



## CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Newcourt Green (Newcourt Road Green), between Cirencester Road and Newcourt Road, Charlton Kings	√
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
	 	√
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Charlton Kings Parish Council	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the <a href="#">Land Registry</a>. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	Understood to be owned by Cheltenham Borough Council	

1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	Yes in support	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	<i>See attached Appendix 4</i>	√
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	Surrounding Residential Areas, hundreds of local homes on about 30 local roads.	
2	<b>Planning History</b>	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? for further information please contact Cheltenham Borough Council <a href="#">Planning Applications</a> team	
	No	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the existing Development Plan, emerging Joint Core Strategy, Cheltenham Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? For further information please contact Cheltenham Borough Council <a href="#">Planning Policy</a> team	
	No	
3	<b>Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space</b>	
3.1	Area of proposed site	
	1.3ha	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
	There is no other open land in the immediate vicinity to draw comparison with; however it “feels” like a local green space and is often referred to as the village green.	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	Yes it does feel part of the local area and is used by many local people to walk dogs and for children to play on: see attached petition and letters. Daily route to school for children from four local schools: Balcarras, Charlton Kings Infants, Charlton Kings Junior and Saint Edwards.	
4	<b>Need for Local Green Space</b>	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location?	

	<i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (<a href="#">Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard</a>)</i>	
	It provides a welcome break to the density of housing in the surrounding area and due to this density provides a valuable shared space resource for the many local residents.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”</b> <b>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</b>	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	The site is completely surrounded by the community it serves.	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	
	Although there are roads to 2 sides of the area (one A road, one unclassified) it is still very easily accessible. It has access points from 3 of the four sides and is used by pushchairs and wheel chairs.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community”</b> <b>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</b>	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
	This application is being made by the Parish Council.	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
	There are numerous letters of support, a survey of <b>over 60</b> users and a petition which has been signed by <b>over 350 people</b> (summer 2014). In the recent application to build a convenience store on the park boundary <i>many</i> local people expressed their concern to protect this valuable green space. (Appendices 5 and 6) Appendix 1 and 3 - extracts from letters/ survey responses from residents.	√
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i> <i>Further information on these contact details – <a href="#">Cheltenham Borough Council</a>, <a href="#">Gloucestershire County Council</a>, <a href="#">House of Commons</a></i>	
	We have the support of the local Parish Councillors who are making this application, Borough Councillors, County Councillor and MP. Please see below Appendix 2.	√
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups <i>e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</i>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b>	
	<b>NO</b>	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area Further information – <a href="#">Cheltenham Borough Council</a>; <a href="#">Natural England</a>;</i>	
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? <i>e.g. Cotswolds AONB landscape character assessment. Further information – <a href="#">Cheltenham Borough Council</a>; <a href="#">Natural England</a>; <a href="#">Cotswolds Conservation Board</a></i>	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></b>	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b>	
	<b>NO</b>	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i>	

	<i>Further information – <a href="#">Cheltenham Borough Council</a>; <a href="#">English Heritage</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Archives</a>; <a href="#">local history society</a>;</i>	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i> <i>Further information – Cheltenham Borough Council; <a href="#">English Heritage</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record</a>; local history society</i>	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
9	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable)</b> <b><i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></b>	
9.1	<b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b>	
	<b>YES</b>	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i> <i>Further information – <a href="#">Sport England</a></i>	
	Informal football, cricket, rounders and tennis.	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i> <i>Further information – <a href="#">Gloucestershire County Council</a></i>	
	Very easy access to the site via road/footpath as can be seen on google earth. It has access points from 3 of the four sides and is used by pushchairs and wheel chairs. It is also used by many more elderly residents who can no longer take advantage of the local hill walks. Daily route to school for children from four local schools: Balcarras, Charlton Kings Infants, Charlton Kings Junior and Saint Edwards.	
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i>	

