

UP HATHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF GREEN SPACES IN THE PARISH

A review of green spaces within Up Hatherley parish for Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and Cheltenham Borough Council including recommendations for Local Green Space areas to be incorporated within the Cheltenham Borough Local Plan. A report by the Open Spaces working group comprising:-

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Version 6

6th January 2015

UP HATHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL - REVIEW OF GREEN SPACES IN THE PARISH

1. Executive Summary, and Background to this report

1.1) Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) has commissioned a process to produce a new Local Plan, to cover all aspects of Planning Policy within the borough. This will sit under the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), and will supersede the now out of date 2006 Local Plan.

1.2) At its full Council meeting on 9th April 2014, which approved the final pre-consultation draft of the JCS, CBC determined to conduct a review of green spaces across its area, with a view to establishing which spaces would be suitable for designating as Local Green Spaces (LGSs) within the meaning of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraphs 76-78. This is a new designation for green space which gives a level of protection to appropriate spaces akin to that which would apply if they were Green Belt, and the qualifications are closely defined.

1.3) CBC subsequently appointed Gloucestershire Rural Community Council as its agent to assist in this review, and to consult with Parish Councils and community groups. Following a presentation to Up Hatherley Parish Council (UHPC) on 4th November 2014 by GRCC, the Parish Council established a working group to review all of the green spaces within its boundaries, with a view to deciding which ones were appropriate to be put forward as Local Green Spaces. The working group identified some nine pieces of green space within the parish, of all types but bigger than 0.1 Ha (¼ acre), as well as an area which is already green belt. Some of the spaces were less than 1/4 hectare, others up to 2 hectares but even where it did not consider that LGS criteria were met, the group decided to make recommendations as to appropriate protection for each piece of land.

1.4) As a result, two areas of open space were clearly identified, Chargrove Open Space, and Redthorne Way Open Space as being demonstrably special to the local community, and as having high amenity value, and further value as areas of trees and/or wildlife, and in which major loss of amenity would occur if it was decided to develop these areas, and which could not simply be replaced with an alternative green area of similar size. These two open spaces are put forward as firm proposals for Local Green Space designation.

The working group identified two further areas, as having high amenity value, Caernarvon Park, and Manor Park Open Space, but it did not consider it had sufficient resource to produce the necessary evidence within the very tight timescale of the consultation period. In the case of Caernarvon Park, the amenity value was very high, though it was felt the risk of development was relatively low.

A matter which became clear to the working group was the great shortage of green space existing within Up Hatherley Parish, hence the very high priority which the Parish Council places on protecting and maintaining green spaces within the area.

Finally it was observed that the green corridor between Davallia Drive and Justicia has never had any open space protection applied to it on CBC maps. It is recommended that this area is designated as Public Green Space, and the appropriate protections applied.

1.5) This report by the working group was presented to, and accepted by the Parish Council at its meeting of 6th January 2015.

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2. Initial evaluation of Green Spaces within Up Hatherley Parish

A map showing the location of all these spaces is attached as Appendix (1), with a street map attached at appendix (1a). As previously stated, some nine spaces were examined, an Initial Evaluation Matrix is shown at Appendix (2). The group had to do an initial sift to decide which sites met the criteria of the NPPF paragraphs 76 -78 as follows:

76. Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts

2.1) Chargrove Open Space

Chargrove Open Space is the name for the area of some 2 Ha (5 Acre), as designated by CBC, and which has a wide historic hedgerow, believed to be over 100 years old, running through it north-South, and which is historically known as Greatfield Park on east side, and it is understood, Holmer Park on the west side. Greatfield Park is the remnant of the much larger original "The Great Field".

This area is much used as an amenity space, including informal play such as football and use of frisbees etc. This space is one of the only two spaces large enough to allow people to 'spread themselves out' for these forms of activity. Also much used for dog walking and general recreation.

There is significant wildlife including nesting birds, and plant life, which is reported on at para 4A.11.3. It also immediately adjacent to a traditional orchard, and appears itself to have remnants of orchard, that is Perry trees within the historic hedge. It appears as "Public Green Space" on the 2006 CBC Local Plan. It is believed to be owned by CBC, and may have some covenants upon it. It represents a substantial green space between estates. The working group considered that it was a strong candidate for LGS designation because:

- It is the only space of 2 Ha within the parish.
- The amenity value is high.
- The historic hedgerow is irreplaceable.
- It is well used.
- It also acts as a significant buffer Green space between the estates at Timperley Way and Chargrove Lane.

Whilst the Parish is unaware of any immediate proposals for development, it is not feasible to replace this land by an alternative site, and it is the only green area of any significance within 300m of much of the south-west of the parish. This is shown at appendix (4)

2.2) Caernarvon Park

This is an area of some 1.1 Ha (2.6 Acre) and contains children's play areas, a football pitch, an informal marked running track, a shelter, and other amenities. A good deal of effort by CBC and others on restoration etc. went in during 1990's, in conjunction with the PALS group of volunteers, to restore the park after some years of neglect. It is a much used place for teenagers to "hang out" during the summer (in preference to less suitable areas such as Caernarvon Court and Morrisons area). Some of the history is shown in the photo at Appendix (3). Partly as a result of the high usage by young people, there were more enhancements to the park – particularly the hedging etc in the period 2007/2008.

It appears as "Public Green Space" on the 2006 CBC Local Plan. The land is owned and maintained by CBC. The working group considered that it was certainly a candidate for LGS designation, but in view of the limited resources which were to hand to evaluate Local Green Spaces, the group has not gathered significant evidence to promote this aim. Moreover the working group considered that the likelihood of an attempt to re-develop the site was very low, it is already a fully 'developed' park. Nevertheless Cheltenham Borough Council may wish to give consideration as to whether Caernarvon Park should be designated as Local Green Spaces under the forthcoming Cheltenham Local Plan. In any event the working group took the view that **this space should retain protection beyond the general level of "public green space" / "public open space"** because:

- The amenity value is very high
- It is the only park within the parish
- It is very heavily used, especially by children and young people
- It is the only green area of any significance within 300m of much of the northern part of the parish. This is shown at appendix (4).

The Parish Council should explore further options for protection of this park with CBC.

2.3) Redthorne Way Open Space

This site is a site bounded by Morrisons supermarket, Greatfield Park School, and housing around Redthorne Way, which is defined in more detail in paragraph 4B.

This is a green area of some 1.2 Ha (3 Acre), incorporating a Children's play area, and an informal green space area used for playing ball games, cricket/frisbees etc; it is also used for dog walking and picnicking etc., and also as a place to sit down quietly, perhaps after shopping in the nearby centre. It benefits from a wooded edge with very substantial row of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, which can be fully appreciated when viewed from the furthest corner of the open space. There will be some significant wildlife and plant life, particularly within the wooded area edging the site.

It is "Public Green Space" on the 2006 Plan and owned by CBC. As such it acts as an important buffer of Green space between estates. Whilst the Parish is unaware of any immediate proposals for development, its proximity to commercial and other non-residential property is a matter of latent concern. (Both Morrisons and Greatfield Park Primary school are at capacity on their sites.) It is not easily replaceable by an alternative site, it is the only green area of any significance within 300m of much of the south-east of the parish, and indeed parts of Warden Hill. This is shown at appendix (4). The working group considered that it was a strong candidate for LGS designation because:

- The amenity value is high.
- The wooded edge is important and used by local playgroup.
- The area provides a significant green buffer and place of relative tranquillity between the bustling shopping centre, and the housing areas of Up Hatherley.
- It is heavily used, especially by children and young people.

