



Local Green Space Toolkit Application

Site 10

Former Christ College playing field

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>	
	Former Christ College Playing Field	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site.</i> <i>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>	

	Diocese of Clifton	
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 Arle and Rowanfield. A population of 2,500 people.	
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	
2.2	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 Planning Policy team	
	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site	
	1.5 hectares	
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>	

	No	
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, as the former Christ College School playing field the site has a long history in Hesters Way.	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
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.</i> <i>Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>	
	Yes, the site lies within a short walk of houses in the Rowanfield and Arle estates. If opened up it would provide a through route from on foot and by bike from the Chelt Walk Park via Arle Road and Alstone Lane and provide additional facilities for the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and St Georges Centre all located within easy walking distance of the field.	
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>	
5.1	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 at the heart of the local community of Rowanfield and Arle affording access from 2 areas offering social interaction across communities	
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>	
	Yes the site is currently inaccessible.	
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>	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
	No parish council	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
	Local residents when interviewed commented as follows;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Should remain as a playing field / green space with public access. Understood that was to be the case <u>as part of the planning agreement for Saxon Quarter.</u></i> • <i>A lot of houses round here don't have gardens so it's nice to see some green space and wildlife</i> • <i>A park would be great for local residents.</i> • <i>Would like to keep it as a green space, there is too much concrete everywhere.</i> • <i>For bees, allotments, please keep as a green space.</i> • <i>I would like to see this space protected from development.</i> • <i>Good for wildlife, habitats should be kept for animals.</i> • <i>It should be used as a place for children to play.</i> <p>GRCC has had sight of these comments, verified with resident signatures</p>	
6.3	<p>Evidence of support from community leaders e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc. <i>Further information on these contact details – Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council, House of Commons</i></p>	
	<p>Cllr Jeffries</p> <p>"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"</p>	
6.4	<p>Evidence of support from other groups e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</p>	
	<p>St Georges School commented;</p> <p><i>As a school we would like to use the field for PE etc.</i></p>	
7	<p>Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>," (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
7.1	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	<p>No</p>	
7.2	<p>Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.</p>	
7.3	<p>Site visibility</p>	

	<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 generally visible from Arle Road	
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?	
	Formerly the playing fields of Christ College School	
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 ?	
	Yes	
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>	
	Yes, as the former Christ College School playing field the site has a long history in Hesters Way	
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? Further information – Sport England</i>	
	No	
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.) Further information – Gloucestershire County Council</i>	
	The public does not currently have access to the site but are keen that it should remain as an open green space with local amenity status.	
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>	
	The site is would be used for dog walking, games pitches general play, picnicking and summer bbqs, and could be the site of a children’s play area, allotment or orchard. The site has offers an opportunity for local sports, a local allotment and orchard through routes and usage by the Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and St Georges Centre all located within easy walking distance of the field.	
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	

10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	The site lies between two residential roads and behind local gardens and the St Georges Centre and Sea Cadet Centre and is a peaceful haven within a busy residential area.	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
	No	
11	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) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
11.2	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 - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</i>	
	No, but the biodiversity study by Middlemarch Environment did not include the site in its submissions.	
11.3	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>	
	No but the biodiversity study by Middlemarch Environment did not include the site in its submissions.	
11.4	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	
11.5	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	
12	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>	

12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	NO	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	No	