	<p>Informal football, cricket and tennis, picnics, sledging, building snowmen, sitting and relaxing, dog walking. You may even be lucky enough to hear guitar playing and see tightrope walking occasionally.</p> <p>For over 60 years and Cheltenham Borough Council acquired an additional part of the site extended the site in 1951 to help satisfy the local demand for such facilities.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>” (if applicable)</b>  <b>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</b></p>	
<b>10.1</b>	<p><b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b></p>	
	<p><b>YES</b></p>	
10.2	<p>Do you consider the site to be tranquil?  <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i></p>	
	<p>It provides a very welcome break to the surrounding housing and main road and its peaceful nature was mentioned repeatedly by those surveyed.</p>	
10.3	<p>Is the site within a recognised tranquil area?  <i>e.g. within the <a href="#">Campaign to Protect Rural England</a>'s tranquillity maps</i></p>	
	<p>No idea as can't find the maps on this website?</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable)</b>  <b>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</b></p>	
<b>11.1</b>	<p><b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b></p>	
	<p><b>NO</b></p>	
11.2	<p>Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value?  <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i>  <i>Further information - <a href="#">Natural England</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</a></i></p>	
11.3	<p>Are any important habitats or species found on the site?  <i>e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern.</i>  <i>Further information - <a href="#">Natural England</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</a>; <a href="#">National Biodiversity Network</a>; <a href="#">RSPB</a></i></p>	
11.4	<p>What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?  <i>Further information - <a href="#">Natural England</a>; <a href="#">Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</a>; <a href="#">National Biodiversity Network</a>;</i></p>	
11.5	<p>Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community?</p>	

	<i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></b>	
<b>12.1</b>	<b>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</b>	
	<b>NO</b>	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	

## Appendix 1

### Quotes from Surveys and Letters:

“valuable peace and quiet”

“a pleasure to come and sit and relax”

“tranquillity and visual space”

“baby walking”

“nice open space to play”

“fresh air and relaxation”

“lovely wildflower bed”

“only open green space in this area”

“we sincerely hope that it can be protected and preserved for the benefit of all”

“there is certainly no similar area for recreation for local residents”

“this space especially makes a huge contribution to the street scene in an otherwise urban environment”

## Appendix 2

Extracts from letters from elected members (scans of originals seen by GRCC)

“I would certainly support this proposal. Newcourt Green is a wonderful local green space much used and valued by local people, I can think of no other such space that could be more deserving of this additional protection...Informal spaces such as these are often undervalued when compared to spaces used for organised sport but informal spaces are so important simply for walking, playing with children, walking dogs, picnics and kick a bouts. And of course this space especially makes a huge contribution to the street scene in an otherwise urban environment.” Councillor Paul Baker

“There is no doubt the green is local in character and in close proximity to the community it serves, and we trust our survey and petition demonstrate how special it is to the local community.” Councillor Mike Palmer

“Charlton Kings is surprisingly short of accessible, informal urban green spaces. The Cotswold escarpment and the AONB are not far away but extremely steep in most places. Naunton Park is nearly a mile and well over ten minutes’ walk away while the smaller green area near Church Piece is almost as far and is the wrong side of the very busy A435 Cirencester Road for younger and older residents living on Newcourt Road and the surrounding area. Newcourt Green is a welcome and prominent island of green in an urban landscape. I remember playing on it when I was a child and I regularly see children, dog walkers and older people enjoying it now. The pressure for development has increased all over Cheltenham but particularly in high value areas like Charlton Kings and I strongly support the designation of this site.” Martin Horwood MP - Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

“I am very supportive of the application. That part of the parish has very little green space and therefore it is an important leisure amenity for local residents.” Cllr Helena McCloskey

“Newcourt Green is well used by the local community for play and activities – we can all remember special occasions and events like the royal wedding celebrations when it’s been buzzing (and the whole area) with children and families.” Cllr Paul McLain

“I have spent the last 25 years living in the South Ward of the parish of Charlton Kings which is the area immediately adjoining Newcourt Green.

During that period I have been an active user of its facilities, as a play area for my children, a dog walking field and a place to picnic and enjoy a good book in natural surroundings. I have a long term awareness of just how important this space is valued by the people of Charlton Kings and how it is used by a large number of residents on a regular basis for a wide range of recreational activities.

It also fulfils another really important function in making a major contributing to the aesthetics and visual appeal of the parish. Charlton Kings displays ribbon development along the whole stretch of the Cirencester Road from the entry point at the Holy Apostles junction, through to its boundary just beyond the Charlton Park Hotel. Importantly, Newcourt Green acts as a welcome break in this otherwise uniform linear lay out and adds real value in enhancing the rural “feel”.

