

Local Green Space Toolkit Application

Site 14

Priors Fields

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>	
	The site is known as Priors fields.	
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>	
	Priors Fields are the three fields that follow on from Priors Sports Field (which we understand is already protected under the 2006 plans). It is bounded by the cemetery on one side, Priors Sports Field on another, Battledown Park estate on the third side with Wymans brook forming a natural boundary (but falling within the green space), and, the AONB at the top of the fields in the foothill to the Cotswold hills edge.	✓
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>	
	Oakley Regeneration 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>	
	Believed to be Cheltenham Borough Council (please check)	
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)	
	See above	
1.6	Photographs of site	



Aerial view showing Priors Sportsfield (a) and the area known as Priors fields (b), (c) and (d)



View across the sports field towards Priors Field



View showing the edge of the grassland habitat, hedgerow and trees



View showing top of Priors field after rainfall

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>	
	Priors Sports field itself is well used for organised recreation – there are sports pitches and a children’s play area. The fields beyond form part of a natural progression out into the open countryside and up to the AONB. They are well used for more informal pursuits and healthy activities such as dog walking; jogging; picnicking; walking; blackberrying; bird watching; children’s play; sitting and as a viewpoint (particularly the top end which is raised and from where there is an open view across Cheltenham). It also provides access to the countryside	

	and hills with many paths. The area is very well used by sports players, walkers/dogwalkers and local families. The area is very much appreciated by local people from Oakley particularly as ward has low car ownership so not everyone can access the countryside easily but can appreciate being able to walk in open green spaces close to home. In addition, because it forms a natural green corridor out to the AONB it is also accessed by people from the rest of Cheltenham as a route out to the open countryside.	
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	
	No way of measuring area	
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 the area is local in nature although it adjoins open countryside	
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>	
	The proposed site feels as if it is part of the local area because it is close to housing and shops. It is easily accessible to the local community by roads and paths. It provides an open viewpoint and sense of space ('one resident has commented that the area is 'very beautiful'); and it joins the AONB to the town. See photos in 1.6	
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>	
	The green serves the community of Oakley, which is an area of multiple high deprivation with lower than average income, poorer health compared to other wards. Car ownership is lower compared to other parts of Cheltenham. Statistical evidence supporting this can be found from MAIDEN or the census. The health benefits of having easy access to green spaces are well known and if this space was lost some of the local residents would not be easily able to reach open countryside. Removing this green space would greatly limit their access to that countryside. For families with young children a safe local space where children can play is of great importance. There are play opportunities elsewhere on the ward but it is significant that for some families this will be their only access to open countryside. The positive impact on the development of children of outdoor play and the benefit of socialising with their peers is well recognised. However, the particular opportunities afforded to children when they play in an area where they are in the words of ecologist, Robert Pyle, 'free to climb trees, muck about, catch things, and get wet' are not found in local parks and these opportunities, such as den making, 'support the development of creativity and problem solving' (Kellert 2005).	

	<p>Finally, while we recognise that this may fall outside the selection criteria for designation as a green space, we must point out that the area is also important in terms of flood risk management because, owing to the geology of the Cotswold limestone escarpment, water emerges under the limestone when it percolates down to the impermeable clay layer which causes a number of intermittent streams with variable volume to drain down towards Oakley ward. In 2007 there was flooding in Whaddon partly as a result of the geology. As part of the old GCHQ site has already been developed there is concern from residents that more development on the edge of the hill would be a very bad decision. In fact, adjacent to these fields (in Priors estate) SUDS have been recently built to help mitigate flooding. Further development would lead to increased surface run-off and increase the potential for flooding.</p>	
5	<p>Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
5.1	<p>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></p>	
	<p>The site is within 2km of Oakley ward and is particularly well used by residents on Priors estate. See map of area showing proximity to the Priors estate.</p>	
5.2	<p>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></p>	
	<p>There is a main road (Priors Road) between this area and the majority of Oakley but there are two level crossings near the shops (Simpsons Fish & Chips) and Sainsbury’s which mean that it is safely accessed.</p>	
6	<p>Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
6.1	<p>Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i></p>	
		✓
6.2	<p>Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i></p>	
	<p>Residents’ views on the green spaces in the area were sought by providing information on the spaces in the area at different points in the community (The Cornerstone Centre, Oakley Neighbourhood Project, Oakwood School and Cheltenham Borough Homes) and inviting residents to comment on the importance of the areas, usage and benefits. At the Oakley Residents Association meeting in January there were a couple of general comments about the need for green space in a residential area: ‘Providing important green area in an area with lots of housing.’ ‘This is a very built up and residential area – open space is needed to create a good balance’. In addition there were specific comments about Priors Fields, e.g. ‘it is one of the main attractions about living in this area...it is a huge asset to the area’; and, ‘it is a peaceful area and a quick place to visit to feel one is out in the countryside’. IN terms of wildlife value one local resident who lives in Priors Farm has seen ‘butterflies, hares, badgers, foxes, squirrels’. Another has enjoyed hearing a cuckoo at the top of the field. One resident states that it is</p>	✓

