



FAQs

Can I visit West Town Farm?

Yes absolutely, the farm will be community-owned and is already very similar to what it is at Fordhall Organic Farm. There are farm trails, a shepherd hut for stays and events run for the public as we do at Fordhall. For more information on opening times for their farm shop and trails see <https://www.westtownfarm.co.uk/> [West Town Farm](#) | [Regenerative farming](#)

Does that now mean I also own a farm in Devon? How will my share be managed?

Yes. Your share part owns Fordhall and any other land or assets that come under the ownership of the Fordhall Community Land Initiative. There is no change on how your share is managed or the votes you have within our AGM.

What will my donations be used for?

If you donate to a specific cause, it will be ring fenced for this as it always has been. If we receive general donations to Fordhall Community Land Initiative they will be used for any areas as needed to ensure we fulfil our charitable objects.

How will the Fordhall Community Land Initiative make decisions on a farm so far away?

We hope that the farm in Devon will have a local volunteer board, with delegated authority from the Fordhall Community Land Initiative. The detail of this structure we are still working through, but it is vital to us that our model is placed-based and empowers the local community to support and guide this farm forward over the years. The Farm will have a General Manager and a staff team who will be supported by the Fordhall Community Land Initiative, but may sit within their own sub structure, possibly as a wholly owned subsidiary such as a Community Interest Company. Our aim is to empower the existing staff team to fulfil our charitable objects whilst developing the enterprises on site and its community benefit. The exact structures are currently being evaluated and will be shared when they have been fully risk assessed and agreed on by the FCLI Board.

Will this cost the Fordhall Community Land Initiative (FCLI) money?

Yes, some investment will be needed by FCLI. This may be in the form of staff support and resources, accountancy fees and overtime some investment in the infrastructure. We are currently looking into the business plan and hope that rent from the tenants will cover our





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ongoing support, allowing surpluses from the enterprise activities onsite to be reinvested within the site. For infrastructure improvements it is likely that we will run a share offer or appeal. We will also support grant applications for community activities or investment within the site. The FCLI Board are very conscious that at no point should this new farm put a burden on, or jeopardise the security of Fordhall Organic Farm.

What do I have a say in?

As a member, nothing will change in terms of the democracy set up for the Fordhall Community Land Initiative. As a member of a charitable Community Benefit Society you will always have one vote in FCLI's strategy and that includes the assets we own. A prime example is this West Town Farm opportunity, where consultation to members went out Summer 2025, to inform our direction going forward. You told us that the idea of the Fordhall Community Land Initiative (and its members) being custodians of more organic farms was something you believed passionately in. You also said that this must not be at the detriment of Fordhall Organic Farm. We have taken all your advice on board and are moving forward with your guidance as we always do. For a more detailed summary of this survey please follow this link <https://tr.ee/nq2rKb>

Your voice will always remain key to our strategic direction and success. As with Fordhall Organic Farm, daily operational decisions are made by the tenants or the management staff teams in place. Strategic decisions are made by the Board of Directors. Board elections, changes in strategic direction, and our annual reviews and accounts are approved by our members.

Where is my share held?

Your share will be held with Fordhall Community Land Initiative and that will support all aspects of FCLI. This does not change.

Will a new farm put FCLI at risk?

The FCLI Board and management team are completing lots of due diligence checks to ensure we do not put FCLI at risk by accepting this donation. Our research so far, shows that this farm is a very good fit for us. Not only does it have an incredible staff team and tenants





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already in place, but their activities already very closely match Fordhall's and our charitable objects. Very little change to their existing activities will be needed. The FCLI Board are looking into different legal structures/models that can be put in place to help ring-fence the activities on the site. This will help minimise the financial risk, whilst also empowering the team to have their own autonomy.

Will a new farm become competition to FCLI?

No, if we are supporting a farm under our umbrella structure then as a whole we hope to make all farms stronger and more resilient. We will be working in partnership to ensure farms are secure, they are managed organically and provide the opportunity for community engagement. We see the opportunity to be at the forefront right now. What we achieved together in 2006 was pioneering, and we wish for our knowledge and learning gained over that period to go on to help others. We want Fordhall to have a seat at the table for change – helping family-sized farms, connected to their local communities offer viable livelihoods for generations to come.