With a designation of “Green Space” this historically well used tract of land would receive the kind of recognition and protection it deserves as a cherished asset for the community.

I fully support the proposals.”

Rob Reid, Borough Councillor for Charlton Kings and member of the local Parish Council.

### Appendix 3

#### Extracts from letters from residents (Scans of originals seen by GRCC)

“It is a much valued open green space, with mature trees, blossom in the Spring and wild flowers including sweet smelling violets, and a good variety of birds. It has been used by the local community for many years...One of its boundaries is “Chestnut Walk”, marked on old maps and used for generation. The Green is much used and appreciated by local people (and some from further afield) of all ages for recreation, dog walking, children’s games, teen age meetings, and generally socially meeting others crossing the Green by the various footpaths. It provides a green oasis in the middle of our built up area, quite tranquil and beautiful, with views to Charlton Kings Common, within easy walking distance of the local population (No cars needed). I greatly value it, use it regularly and wish to see it protected for us and future generations. TB.

“This area has been locally known as The Green. It is an important amenity in Charlton Kings. I have lived nearby for the last 45 years and have seen a great variety of folk enjoy this grassy open space. Youngsters delight in kicking a ball or letting off steam: for others it is a valuable place to exercise their dog. This valuable area needs to be preserved for future generations, who will appreciate it a wide variety of ways. It is an essential part of life in Charlton kings.” Mrs. GP

“I have been a resident of Charlton Kings for over 50 years and my late husband had lived here all his life. Newcourt Green has always been much appreciated by local residents. My children and grandchildren have all played on there countless times and I still see children of all ages using it. It is a safe site. It is such a pleasant Green, with the line of poplar trees, and the recently added wild flower bed an added pleasure. I regularly walk across it to reach the village. I appeal to you to ensure that this valued space is not lost to us in its present form, but designated as a local green space.” JS

“Local children from the Charlton Close, all used to congregate over there after school in the summer and decide which game they were going to play that day. Its nice to see that has continued...The field has been a great environment for our family over the years. We are not alone, most local families use this field for similar reasons. It would be heartbreaking to see it lost to development, never to be replaced.” ST

#### Examples of a few of the comments from local residents showing how much they value Newcourt Green which can be viewed at CBC Planning Portal Ref: 14/01436/FUL

“the park land is a meeting place for my children and dog walkers. Its size and number of established trees allow a decent blockage from the road noise.”

“an important and highly used green-space by the local community”



“The site abuts an area of high quality and valued residential green space. This is also a valuable gateway feature providing visitors with a positive image of Cheltenham as they enter along this important route into the town”  
“locals do their best to maintain the beautiful area around Newcourt Road green.”

#### Appendix 4







## Appendix 5

Content of survey form and results

Number of responses = 63

The green space between Newcourt Road and Cirencester Road (Newcourt Green) is an important amenity for Cheltenham residents. In order for it to be designated as a Local Green Space and thereby given a greater degree of protection from possible future development, Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) have asked for justification that the area is 'demonstrably special' to the local community.

Completing this short survey will help to provide CBC with information on how Newcourt Green is being used and is a vital part of protecting it for future use by the community.

Thank you for your participation.

### 1. How often do you use Newcourt Green?

Daily? - 33

Once or Twice a Week? - 21

A few times a Month? - 8

A few times a Year? - 1

### 2. For what reasons do you use Newcourt Green (tick all that apply)

Dog Walking - 38

Exercise/Games - 26

Informal Gatherings - 8

Picnics/Parties - 14

The Footpaths - 42

Trees, Flowers & Wildlife - 49

Other (Please specify) – Sitting, children's play, relaxation (2), guitar, the only one, scenic area/views (3), tranquillity

### 3. Is Newcourt Green important to your Quality of Life?

Yes -62

No – 1

### 4. Your details

## Appendix 6

Petition in 2014 was signed by 350 people (scans of originals seen by GRCC)

Wording: We, the undersigned, who greatly value our Green between Newcourt Road and Cirencesters Road urge the Council to assign Local Green Space Designation (NPPF) to Newcourt Green