	<p>'essential' to him to 'get away from the bustle and claustrophobia of town streets, traffic and work'.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 letters and comments from residents</p>	
6.3	<p>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></p>	
	<p>"The Fields in question are extensively used to walk and exercise dogs, as well as being some open countryside for children to play in and be adventurous in, which is just very different from parks. They provide an important 'green corridor' by which local people can access the open countryside of the AONB."</p> <p>See Appendix 2 Letter of support from County Councillor Colin Hay</p>	✓
6.4	<p>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></p>	
	<p>The issue of green spaces in Oakley has been discussed by the Oakley Residents Association and a letter of support is attached. (See appendixes 2 and 4).</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>YES</p>	
7.2	<p>Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.</p>	
	<p>Written comments from the community consultation exercise include the use of the words 'it is beautiful'. Since it borders the AONB the views from the fields towards the hills would be classed as beautiful by very definition. See comments from residents in Appendix 1</p>	✓
7.3	<p>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></p>	
	<p>It is easy to see the site from further up the hill and the nearby roads and Battledown Park and Priors Farm estates. There are long distance views of the site from above.</p>	
7.4	<p>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></p>	
	<p>The area is adjacent to an AONB and is part of the natural progression from the sports field to the AONB beyond</p>	
7.5	<p>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></p>	
	<p>Not as far as we know.</p>	
7.6	<p>Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?</p>	
	<p>Yes there is a manor house/retreat centre above it on the hillside. It also borders an area of woodland.</p>	

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>	
	Not as far as we know.	
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, in that families have lived in this area for generations and when children play up there they are playing in an area used by their parents and even their grandparents.	
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>	
	See 7.6 and 8.1 above. We are not aware that the area is registered anywhere.	
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>	
	Yes there are old hedgerows and trees along the site boundaries and a stream. The trees support important wildlife and species that are protected in the county’s Biodiversity Action Plan. Examples include the cuckoo, house sparrows, starlings and hares.	
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 because it has long been an area used for sports (since 1940s) since the development of housing in the Oakley ward and therefore is well known and used by local residents. It has historical associations for many people who played there as children and now their grandchildren play there.	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	Don’t know	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
	Don’t know	
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>	
	Yes,, it is used for walking, jogging/running and other forms of healthy outdoor activity.	
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?</i>	

	<i>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>	
	There is good access to the site since it is reached easily by road or on foot and it is unfenced. There are public rights of way alongside the site and going out of it up to the hill and over to Prestbury. There is a tarmacked path alongside the playing field which is wheel chair accessible.	
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 very well used for dog walking and play e.g. forms of outdoor play that would not be possible in a park such as den making and playing in trees and hedgerows. It has been used for decades for this purpose. It is used informally for ball games and other children's play, and there is an unfenced play area. Please refer to letters supplied by residents (see Appendix 1), e.g. 'the park is always in use in one way or another when I am strolling around it – people playing ball games, families walking, wildlife enthusiasts, blackberry pickers(in the Autumn) kids and families in the play area, pensioners stretching their legs. Same goes for the fields – every few minutes you see a dogwalker or jogger looking relaxed and enjoying the countryside'. Another resident wrote that 'it is a lovely place to fly kites'. And another mentions that 'it is a great place for taking photographs of wildlife'. This underlines the point that the area connects local residents with nature.	✓
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 area is very tranquil as you can get right away from roads and it is bordered on one side by the AONB / open countryside. It also has the cemetery along one edge which is another peaceful area. One resident has written that it is 'very peaceful', another that he goes there 'to get away from the hustle and bustle of town life'. An e-mail from the resident to the local councillor states that 'it is a peaceful area and a quick place to visit to feel one is out in the countryside'. (see Appendix 1).	✓
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
	Not sure	
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 Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</i>	
	It is not believed that there is formal designation in place but see 11.3 and 11.4 for evidence of wildlife diversity	