2.4) Manor Park

This is an area of some 0.53Ha (1.3 Acre) between Sedgewick Gardens and Manor Park. It is mainly amenity space, with some informal play, as well as being a area for dog walking.

It is "Public Green Space" on the 2006 Plan and owned by CBC. As such it acts as an important buffer of Green space between estates. It was considered by the working group for Local Green Space, being adjacent to existing recent development, and thus under possible threat. However in applying the "demonstrably special" test, after further evaluation it was felt appropriate to concentrate on the fore-mentioned two sites at Chargrove Open Space and Redthorne Way Open Space as being more special, and indeed larger.

The working group considered that CBC should retain protection of this land as "public green space"/ "public open space". It was important to retain protection because:

- The amenity value is high, for informal play and walking, including dog walking.
- The importance of green space between estates.

2.5) Broad Oak Way Open Space

This is an area of some 1.2 Ha (3 Acre) and is of reasonably substantial size (for the area of Up Hatherley), being important as green corridor between otherwise very large unbroken tracts of housing; it is used as amenity space, with some informal play. It is also used for dog walking, and as a traffic free route to/from local schools. According to the CBC notices in the area, ball games of up to four people are permitted, but in practice this is treated as guidance.

It appears as "Public Green Space" on the 2006 CBC Local Plan. The land is mainly owned by CBC, though there some GCC owned footpaths and verges which are public highway land.

The working group considered that CBC should retain protection of this land as "public green space"/ "public open space". It would be difficult in practice to develop but it was important to retain protection because:

- The amenity value is high
- The importance of green corridor for walking to/from school, or just walking through

2.6) Space between Davallia Drive and Justicia Way

This is a green area of some 0.8 Ha (2 Acre) which is important as green corridor between otherwise very large unbroken tracts of housing; it is used as amenity space, with some informal play. It is also used for dog walking, and as a traffic free route to/from local schools.

The ownership of this area is unclear, it is thought to still be in the ownership of the developer. Given its importance as green corridor/ green break between estates, it is proposed that it be protected as a new area of "public green space"/ "public open space" because:

- The amenity value is high
- The importance of green corridor for walking to/from school, or just walking through

2.7) Fernleigh Green

This is a green area of some 0.27Ha (0.7 Acre) which is important as ornamental Green. It is primarily amenity space, containing a number of mature trees, including a fine willow tree. In addition it is used annually on Christmas Eve by the Parish Council for the singing of Christmas Carols, an activity well supported by several hundred people. This space is owned by the Parish Council.

The working group recommends that the protection of this green is maintained as existing public green space/ public open space. However due to its small size and its ownership by the Parish Council it was seen as inappropriate to seek LGS status for this site.

2.8) Long Mynd Green

This is a green area of some 0.25Ha (0.6 Acre) which is important as ornamental Green. It is primarily amenity space, containing a number of mature trees, including three willow trees.

The working group recommends that the protection of this green is maintained as existing public green space/ public open space. However due to its small size and the fact that it is also owned by the Parish Council, it was seen as inappropriate to seek LGS status for this site.

2.9) Coney Gree

This is a green 'island' of some 0.14Ha (0.3 Acre) between a service road and the main carriageway in Hatherley Road. It is amenity green space, with some flowers and trees. Its ownership is unclear.

It is shown as "Public Green Space" on the 2006 CBC Plan. The working group recommends that the protection of this green is maintained as existing public green space/ public open space. However due to its small size and limited usability, it was seen as inappropriate to seek LGS status for this site.

2.10) Green Belt to the side of Sunnyfield Lane.

It would be inappropriate to recommend any change in designation from continuing green belt, given that is what is proposed in the JCS. However the working group considered it worthwhile to point out some demonstrably special features of the part of this area which is close to the Sunnyfield Lane/Up Hatherley Way junction, and is a former traditional orchard; this evidence is attached at appendix (5). It is also germane to this study to note the existence of a second traditional orchard adjacent to it, within the Borough of Tewkesbury, in the corner of Chargrove Lane and Up Hatherley Way, on the "country" side of the road. This second former traditional orchard is relevant to the proposal to designate Chargrove Open Space as an LGS, there being a biodiversity corridor between this site and Chargrove Open Space, as is evidenced at Appendix (12).

2.11) Other areas, particularly around Windermere Road

A number of areas of green space exist in the parish, as green breaks in housing, which do not appear as public green space on the 2006 CBC Local plan. None of these are over 0.1 Ha, and whilst important, are not large enough for significant development. Indeed they should not be developed in the working group's view. There are a significant number of such sites particularly around the Windermere Road area, sometimes known as the Lakeside Estate, which add a significant green element to what would otherwise be large tracts of built environment without greenery.

Given the recent number of planning applications by Cheltenham Borough Homes to build houses on garage sites within this area, the working group draws to the attention of the Borough Council to the importance of maintaining these green areas in Windermere Road and roads off it.

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3) General level of provision of Green Space, and its importance in Up Hatherley

The working group was impressed negatively by how little green space exists within the parish boundaries, and the urban environs beyond. The ANGSt (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard - Natural England 2010) standards recommend that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:

- of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 metres (325 yards) (5 minutes walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare (50 acres) site within two kilometres (1.25 miles) of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare (250 acres) site within five kilometres (3 miles) of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare (1240 acres) site within ten kilometres (6.25 miles) of home; plus
- at least one hectare (2.5 acres) of statutory Local Nature Reserves per 1000 population.

The first of those criteria is not met across Up Hatherley, with only one space of 2 hectares (5 acres) in the parish, and with much of the parish being considerably in excess of 300m away. If we **reduce** the standard to a minimum of 1 hectares (2.5 acres), no more than 300 metres from home, and ignore areas which are only 'corridors', we get a situation where most of the parish is within 300m of a 1 Hectare+ site, in respect one or more of the following spaces which is depicted on Appendix (4):

- Open Space around Brizen (in Warden Hill area, outside parish)
- Weavers Field, Warden Hill
- Redthorne Way Open Space – in Up Hatherley parish
- Caernarvon Park – in Up Hatherley parish
- Chargrove Open Space – in Up Hatherley parish
- Open space in the Reddings, across Hollis Road footbridge
- Benhall open space, across 'Cloddymore' footbridge, off Hatherley Road

Even this reduced standard – **which is in no way accepted as good practice**, places some areas, especially around Hatherley Road more than 300m from accessible green space of 1 Ha or more.

The second, third, and fourth criteria are largely met by the extensive green belt to the south of Up Hatherley Way. However this area is across a busy distributor road without safe crossing points, except near Brizen, so this green belt land does not satisfy the first of the criteria, namely to be able to access green space within 5 minutes walk.

Appendix (4) map therefore demonstrates the great shortage of green space existing within Up Hatherley Parish, and points up the very high priority which the Parish Council places on maintaining and enhancing those green spaces with are identified in this report.

