

Local Green Space Toolkit Application

Site 12

Hesters Way Community Centre

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>	
	St Marks and Hesters Way Community Centre grounds	
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	<p>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></p>	
	<p>Central to the communities of St Marks and Hesters Way. A population of 3,000 people. More specifically, the residents of 200 flats on Princess Elizabeth Way and houses in the St Marks estate streets use this space informally.</p> <p>The Hesters Way community centre based at the site also serves and attract people from the wider community. It is used by the 41st Cheltenham Scouts for their scout hut, activities and allotments. Usage is also made by the Community Association for summer events and as a garden bar. The community also use the field as part of local events held on the premises.</p>	
2	Planning History	
2.1	<p>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</p>	
	No	
2.2	<p>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</p>	
	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site	

	2 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, the site has a long history in Hesters Way at the grounds of the former US Army base from WW2 and was handed over to the community in the early 50s, and used as a community centre ever since.	
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. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>	
	Yes. Access to Fishy park on the other side of Princess Elizabeth Way is restricted by the busy road. KGV is the other nearest green space, which is accessible but used for formal sports. This space is more local in scale to the community and the use of the community centre means that green space for activities is needed.	
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>	
	New housing around Coronation Square and the flats on Brooklyn road. Due to the fact that it is run by the Hesters Way and St Marks Community Association which hosts numerous events it attracts people from all over the west of Cheltenham.	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	
	No – however the houses near Monkscroft would have to walk around to access the site making it less easily accessible to this entrance side.	

	Small barriers to physical access are often overcome by locals in their need for access to green space on their doorstep.	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
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>The space is well used for sports.</i> • <i>I would like to see it used for the children as a park/play area.</i> • <i>It is currently being used by youngsters as a sports field, should remain as such.</i> • <i>Used as a recreation ground. Could be used by the scouts and as an allotment.</i> <p>GRCC has had sight of these comments, verified with resident signatures</p>	
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 – Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council, House of Commons</i>	
	Support from Cllr Jeffries: <i>“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 accept my thanks on behalf of residents and myself for a job well done in such a short timeframe. Kind regards, Peter”</i>	
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>	
	St Marks and Hesters Way Community Association Vice Chair Brian Cassin; <i>“The land at the back of the building has been used for many years for community events including the Jubilee celebrations and large community events. We have allotments which are worked by the probation service and they supply vegetables for the weekly lunch club for local residents”</i> Scout Leader, Lin Bourne;	

	<i>"The cubs and scouts in our group love to use the grass behind our hut and we do lots of badge activities there plus build our rope bridge and use the expedition tents. It's an invaluable space for us"</i>	
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 ?	
	No	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
	No	
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 visible from Brooklyn 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 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 ?	
	Yes, the site has a long history in Hesters Way at the grounds of the former US Army base from WW2 and was Handed over to the	

	community in the early 50s, and used as a community centre ever since.	
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>	
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	
9.3	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 – Gloucestershire County Council</i>	
	The public does not currently have full access (as the site is privately managed by the community association) but are keen that it should remain as an open green space with local amenity status, and local green space designation.	
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 has been used since the post war period by the 41 st Cheltenham Scouts for their scout hut, activities and allotments. Usage is also made by the Community Association for summer events and as a garden bar. The community also use the field as part of local events held on the premises. Unofficial usage by local young people for sports dog walking and unofficial allotments, demonstrates the use that local people feel and the demand for green space nearby.	
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 are any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	The site lies between a residential road and behind local gardens and 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 ?	
	No but the biodiversity study by Middlemarch Environment did not include the site in its submissions.	
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>	
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>	

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>	
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>	
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	