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 - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB</i></p>	
	<p>There are hedgerows with hedgerow trees, streams, stream banks, grassland and woodland very close by. The following species have been mentioned by residents in the Residents Association meeting held on 15/01/15, and on consultation forms: hares; deer; badgers; foxes; sparrows; cuckoos (Gloucestershire BAP priority species); birds of prey; bats; roman snails; wood pigeons; skylarks higher up the hill; squirrels. The area falls under the category of ' Large site with low/moderate existing biodiversity value and with moderate/high potential biodiversity OR small site with moderate existing biodiversity value on Cheltenham Borough Council's Greenspace Strategy Biodiversity Quality map'. This is Category B+ which is the second highest priority for biodiversity significance and therefore should be protected.</p>	
11.4	<p>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></p>	
	<p>Likely to have various water species that live in streams and stream banks as well as many types of bird and butterflies.</p>	
11.5	<p>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></p>	
	<p>Don't know</p>	
12	<p>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></p>	
12.1	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	<p>YES</p>	
12.2	<p>Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?</p>	
	<p>It helps with water retention and lowering surface run-off. The adjacent area has been developed for housing (Battledown Park) which causes higher run-off because of increase in areas covered by concrete, tarmac and roofs. In fact, SuDS have been put into the area below the fields only last year which emphasises the fact that there are already drainage problems which should not be exacerbated. A number of residents in the area experienced flooding in 2007 and every effort should be made to minimize the risk of a reoccurrence.</p> <p>Recently, there have been discussions about establishing allotments at the beginning of the fields. Although this would mean the loss of some of the open countryside; the green corridor to the AONB would still exist, the capacity for water retention would not be diminished and there would be a positive financial and the health implications to those who participate in an allotment scheme.</p>	

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Priors Park & fields to protect it as a green space. I go there at least every fortnight to walk and feel that I am out of the urban area and am in the countryside. This is very important to me because I do not have a car so it is harder for me to get out of Chatterham.

It is a great viewpoint and I have seen many brilliant sunsets from there, plus enjoyed seeing a heavy wildlife (e.g. a cuckoo). It is tranquil and gives me a feeling of a sense of space.

I use the area for walking and as a route up to Cleeve Hill. There is a good network of paths that link the area to the hills. I always see many people walking dogs, children using the play area and in the summer people picnicking. Very much adds to my quality of life & well-being.
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing in support of keeping Priors park & field a green space.

I often walk through these areas to get away from the hustle & bustle of town life; It is one of the main attractions of living in this area.

The park is always in use one way or the other when I am strolling around it - people playing ball games, families walking, wildlife enthusiasts, blackberry pickers (in the autumn) ~~kids~~ kids + families in the play area + pensioners stretching their legs. Some goes for the fields, every few minutes you will pass a dog walker or jogger, looking relaxed and ~~are~~ enjoying the countryside.

If you were to ask all around the surrounding area, I'm sure many would agree! It's a huge asset to the area and it would be a real shame to see it go.

yours sincerely,

Oakley: Fields beyond the playing fields.

I would hate those fields to be built on. It is an area for walking and wild life. I walk there from time to time and a good place for dog walking too.

It is a peaceful area and a quick place to visit to feel one is out in the countryside.

I would not be against its potential as an allotment as long as there is space for walking.