4A) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space – using CBC ‘Toolkit’

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>	✓
	Chargrove Open Space. (North of Up Hatherley Way, it is located between Timperley Way and Chargrove Lane.)	
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>	✓
	See map at appendix (1) and scale bar on map. Also street map appendix (1a)	
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>	✓
	Up Hatherley Parish Council	
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. It may also have some covenants upon it.	
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)	✓
	To be discussed with CBC	
1.6	Photographs of site	✓
	Attached as Appendix (6)	
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>	✓
	This site serves the whole of Up Hatherley and parts of Warden Hill, being an area of 3000-4000 households, of which approximately 700 households within 300 metres.	
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, and any development would seriously impair ability of the remaining site to function as a Green Open Space.	

4A - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space

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	✓
	2 Hectares (5 acres)	
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>	✓
	Not by any criteria, all within parish built up area.	
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, this is evident from the map supplied, being surrounded on three sides by houses.	
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 – serious need: The ANGSt guideline of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 metres (325 yards) (5 minutes walk) from home is not met in much of Up Hatherley Parish. Importantly , this is evidenced at paragraph 3 of the Parish Council’s REVIEW OF GREEN SPACES IN THE PARISH at appendix (4). Chargrove Open Space is the only green area of any significance within 300m (5 minutes walk) of much of the south-west of the parish.	
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 within immediate proximity to housing, and within 1.2km of the most of the parish. It appears as “Public Green Space” on the 2006 CBC Local Plan. It represents a substantial green space between estates. This question is also covered at point 4.1, and further evidenced in the map at appendix (4).	

4A - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space

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>	✓
	No barriers. Easy and flat access through several gates and one stile.	
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>	✓
	Letter from Up Hatherley Parish Council – appendix (9).	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	✓
	Letters from local groups – appendix (8).	
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>	✓
	Letters from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP – appendix (9)	
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>	✓
	Survey of residents in surrounding area – appendix (10), with references to walking running, and a place to sit, enjoy the wildlife, play games, children’s activities/play. Some also named beauty or tranquillity.	
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.	
	Formal evidence is not supplied under this criteria, but several survey respondents have identified the beauty of this site as significant -Appendix 10.	
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</i> <i>Further information – Cheltenham Borough Council; Natural England;</i>	

4A - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space

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>	
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>	
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>	
	NO	
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 . Chargrove Open Space is the name for the area of some 2 Ha (5 Acre), as designated by CBC, and which has a wide historic hedgerow, known as Greatfield Hedge, believed to be over 100 years old, running through it north-South, and of some 150m length and in excess of 10m wide. The site is historically known as Greatfield Park on its east side, and it is understood, Holmer Park on the west side. Greatfield Park is the remnant of the much larger original "The Great Field". This is also referenced in appendix (12).	
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>	✓
	Greatfield hedge separates Holmer Park from Greatfield Park. The latter is the remnant of the much larger original "The Great Field", nearly all of which was eventually build on during the urban development of Up Hatherley, including the area which is now Timperley Way. Prior to building Up Hatherley Way the site would have been contiguous green space with the area of green belt now known as “Chargrove triangle” to the south of Up Hatherley Way. This is also referenced in appendix (12).	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	Not that we know of.	

4A - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space

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>	✓
	Informal sports, ball games etc. Use of Frisbees and running/jogging etc.	
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>	✓
	Yes in all cases, good footpath accesses, with paths across, disabled access.	
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 for informal recreation since it was “created” by virtue of building the adjacent housing. This is borne out by local residents at Appendix (10) survey. It is much used as an amenity space, including informal sports/play such as football and use of frisbees etc. This space is one of the only two spaces large enough to allow people to ‘spread themselves out’ for these forms of activity. Also much used for dog walking and general recreation. It is also an important local area for blackberry picking around late August/September	
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 tranquil once away from its boundary with Up Hatherley Way.	
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	

4A - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Chargrove Open Space

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> Further information - Natural England ; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records	
	Not that we know of, but see also paragraph 11.3 & see support letters from Glos Orchard Trust & Glos Wildlife Trust at Appendices (11) & (13)	
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> Further information - Natural England ; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records ; National Biodiversity Network ; RSPB	✓
	There is a great deal of wildlife to be found on this site. Mrs Nelson’s e-mailed report, at appendix (12) details the existence of a large population of sparrows and starlings in the Greatfield Park hedge. In addition the biodiversity of the site is important in conjunction with the former traditional orchard area on the opposite side of Up Hatherley Way, which contains much important wildlife including bats. It also appears itself to have remnants of orchard, that is Perry trees within the historic hedge. Ms Nelson advises that this (adjacent) area is a Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat. Mrs Mary Nelson is well known in the parish as a local wildlife specialist. The hedge is also a major bee site, and contains a magnificent mature oak providing a habitat rich in diversity to support insects, nesting birds, and plant life, fungi, etc.	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Further information - Natural England ; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records ; National Biodiversity Network ;	✓
	See paragraph 11.3.	
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>	
	We are not aware of any formal studies of wildlife in the area, but in the light of Mrs Nelson’s report, it may well be useful to consider conducting such a study, which should also research the question of remnants of an orchard. The Parish Council working group endorses the findings of The Gloucestershire Orchard Trust in its submission to the Cheltenham Local Plan [http://tinyurl.com/nda2t3m and appendices 11,12, 13]	
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 ?	
	YES	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	✓
	General public concern about high value and shortage of green spaces within the Parish area, as in their comments to the survey Appendix (10). See 4.1	

4B) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space – using CBC ‘Toolkit’

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>	✓
	Redthorne Way Open Space. (located behind Morrisons / Hillview Community Centre etc)	
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>	✓
	See map at appendix (1) and scale bar on map. Also street map appendix (1a)	
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>	✓
	Up Hatherley Parish Council	
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)	✓
	To be discussed with CBC	
1.6	Photographs of site	✓
	Attached as Appendix (7)	
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>	
	This area serves much of Up Hatherley, particularly at its eastern end, and much of Warden Hill. This amounts to some 3000 households, of which approximately 700 households within 300 metres.	
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, and any development would seriously impair ability of the remaining site to function as a Green Open Space.	
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	✓

4B - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space

	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site	
	1.2 Hectares (3 acres)	
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>	✓
	Not by any criteria, all within parish built up area.	
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 is surrounded by houses, a primary school, and a supermarket/community complex.	
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 – serious need: The ANGSt guideline of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 metres (325 yards) (5 minutes walk) from home is not met in much of Up Hatherley Parish. Importantly , this is evidenced at paragraph 3 of the Parish Council’s REVIEW OF GREEN SPACES IN THE PARISH at appendix (4). Redgrove Way Open Space is the only accessible green area of significance within 300m (5 minutes walk) of much of the south-east of the parish.	
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 within 300m proximity of about 700 houses, and within 1.5 km of the most of the parish. It appears as “Public Green Space” on the 2006 CBC Local Plan. It represents a significant green space between estates. This is apparent in the map at appendix (4).	
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 barriers. There are three flat open access points at the corners of the site.	

