





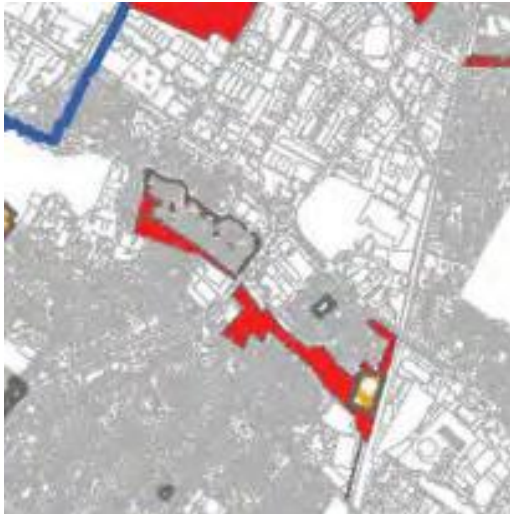
Local Green Space Toolkit Application

Site 8

George Readings Park extension

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>	
	George Readings Park extension	
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>	
	Hesters Way Partnership	
1 . 4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	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, via this application process	
1 . 6	Photographs of site	
	 	
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>	
	Central to the communities of Hesters Way. The area currently protected as public green space is only a proportion of that which is used by local residents. It is proposed that the additional space as marked on the map above should be incorporated into the current George Readings Park provision.	
2	Planning History	
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 Planning Applications team	
	No	

2	Is the site allocated for development in the existing Development Plan, emerging Joint Core Strategy, Cheltenham Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan?	
2	If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? For further information please contact Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Policy team	
	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3	Area of proposed site	
1	3 hectares	
3	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”?	
2	<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>	
	No	
3	Is the proposed site “local in character”?	
3	<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 is very local is character. The park runs adjacent to George Readings Road and behind the properties on Carter Road and along the River Chelt. It offers great amenity space especially for walkers and dog owners and is very popular with local young people. It is also regarded as of high value as a wildlife corridor as described in the Biodiversity survey conducted by Middlemarch Environment Ltd.	
		
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4	Is there a need for a local green space in this location?	
1	<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.</i>	

	<i>Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>	
	Yes, the site lies within a short walk of housing on the George Readings Estate and also provides their only accessible green space. It also offers a through route on foot and by bike towards the town centre supporting health and access for the town	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
5	How far is the site from the community it serves?	
.	Is the site within 2km of the local community?	
1	<i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	The site is at the heart of the local community of affording access from 3 locations and offering social interaction across communities	
5	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes?	
.		
2	<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>	
	No.	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
6	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council	
.	<i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
1		
	No parish council	
6	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals.	
.	<i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
2		
	None supplied	
6	Evidence of support from community leaders	
.	<i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>	
3	<i>Further information on these contact details – Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council, House of Commons</i>	
	Cllr Jeffries “I give my full support of the local green space proposals you will be submitting. Having spoken to CBC officers there will be a further opportunity for residents to express support or otherwise when the overarching collated documents go out for public consultation. Finally please except my thanks on behalf of residents and myself for a job well done in such a short timeframe. Kind regards, Peter”	
6	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>	
4		

	N/A	
7	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>	
7 1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
7 2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
	The site has many beautiful trees and offers a wonderful walk along the banks of the River Chelt.	
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>	
	The site is embedded within the local housing of the George Readings Estate.	
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</i> <i>Further information – Cheltenham Borough Council; Natural England;</i>	
	No	
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 – Cheltenham Borough Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i>	
	No	
7 6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	No	
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>	
	No	
8	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>	

8 · 1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	NO	
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 – Cheltenham Borough Council; English Heritage; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record; Gloucestershire Archives; local history society;</i>	
	N/A	
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; English Heritage; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record; local history society</i>	
	N/A	
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>	
	No	
8 · 5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	No	
8 · 6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
	No	
9	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) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
9 · 1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
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 – Sport England</i>	
	No	
9 ·	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</i>	

	<p>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.) Further information – Gloucestershire County Council</p>	
	<p>The public has access to the whole site from Village Road and along the Chelt. There is a through route from Village Road to Princess Elizabeth Way and on to Chelt Walk Park and then in to town. This is used by both walkers and cyclists and affords good disability access.</p>	
9	<p>Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when?</p>	
4	<p>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</p>	
	<p>The site is used for Dog walking, general play, picnicking, use of children's play area, summer bbqs.</p>	
10	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
101	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	<p>YES</p>	
102	<p>Do you consider the site to be tranquil? e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</p>	
	<p>The site lies behind housing on Kingsmead Close and along George Readings Way and from there along the River Chelt. It is a peaceful haven within a busy residential area.</p>	
103	<p>Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</p>	
	<p>No</p>	
111	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife”; (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
111	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	<p>YES</p>	
112	<p>Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</p>	
	<p>Running adjacent to the river the site is home to a wide diversity of wildlife and provides a corridor for plants and animals which links Cheltenham to</p>	

	the countryside to both the West and South East of the town. See biodiversity corridor map above	
1 1 . 3	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 - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB</i>	
	Yes, its proximity to the River Chelt reveals links to a wide diversity of wildlife and the need to maintain River quality as exemplified by the Love Your River Chelt campaign run by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.	
1 1 . 4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network;</i>	
	N/A	
1 1 . 5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	
	No	
1 2	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>	
1 2 . 1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	NO	
1 2 . 2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	No	