Best wishes
Josie

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- 10 - Priors fields

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I walk the fields often, essential to 'get away' from urban landscape
It is used for sport - what sport and who by?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lots of Joggers around. further up hill i see kite surfing ^{boarding} + para remote control aeroplane club
I walk around here with/without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is important for wildlife - which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CUCKOO, birds of prey (various), fox, blackberries
It has history! (please explain)	-	Probably.... certainly geog, and quaries? not sure though....
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Especially in summer / spring, early morning, but all year
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	as mentioned before, essential to 'get away' from bustle and claustrophobia of town streets / traffic / work
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One of the ^{main} reasons this area is nice to live in
Potential for growing food there	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ground seems well drained and fertile + allotments etc don't disrupt wildlife + scenery (as long as people don't use pesticides - they should be banned!)
Any other reason		

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- W11 4AD Priors Farm

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here		
It is used for sport - what sport and who by?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOOTBALL
I walk around here with/without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is important for wildlife - which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPARROWS BLACKBIRDS VARIOUS TREES
It has history! (please explain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The two Recreation fields have been here since the 1940s.
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views		
Potential for growing food there		
Any other reason		YOU MUST THINK OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

mm

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space: PRIORS FIELDS

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOOTBALL, CRICKET
I walk around here with/without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Potential for growing food there		
Any other reason		TO MANY OF THESE SPACES ARE BEING SOLD OFF, MONEY RULES OK!!

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space: PRIORS ESTATE "SPORTS" FIELD

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Tel and/or email: [REDACTED] Postcode: _____

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I walk around here with/without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John walked Dill here frequently.
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A really nice blackberry bush (shan't tell you which one) - Nice damsons (ditto)
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Potential for growing food there		Not if used as soccer pitches
Any other reason		

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- PRIORS FIELDS

Your Details (optional) Name [REDACTED]

Tel and/or email [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	✓	Lowly View Peacefull my grand children play here
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	✓	football youngsters
I walk around here with/without a dog	✓	always Pick up poo.
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	Very Important for wildlife
It has history! (please explain)	✓	the white house always nice view walks up the hills
It is attractive visually	✓	Very beautiful.
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	calm
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	please dont spoil our lowly views & walks
Potential for growing food there		
Any other reason	✓	We all want to keep our green areas

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- Fields at top of Prior's Farm Estate

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Tel and/or email [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here		
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?		
I walk around here with/without a dog	✓	
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	Butterflies, hares, badgers, foxes, Squirrels etc.
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	✓	
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	
Potential for growing food there		Possibly? We really do need some more allotments in Cheltenham!
Any other reason		

Please return to: Cllr Rowena Hay, 12 York Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2JT
or Liberal Democrats, Freepost SWC 0744, 16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham GL52 6ZZ

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- Priors Farm

Your Details (optional) Name [REDACTED]

Tel and/or "ema" [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here		
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	✓	Foot ball / Jogging by residents / local Teams
I walk around here with/without a dog		
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	Bodgers, Foxes, Birds ie Kites, Kestrels, owls owls
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	✓	Yes lots of visitors have said how beautiful it is
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	It is set away from the main rd and is great for pcv. cs
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	it is a beautiful view for Residents
Potential for growing food there	✓	Could have allotments there
Any other reason	✓	Great place for taking photos of the natural wild life

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- Priors Farm

Your Details (optional) Name [REDACTED]

Tel and/or email [REDACTED]

Postcode

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	its a lovely place to fly kites
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Football local Teams
I walk around here with/ without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bodgers, Foxes, Birds, Great place to be
It has history! (please explain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	it has been a focal point since I was a child, and it looks so lovely
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yes Beautiful View
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	yes very peaceful
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Great open Space
Potential for growing food there	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any other reason	<input type="checkbox"/>	

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- LAN gaming group Priors Park - 9

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED] Postcode ?

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	✓	
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	✓	football, rugby
I walk around here with/without a dog	X	
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	bushes, trees, grass, flowers etc
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	✓	
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	most of the time
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views		
Potential for growing food there	✓ X	no, too busy
Any other reason		

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- LAN gaming group Priors Park

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED] Postcode ?

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	✓	
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?	✓	Football, rugby
I walk around here with/without a dog	X	don't have a dog
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	bushes, trees, grass, flowers
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually		
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	
Potential for growing food there	✓	
Any other reason		

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- Priors fields 10

Your Details (optional) Name [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here		
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?		
I walk around here with/without a dog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I very much enjoy the feeling of being able to get out of the urban area and be in the countryside with fields about 10 minute walk. I especially value this space because I don't have a car.
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	heard a cuckoo here June 2014. lots of other birds blackberry picking
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It is peaceful/tranquil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Potential for growing food there	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any other reason		probably important for ensuring these watercress into area following 2007 floods.