4B - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space

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>	✓
	Letter from Up Hatherley Parish Council – appendix (9).	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	✓
	Letters from local groups – appendix (8).	
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>	✓
	Letters from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP – appendix (9)	
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>	✓
	Survey of residents in surrounding area – appendix (10) who especially valued walking and the children’s playground/children’s activities, with some interest as well in the site as a place of tranquillity, as well as for wildlife.	
7	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.	
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.	
	Evidence is not supplied under this criteria.	
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</i> <i>Further information – Cheltenham Borough Council; Natural England;</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 – Cheltenham Borough Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i>	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	

4B - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space

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>	
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 , Evidence is not supplied under this criteria. However for background information, this site was designed to be left as green space following construction of the estates in the 1980s. The site is sometimes known locally as Cheriton Park, and confusingly sometimes wrongly labelled as Greatfield Park – which is actually elsewhere. It is bounded by Morrisons supermarket, Hillview Community Centre, Greatfield Park School, and housing around Cheriton Close and Redthorne Way. For the avoidance of doubt we have used the CBC official designation of Redthorne Way Open Space	
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>	
	No	
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>	
	Not that we know of.	
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>	
	Not that we know of.	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	Not that we know of.	
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	

4B - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space

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> Further information – Sport England	✓
	Informal sports, ball games and running/jogging etc	
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> Further information – Gloucestershire County Council	✓
	Yes in all cases, good footpath access, with paths across, disabled access.	
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>The site has been used for informal recreation since it was created in the 1980s by virtue of building the adjacent housing. It is much used as an amenity space, including informal play such as football and use of frisbees etc. This site is also host to a well used children's playground. The area is also used for dog walking and picnicking etc., and also as a place to sit down quietly, perhaps after shopping in the nearby centre. This is borne out by local residents at Appendix (10) - survey.</p> <p>The area is well situated for community use being near to the shopping complex of Morrisons and other smaller retailers, and immediately adjacent to both the community centre and library.</p> <p>The area benefits from a wooded edge with a substantial row of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, which can be fully appreciated when viewed from the furthest corner of the open space, as can be seen from the photographs at Appendix (7). There is wildlife and plant life, within the wooded area edging the site</p>	
10	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.	
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 is tranquil, as it is away from all main roads and separated from the shopping centre by its wooded edge.	
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	

4B - continued) Local Green Space Evaluation of Redthorne Way Open Space

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, Marginally. It is known that children from the local playgroup have explored the wooded edge of the site with their leaders in search of wildlife as at point 11.4. This is evidenced in appendix (8).	
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> Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records	
	No	
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> Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB	✓
	No known special habitats or species.	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network;	✓
	Any area with mature deciduous trees has some flora and fauna which should be treasured, especially in an area where mature trees are in short supply.	
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 ?	
	YES	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	✓
	General public concern about high value and great shortage of green spaces within the Parish area, as in their comments to the survey Appendix (10).	

5) Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 That Chargrove Open Space, and Redthorne Way Open Space be designated as Local Green Space as in paras 76-78 of the NPPF under the forthcoming Cheltenham Borough Local Plan.

5.2 That Cheltenham Borough Council re-affirms the strategic importance of Caernarvon Park within the green space strategy for the Up Hatherley parish area, and considers designating this area also as Local Green Space. The Parish council notes that Caernarvon Park, in combination with Chargrove Open Space, and Redthorne Way Open Space is a necessary component of the green space required to provide access to at least minimal green spaces of 1 Ha or more across the parish within 5 minutes' walk. If CBC is not minded to grant LGS status to Caernarvon Park, then strong assurances need to be given as to alternative protections to this park, over and above the general Public Green Space designation.

5.3 That the following areas, as in the map at Appendix (1), be designated as Public Green Spaces (Public Open Spaces) under the forthcoming Cheltenham Local Plan:

- Caernarvon Park ~ with further protection as in 5.2
- Manor Park Open Space
- Land between the houses in Broad Oak Way and Caernarvon Close
- Land between Davallia Drive and Justicia Way
- Fernleigh Green
- Long Mynd Green
- Coney Gree.

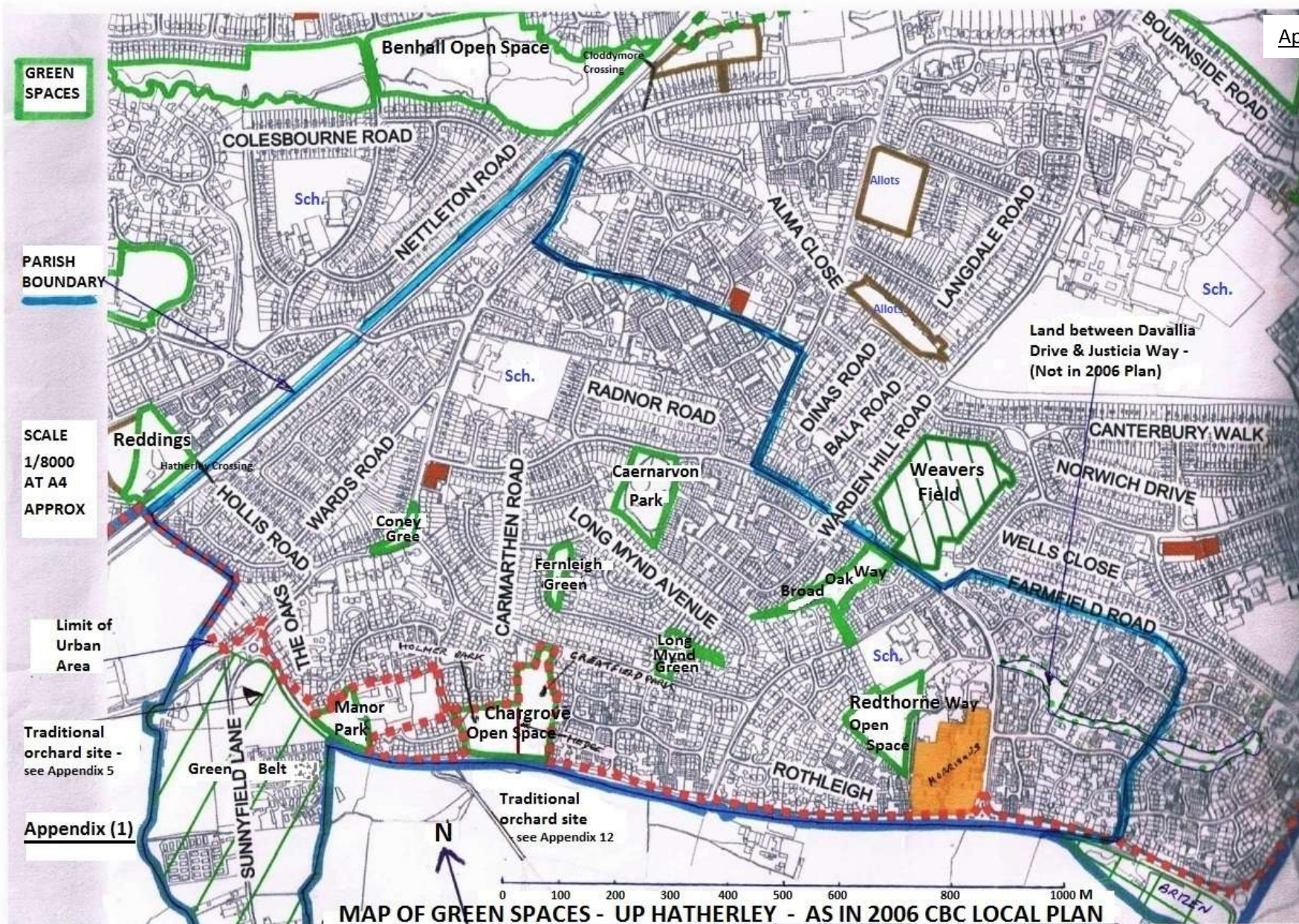
In the case of land between Davallia Drive and Justicia Way, this will be a new designation.

