also like to build some Farm Site shelters dotted around the site to enable our 1:1 Co-workers to continue with their placements at Snakehall Farm at a social distance. Having a few more internal spaces around our large site will mean we can offer supportive placements to our profound and multiple disability Co-workers who just need the space out of their care homes without coming into contact with others, our 18 acres seems to be a perfect solution to the near solitary confinement people with additional needs are currently facing. This is something we can flex with, either an open sided cover to a more elaborate structure, funding allowing but we feel we could make a good start with around £600 in materials, again we would build, renovate or upcycle based on whatever we can source.

We are always thrifty, inventive and imaginative when it comes to making our 18 organic acres accessible but our bucket has a hole in it and without some specific capital to help us kickstart our Covid Secure site improvements we are a charity at risk. We know many of your members are local residents and have over the years, shopped with us, volunteered or worked with us, seen first hand just what people with disabilities are able to do with the right support and the right place. If your members can help with some funding I promise you we will grow it and make our farm fit to fight on once more.

I would happily provide additional supporting documents or a more detailed budget for any of the mini-projects I have outlined above. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and I hope that your members will be able to support our request at this most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely



Maz Baker, *Development Co-manager*