COULD NOT MAKE MEETING HAVE BEEN ILL
 I HAVE BEEN TO THESE MEETINGS BEFORE, DO NOT
 MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE

This green space is important because.....

Name of green space:- PRIORS ESTATE FIELDS

Your Details (optional) Name: [REDACTED]

Tel and email [REDACTED] Pos [REDACTED]

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here GRAND CHILDREN	✓	ITS NICE TO SEE PARENTS PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH THEIR CHILDREN OR CRICKET ECT.
It is used for sport - what sport and who by?	✓	FOOTBALL YOUNG BOYS KITES. RUNNING.
I walk around here with/without a dog	✓	ITS NICE JUST TO WANDER. WHEN ELDERLY AND DO NOT DRIVE
It is important for wildlife - which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	I HAVE BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE HAD FOX'S & BADGER VISIT MY FRONT GARDEN (I WANTED TO SAY IN CASE THEY GET KILLED) AND A DEER
It has history! (please explain)		THERE IS A WONDERFULL VARIETY OF TREES, WHICH MEANS BIRDS AS WELL (I HAVE BIRD FEEDERS)
It is attractive visually	✓	ITS BEAUTIFUL TO WATCH THE MOON RISE OVER THE HILLS AND RAINFALLS
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	AT THE MOMENT (WE HAVE RAIN) BUT O.K NOW
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	FOR HOW LONG I DO NOT KNOW AS LONG AS MONEY TALKS, WE DO NOT COUNT. I HAD VIEWS OF THE HILL AT THE BACK TILL YOU BUILT HIGH FLATS
Potential for growing food there	✓	BETTER IDEA THAN HOUSES. I DO NOT COUNT I AM OLD BUT THINKING OF MY GRANDCHILDREN
Any other reason	✓	USE BROWN FILL SITES INSTEAD OF CONCRETE EVERYWHERE

AND DID THOSE FEET IN ANCIENT TIMES WALK OVER ENGLAND'S GREEN & PLEASANT LAND

Please return to: Cllr Rowena Hay, 12 York Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2JT

Reason	Tick (as appropriate)	Comments
My children play here/ I play here	✓	GRANDCHILD PLAYS THERE. AND MY CHILDREN BEGET HIM
It is used for sport –what sport and who by?		
I walk around here with/without a dog	✓	ADDS TO SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO MEET OTHER WALKERS / DOG OWNERS.
It is important for wildlife – which animals/plants/trees have you seen?	✓	CUCKOO'S / ROBINS / HEDGES BLACKBERRY BUSHES ALL AID WILDLIFE
It has history! (please explain)		
It is attractive visually	✓	
It is peaceful/tranquil	✓	
It makes the area feel open/gives sense of space/good views	✓	
Potential for growing food there	✓	
Any other reason		

Dear Sir

The green spaces at Priors Sportsfield/ Priors fields and at Lynworth Place

I am a Trustee of the Oakley Residents Association and am writing on behalf of that Association following a discussion at our last meeting on the 15th January. The meeting wanted me to pass onto you their comments on the green spaces listed above.

The residents were concerned at the possible loss of any of the green spaces in this ward. Many residents in the ward are on low incomes and do not have cars so would not be able to easily access green spaces which are further away. It was noted that the development at Starveall Farm meant that the residents were already losing access to another green space which would have been accessible to some residents.

There were also a number of comments made about the two green spaces being considered under the local green space survey.

Lynworth Green

There was concern that development on this green area would close up that area, destroying what is currently a pleasant open aspect on that estate. It was noted that such spaces, even though small, help give a feeling of openness and calm to an area and that conversely the loss of such space could have a negative impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. There was discussion about the use of the green space by children and residents felt that the space was used by wildlife (notably birds – including house sparrows and goldfinches).

Priors Sportsfield and Priors fields

There were a number of concerns about whether any further development higher up might result in further flooding lower down the estate. In 2007 there was flooding on several roads including Clyde Crescent, Whaddon Road, Thames Road and Wymans Road due to the inability for rain water run-off from the escarpment to be absorbed during heavy rain fall. There has been work on the Priors estate during the last year to put in catchment basins and rain gardens to help absorb run off. Phase 2 to this work will start soon. You should note that there is already a development planned on the old GCHQ site adjacent to Priors Fields and that there is concern that this will reduce the ability of the rain water to be absorbed. Residents reported that after the rain in the last few days the Sports field and other fields were very waterlogged.