-ENDS-

Enclosures:

List of Appendices

- (1) Map of the area listing all the green spaces above 0.1 Ha.
- (1a) Map of the parish with street names.
- (2) Initial evaluation Matrix.
- (3) Caernarvon Park history, including work of the PALS group.
- (4) Map of the area showing the extent to which the Natural England ANGSt first criterion is met within Up Hatherley, as in green space within 300 metres' or 5 minutes' walk of home.
- (5) Write-up on the area of green belt including historic orchard near to Sunnyfield roundabout.
- (6) Photographs of Chargrove Open Space (otherwise known as Greatfield Park + Holmer park).
- (7) Photographs of Redthorne Way Open Space (otherwise known as Cheriton Park)
- (8) Supporting comments from Hillview Playgroup.
- (9) Covering Letter from Up Hatherley Parish Council and .Letters of support from local MP and elected Councillors.
- (10) Results of survey of local residents.
- (11) Supporting comment by Orchard Biodiversity Officer of People's Trust for endangered species (accessed via Gloucestershire Orchard Trust).
- (12) Reports on wildlife and biodiversity at Chargrove Open Space, from Mrs Mary Nelson.
- (13) Supporting comment by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.



Appendix (1) Map of the area listing all the green spaces above 0.1 Ha.

Appendix (1a) Map of the parish with street names.

Cheltenham Borough Council Local Green Spaces research by communities: INITIAL ASSESSMENT MATRIX
Use this form to record initial assessment of space demonstrably special to your community /holds a particular local significance

Appendix (2)

Name of neighbourhood/parish: Up Hatherley Parish Council

Date: 11th November 2014 P 1 of 2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of site Name of assessor(s) Approximate size of site 	How is this site special and how is it used? (indicate scale of use) E.g. Demonstrably special because of its <u>beauty</u> , <u>historic significance</u> (heritage), <u>recreation</u> (formal and informal), <u>wildlife</u> , <u>tranquillity</u> , any other reason.	Give details if the site is allocated for development (planning permission granted, pending or named in the current Local Plan or named in the emerging JCS or Local Plan)	Give details of any current protective designations, SSSIs or conservation areas	Other comments, incl ownership.	Conclusions: Will you pursue this site as a suggested Local Green Space by completing the full assessment (CBC toolkit)? Why/why not?
Chargrove Open Space 2 Ha (5 Acre)	Historic hedgerow, amenity, informal play including football, dog walking. General recreation. Wildlife = TBA	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by CBC Check any covenants on this land. Substantial green space between estates	YES
Broad Oak Way Open Space 1.2 Ha (3 Acre)	Mainly amenity space, some informal play.	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by CBC Important as green corridor(s)	NO Retain protection as existing public green space/ public open space
Caernarvon Park 1.1 Ha (2.6 Acre)	Children's play areas, football and amenity, a lot of volunteer effort went in during 1990's through PALS on restoration etc. More enhancements to hedging etc in 2000's.	None	Parks and Gardens "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by CBC	YES
Redthorne Open Space (aka Cheriton Park) 1.2 Ha (3 Acre)	Children's play area, informal play/cricket/frisbees etc, dog walking and picnicking etc. Trees/wooded area at one edge. Wildlife = TBA	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by CBC Green space between estates. Adjacent to non-residential development, and could become under threat.	YES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of site Name of assessor(s) Approximate size of site 	How is this site special and how is it used? (indicate scale of use) E.g. Demonstrably special because of its <u>beauty</u> , <u>historic significance</u> (heritage), <u>recreation</u> (formal and informal), <u>wildlife</u> , <u>tranquillity</u> , any other reason.	Give details if the site is allocated for development (planning permission granted, pending or named in the current Local Plan or named in the emerging JCS or Local Plan)	Give details of any current protective designations, SSSIs or conservation areas	Other comments, incl ownership.	Conclusions: Will you pursue this site as a suggested Local Green Space by completing the full assessment (CBC toolkit)? Why/why not?
Space between Davallia Drive and Justicia Way 0.8 Ha (2 Acre)	Mainly amenity space, some informal play, dog walking.	None	Unprotected	Ownership unclear - developer? Important as green corridor/ green break between estates.	NO Propose add new protection as public green space/ public open space **
Fernleigh Green 0.27Ha (0.7 Acre)	Amenity space Trees Important as Ornamental Green Used for annual Christmas Carols	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by Parish Council	NO Retain protection as existing public green space/ public open space in PC ownership.
Long Mynd Green 0.25Ha (0.6 Acre)	Amenity space Trees Important as Ornamental Green	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by Parish Council	NO Retain protection as existing public green space/ public open space.
Manor Park (green space adj to Sedgewick) 0.53Ha (1.3 Acre)	Mainly amenity space, some informal play, dog walking.	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Owned by CBC Adjacent to existing recent development, and could become under threat.	YES
Coney Gree 0.14Ha (0.3 Acre)	Amenity space, some flowers and trees.	None	Amenity Green Space "Public Green Space" on 2006 Plan	Ownership unclear	NO (Too small) Retain protection as existing public green space/ public open space.

(Above excluding existing Green Belt which we comment on elsewhere)**

Signed on behalf of Up Hatherley Parish Council:

Roger Whyborn

** Put in report

Date: 11-Nov-2014

THE HISTORY OF CAERNARVON PARK

From a farmer's field in the 1960s, Caernarvon Park has come a long way.

When the Coombe Glen Estate (Long Mynd Avenue, Carmarthen Road and Pembroke Road area) was built, in 1963, it was surrounded by green fields. Children played in the trees and long grass. The hay was cut and, on occasion, cows invaded the gardens. In those days there was a footpath across the fields to Green Farm where you could buy milk and eggs. This is now the one stop shop in Alma Road.

Ten years later preparations began for the building of Broad Oak Way. With a ban on ball games on the Mynd and Fernleigh Greens, local parents feared there would be nowhere for their children to play, so they raised a petition which they presented to the Council. As a result, 'Green Farm recreation area' was created, with promise from the council that it would never be built on. The parents were delighted to have secured a field for children to play in.



Caernarvon Park Fun Day

In later years play equipment was installed – the swings and roundabout you see now, a very high slide and climbing frame, all on concrete bases. The slide was damaged by fire in the late 1980s and replaced by a small climbing frame with a slide – on a safe surface this time.



Local children and Park Rangers undertaking native tree planting

However, the whole facility was in a neglected state and waterlogged in winter, so one of those who had organised the original petition began a campaign to improve it. After a public meeting PALS (Play Area & Leisure Scheme) was formed. PALS fundraised and worked with Cheltenham Borough Council and other organisations to improve the park. The first phase saw installation of a play area for young children, a basketball hoop and seating for teenagers. The hedge was lowered and the name changed to Caernarvon Park.

Further improvements followed – a circular path, an archway at the entrance, and native planting of oak, ash, willow and birch trees, with wildflower meadow areas, to encourage wildlife.

The archway was partially funded by a Jubilee grant, commemorating the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. The paths and planting were paid for entirely by a grant from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust with Land Fill Tax contributions donated by Cory Environmental. They were installed under the direction of Cheltenham Borough Council with design help from pupils of Lakeside Primary School.

The paths give year-round access for everyone and we have a park to be proud of – Caernarvon Park.

Caernarvon Park

This facility has been developed by Cheltenham Borough Council in conjunction with PALS of Caernarvon Park. Help us to look after your park by following the:

Park Code

Ball Games

Ball games should only be played in designated areas. The use of hard balls (golf, cricket etc.) is NOT permitted in this park.

Cycling

Cyclists should give way to pedestrians at all times and show due consideration to other park users.

Dogs

Keep your dog under control and clean up after it. Do not allow your dog to annoy other people or frighten children.

Litter

Please use the bins provided or take your litter home.

Children's Play Area

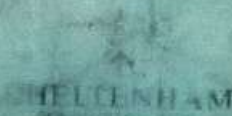
The play area is intended for children of 12 years and under. Older children should use the other facilities provided.

The Park Rangers thank you for your help.

General Information

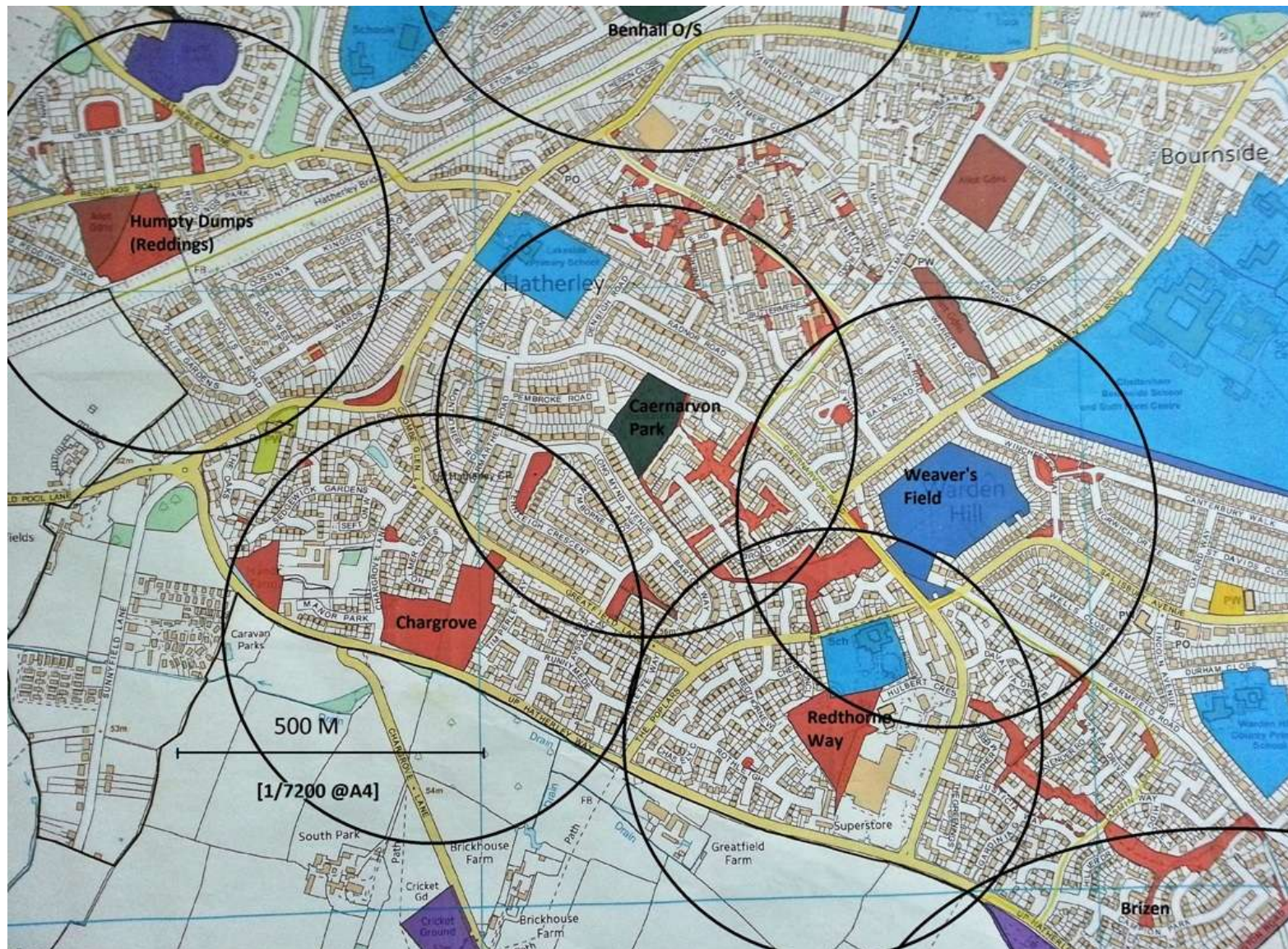
If you require further information or would like to report misuse of the Park please contact the Green Environment Division on: 01242 250019.

E-mail: parksandgardens@cheltenham.gov.uk.





Pictures showing various facilities with children braving the December 2014 weather.



Appendix 4 Proximity of Residential areas of Up Hatherley Parish to public Green Spaces in excess of 1 Ha, within 300M (5 minutes walking distance) of each of the spaces. **Note.** Green space on the southern (Tewkesbury) side of Up Hatherley Way is difficult to access from northern (Cheltenham side) – and therefore not considered to be within the 5 minutes walking distance, except at Brizen where there is a crossing point.

A significant green space for the community of Up Hatherley is the triangle of land bordered by Sunnyfield Lane and Up Hatherley Way. This area is on the “country” side of Up Hatherley Way within Cheltenham Borough and is in green belt.

The triangle of approximately 3.5 hectares is in private ownership. At the junction of Sunnyfield Lane and Up Hatherley Lane, the triangle is an overgrown orchard and there are large areas of brambles around the edges of the field. The grassy area is occasionally occupied by 1 or 2 horses and is annually mowed.

Although the land is privately owned, it has a high amenity value for residents as the land supports wildlife: rabbits, pheasants, foxes, deer and many different species of small mammals, insects and birds. In late Summer and Autumn, residents of all ages greatly enjoy the pleasures of “food for free” (blackberry picking!).

27-12-2014

Note. This site should not be confused with a similar traditional orchard site adjacent, or nearly so, at the corner of Chargrove Lane and Up Hatherley Way, on the “country”, i.e. Tewkesbury Borough side of the latter road, and referred to in appendix (12) of this report.

<http://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside-2/traditional-orchard-survey/orchard-maps/>



Appendix 6 - Chargrove Open Space – otherwise known as Greatfield Park with Holmer Park.
-showing children playing (with permission), dog walkers, the magnificent Oak Tree, and historic
hedgerow. Pictures taken December 2014.



Appendix (7) - Redthorne Way Open Space – otherwise known as Cheriton Park.