There was discussion about the need to preserve access to the countryside and an acknowledgement that at the moment there was a natural green corridor with the sports field leading onto the fields which in turn lead onto the area of AONB beyond. It was felt that this was one of the few points of ready access onto open countryside from the estate and was well used by residents including dog walkers. The benefits to children of experiencing play in the open countryside with the opportunities it brought for activities such as den making were pointed out.

The residents were also concerned to protect wildlife in the area which provides a range of habitats including grassland, a stream, ancient hedgerows, mature trees. Wildlife sighted up there include larks, red kites, cuckoos, roman snails, badgers, foxes, deer, hares and bats.

I hope that when a decision is made about which green spaces receive additional protection, the above comments will be taken into consideration and the area of Priors Sports Field and the fields beyond like be afforded some additional protection from further development.

Yours faithfully

Name supplied

Appendix 3

Dear Steve

Local Green Space application for 'Priors Fields'

I wish to support the application for Local Green Space status for the fields which lie between the playing field at the top of the Priors estate and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) of the Cleeve Hill escarpment. I have been the Borough Councillor representing Oakley Ward for the past 10 years and previously in the early 1980's I was County Councillor for All Saints - which at the time included the Priors Estate. I am also currently County Councillor for the Oakley and All Saints division.

The Fields in question are extensively used to walk and exercise dogs, as well as being some open countryside for children to play in and be adventurous which is just very different from parks. They provide an important 'green corridor' by which local people can access the open countryside of the AONB. The fields link the AONB to the Playing field effectively bringing the countryside to the edge of the Priors Estate at the top of Imjin Road. It is of particular relevance to Oakley because of the poor health outcomes found in the ward that coupled with one of the lowest car ownerships in Gloucestershire means that any barrier to the countryside would be to the detriment of the area's health and wellbeing. It's worth saying that the fields are used by residents across the ward and not simply the Priors estate.

Priors estate itself was built in the sixties with a very open aspect which is a stark contrast to the new Battledown estate which is very dense. It is very hard to protect development site from densities which would close down the openness to the countryside and hence be a barrier. Across town and indeed the country, I've walked along rights of way that have been protected through estates, which involve narrow fenced paths with no outlook where it's difficult to pass anyone coming towards you and which seem to take ages to get along, either that, or walking through built up residential estates. So despite the proximity of the AONB, development would be a barrier for many, seriously affecting ease of access.

The ability to walk in open country is a great stress reliever. Protecting the fields as open spaces will help the efforts being made to substantially improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the ward. Though I do not represent Battledown Park, I do know that its residents also value the ease with which they can get to open countryside without the need to get in a car, especially given the estate's density.

Establishing these fields as Local Green Space has my full support.

Regards

Colin Hay 12th January 2015

Appendix 4

Dear Mr Jordan

Oakley Green Spaces Protection

I am writing as a trustee of Oakley Regeneration Partnership with respect to the protection of green spaces in the local area, following our local public consultation. Whilst all the green areas in Oakley are important to residents, many are already well protected as parks and recreational areas. We particularly therefore want to request protection for two that appear less protected, these being the area of Priors Park and Fields and the area of Lynworth Green.

Between them these spaces serve to provide informal and formalised recreational space; are areas of either historical or wildlife interest; and, are easily accessible to the public. In the case of Priors Fields this area provides a route through to the open countryside, which is particularly important to local people, many of whom do not have their own transport. It also serves as a bio-corridor and borders an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and we believe is significant in terms of flood protection (indeed SuDS have been retro-fitted nearby on Priors Farm Estate and more building in the area would exacerbate surface run-off problems).

In the wake of the decision to build on Starvehall Farm, which was another such area that provided access to open space for Oakley residents, we feel that Priors Park and Fields should be protected from any development other than allotments. We also believe that Lynworth Green affords a quiet, 'village green' space which is part of the history of the way that the estate developed and that any building on it would create a sense of over-crowdedness. Consultation with the public and other organisations has shown how

much these green spaces are appreciated by the local population and how crucial they are to health and well-being and general quality of life. Local people value them highly.

We have submitted relevant evidence and ask that these areas are protected as green spaces for future generations to use.

Yours sincerely

Name supplied