-showing children's playground and wooded edge and other views. Pictures taken December 2014.

Up Hatherley Parish Council – PROTECTING OUR OPEN SPACES FROM DEVELOPMENT

December 2014

BACKGROUND – ASKING VIEWS OF LOCAL GROUPS

The Parish Council has been asked to take part in a "Local Green Spaces" review which Cheltenham Borough Council is doing within its so called Local Plan. This will form part of the Borough Council's strategic planning for up to the next 15 years, and determines which land is available for development, and which is protected as parks and open spaces; a new category is being introduced for places which are particularly special to the community which is called "Local Green Spaces", which would have similar level of protection to green belt.

The Parish Council is interested to know views about the green spaces in the Parish which hold special importance to local groups and their members, which can be incorporated into their evidence as to what is special. This is important because it may be possible to increase the level of protection provided under local planning policy. No open spaces in Up Hatherley Parish are currently threatened with development.

Group name: Greatfield playgroup Contact Phone number: 07591 214591
E-mail etc (optional): _____

1) Name/location of Open space. RED THORNE OPEN SPACE - (BEHIND HILLVIEW)

2) It is of special important to our group because of its

Walking (including dog walking) or exercise ☐
Informal Sports (Football, cricket, Frisbees) ☐
Wildlife ☒ History ☐

Tick '✓' all that apply
Childrens Playground / Children's activities ☒
Place to meet, sit, chat, or picnic ☐
Beauty, history or tranquillity (circle which) ☒

3) Please expand on your answer to Q2

THE CHILDREN IN THE PLAYGROUP LIKE TO GO OUT INTO THIS AREA DURING THE SNOW.

WE ALSO LIKE TO EXPLORE THE WOODED AREA FOR ITS WILDLIFE ETC.

OUTSIDE PLAYGROUP TIMES THE CHILDREN & THEIR PARENTS LIKE VISIT THE CHILDRENS PLAY AREA WHICH IS WELL USED.

IMPORTANT TO KEEP THIS AREA, AS THERE ARE NO OTHER AREAS NEARBY.

Name/Signature of contact

Kelly Bloomfield (KELLY BLOOMFIELD)

Thank you for your time. Please return to either of the following addresses by 28th December 2014:

UP HATHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Clerk – Kathryn Oakey, 15 Holmer Crescent, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, GL51 3LR

Chairman – Stuart Fowler, 16 The Oaks, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, GL51 3TS

Elin Tattersall
Assistant Chief Executive
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council,
Community House,
15 College Green,
Gloucester.
GL1 2LZ

8th January, 2015

Dear Elin,

Local Green Spaces Review

Following your presentation to Up Hatherley Parish Council in November, a working group was established to review those local green spaces in the Parish accessible to our residents.

The report of the working group is enclosed from which you will see that the group's recommendation is for Chargrove Open space and Redthorne Way Open space to be designated as Local Green Spaces. The report has unequivocal support from the Parish Council: these spaces are demonstrably special to the local community; they have high amenity value and further value as areas of trees and/or wildlife.

Along with the adjacent Green Belt, Caernarvon Park and other smaller green spaces in the Parish, are the vital "Green Lung" which makes Up Hatherley a healthy place for people to live.

We ask for these spaces to be considered as very strong candidates for designation as Local Green Spaces for inclusion in the emerging CBC Local Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Fowler



MARTIN ^{MP*}
HORWOOD

Mrs K Oakey
Clerk
Up Hatherley Parish Council
15 Holmer Crescent
Up Hatherley
Cheltenham
GL51 3LR

7 January 2015

Local Green Space designations in Up Hatherley

I have been contacted about two possible Local Green Space designations in the parish of Up Hatherley. I take a keen interest in this as I was responsible for drafting the original Liberal Democrat policy in opposition which became the LGS designation when the coalition implemented the National Planning Policy Framework. There were effective protections in place for green spaces that were important for their scientific value or their landscape quality but nothing for local communities, particularly in urban areas, that simply wanted to protect green spaces for their intrinsic value to local people. Local green space is good for people's mental and physical health and is vital for free recreation, which is also known to reduce health inequalities; it absorbs pollution, both carbon emissions which contribute to global warming and dangerous particulate pollution which contribute to heart disease, respiratory and other problems; it can teach us, and particularly our children, about nature, wildlife and our local natural heritage; it can provide accessible and tranquil spaces for simple enjoyment; and it can provide local food production.

The agreement was that these Local Green Space designations would not be used randomly but as part of the plan-making process and I'm delighted that Cheltenham Borough Council has decided to pro-actively look for Local Green Spaces to designate in their local plan-making and that your parish has taken up the challenge.

Hatherley has obviously seen a great deal of development in recent decades and so it is now very important to protect the remaining green spaces for the increased local population. The pressure for development has not diminished though and I strongly support the designation of two sites you have identified:

Local Green Space at Redthorne Way

This space is in an area which has seen a great deal of development in recent decades and attracts traffic to Morrisons supermarket as well as through traffic, so it's environmental value is obvious as a green lung and buffer between large areas of development. It also provides an important and well used children's play area near Hillview and not far from the local primary school. I know it is special to the local community and is used for informal play, cricket, frisbee throwing and dog walking. I understand it is also the only piece of accessible green space over 1Ha within 5 minutes walk which is important for less mobile residents. It has a wooded edge with deciduous & coniferous trees which are important in the absorption of CO₂ and particulate pollution in a built-up area.

Local green Space at Chargrove

This 2 hectare site is a significant area of local natural heritage with an historic hedgerow, mature oak trees and perry trees. The area provides an important habitat for wildlife, is a major bee site and provides for nesting birds every spring. In hosting local perry trees it is part of an historic local natural landscape which also includes the historic orchard within the so-called Chargrove triangle which enjoys National Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Status. It is also an important amenity space for informal play and recreation including football and dog walking. It is the only piece of accessible green space over 1Ha within 5 minutes' walk, again important to local residents with less mobility in particular.

I strongly support these applications and wish you well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Horwood', written in a cursive style.

Martin Horwood MP

Member of Parliament for Cheltenham

16 Hewlett Road
Cheltenham
GL52 6AA

01242 224889
martin@martinhorwood.net



Simon Wheeler

County Councillor for Up Hatherley, Benhall & The Readings
20 Castlemaine Drive
Cheltenham
GL51 0UA
T:01242 230827
E: saw50@mac.com

Up Hatherley Parish Council
Cold Pool Lane
Cheltenham
GL51 6HZ

Dear Parish Councillors,

Just a short note from me to say that I fully support your plan to have Local Green Space status for the green spaces in Up Hatherley. Up Hatherley is very short of green spaces, and it is really important to protect the ones you have.

The Chargrove one is the only really big space, and is the one with the big hedgerow with lots of wild plants, and blackberries etc. That would be really important to protect as an island of peace and quiet amongst all the busyness. It is also the area where you could start a country walk from within the Hatherley area.

Also the Redthorne space, which I call Cheriton Park has a really good children's playground, and serves the houses all round there. It should be protected due to limited amount of green space at that end of your Parish.

You do not appear to be seeking LGS status for Caernarvon Park, presumably because it is already a park. However I did used to live very nearby with my family, and I would have to say it is a very well used and busy park, particularly used by young people, and has been a fairly vital space in terms of facilities for young people in the area. So it is most important to keep from any development.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Wheeler



COUNCILLOR ANDREW MCKINLAY

29th December 2014:

Up Hatherley Parish Council,
c/o 15 Holmer Crescent,
Up Hatherley GL51 3LR

Dear Parish Councillors,

LOCAL GREEN SPACE EVALUATION FOR CHELTENHAM LOCAL PLAN

This letter is just a short note to say that I am in complete support of your proposal that Redthorne Open Space and Chargrove Open Space should become Local Green Spaces, as defined in the NPPF.

As a ward Councillor and parent I am very aware of the amenity value of the Redthorne green space behind Morrisons, both as a children's playground and as a safe and quiet place for walking to the housing areas from the busy shopping area, and which also has trees, and benches.

The Chargrove space is also very important for play and walking, and I see you have also identified important wildlife and biodiversity aspects there.

From our past experience and knowledge of Caernarvon Park as a recreation area, especially for young people, I would also endorse the importance of protecting this park in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Andrew McKinlay
Up Hatherley
c.c. Cllr R Whyborn

Form no:

Question 

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Total

** Also Sunnyfield "triangle" (in Gb)

Which is an "Important O/S" to **you**

1) Chargrove Open Space	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1) Redthorne Way Open Space	1	1		1	1			1
1) Caernarvon Park	1							
1) Manor Park Open Space				1			1	
1) Other - named within Parish		1	1	1	1		1	
1) "All greens" - or outside UH Parish		1	1					
1) Other or "All" - outside CBC			1	1				

8	
5	
1	
2	
5	Mainly Fernleigh/ Mynd Greens **
2	Response not germane to LGS.
2	Response not germane to LGS.

How often do you visit

2) More than once per month 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

2) Every one to three months

2) Never

Totals per site

8	4	10
0	0	0
0	0	0

It is of special importance because:

3) Walking/and dog walking	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3) Informal sports and games	1			1	1	1		1	1					
3) Wildlife			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
3) History			1				1			1			1	1
3) Childrens playground/activities	1	1	1		1	1		1	1	1		1		
3) Place to meet, sit or chat	1	1		1	1	1				1		1	1	
3) Beauty			1	1	1		1	1		1				
3) Tranquility	1	1		1		1	1	1				1		

Totals per site

7	4	9
4	0	5
6	2	9
2	1	3
5	4	5
6	1	5
3	1	8
2	2	6

4) Other comments

- summarised overleaf

NOTE: Some people named more than one Open Space, and this has been counted where named.

NOTE: Survey geographically centred mainly around Chargrove and Redthorne way Open Spaces.

Appendix 10: Local residents' survey:

Chargrove
Redthorne
Other

Totals per site

Observations: 20 forms were returned out of about 1000 distributed to homes, centred around the two sites – Redthorne Way and Chargrove Open Spaces, which the working group had initially evaluated as the prime candidates for LGS status. This represents a sample of 2%. However this survey was conducted over a limited time period in the late December, when survey responses are historically low. To avoid bias, the form did not name sites – rather encouraged participants to choose their own. It may be speculated that had sites been named, close to the surveyed homes, a higher preference for that site would have been expected.

Chargrove Open Space: Of the 8 people who named Chargrove Open space:-

7 out of 8 named walking (including dog-walking), and a place to sit and chat as important, and 4 to 6 mentioned informal sports/games, wildlife, children's activities/play. 2 also named beauty or tranquillity, and 3 beauty. Indeed there were at least two requests for installation of seating in this area.

Redthorne Way Open Space: Of the 5 people who named Redthorne Way Open Space :-

4 named walking (including dog-walking), and 4 valued the children's playground/children's activities, there was some limited interest in the site as a place of tranquillity, as well as for wildlife.

General:

For everybody who answered the question, the frequency of visiting was in excess of once per month.

In terms of the totality of response, including the other sites, walking, wildlife, children's play, beauty and tranquillity were most frequently mentioned as important to local people. The latter two were unexpected by the working group who had not planned to evidence beauty within the proposals made.

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space. Redthorne

Green spaces provide an essential part of any urban landscape, both for the human inhabitants as places of tranquillity, general leisure and recreation as well as a vital ecosystem for wildlife which face a constant battle for shelter and food sources in ever increasing urban sprawls.

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space. Chargrove

These 2 fields are used constantly by Children, families, dog walkers etc. It's the only open space in the local area where Children can run & play both freely & safely

With all best wishes, Wildlife ☒ History ☐ Beauty ☒

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space.

I FEEL THAT SOMETHING IS POSSIBLE IN FUTURE COULD BE INSTALLED LIKE IN CARNARVON PARK AS THERE IS A NICE VIEW LOOKING UPON THE HILL UP HATHERLEY WAY CHARGROVE LANE.

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space. Chargrove

WE USE CHARGROVE FOR WALKING + RUNNING, AND ENJOYING THE WILDLIFE (FOXES, DEER, BIRDS ETC). HAVING RECENTLY HAD A BABY WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO USING THE GREEN SPACES WITHIN THE HATHERLEY DEVELOPMENT EVEN MORE - WE ALREADY USE THEM FOR STROLLS WITH THE PRAM AND HAVE ENJOYED THEM FOR WALKING / SITTING / LAYING IN THE NICE WEATHER.

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space. Chargrove

This piece of land has been used for play by my own 3 children for the last 25 years. Now it is being used by my grandchildren. Most of our gardens are too small for ball games, so this is where we go to play.

4) Anything else you want to say about the open space in Question 1, or about any other green space.

It is privately owned & occasionally occupied by Gypsy hoppers who are not usually looked after. The space is a haven for wildlife & birds - deer, rabbits, pheasants & even once a big cat!

With all best wishes, Chargrove

Received 02/01/2015



3 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road
London SW8 4BG
020 7498 4533
enquiries@ptes.org
www.ptes.org

To whom it may concern,

PTES have, for the past eight years, been working to conserve and promote the traditional orchard Priority Habitat as part of our mission to reduce the loss of UK biodiversity. I have recently been made aware of a proposal to designate Chargrove Open Space as a Local Green Space. The area contains an important hedgerow which ends adjacent to an important 140+ year old orchard, latterly separated by a road, Up Hatherley Way. Whilst the orchard provides a habitat for a huge variety of flora and fauna, the better connected it is, the greater its potential biodiversity value. The hedgerow forms an important wildlife corridor that connects the urban area to the north to the wider countryside via the orchard.

PTES would like to support the proposal and offer our services for any future queries regarding the orchard.

Kind regards,

[signed on original]

Steve Oram

Orchard Biodiversity Officer

Other links

The submission by The Gloucestershire Orchard Trust to Cheltenham Local Plan can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/nda2t3m>.

Maps depicting traditional Orchards <http://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside-2/traditional-orchard-survey/orchard-maps/>

E-mails from Mrs Mary Nelson, local resident and wildlife specialist, reference Chargrove Open Space

From: M E Nelson [<mailto:marynelson22@yahoo.co.uk>]

Sent: 08 December 2014 18:05

To: Roger Whyborn

Subject: Green space etc.

Hi Roger,

Further to our recent conversation I have copied the following out of a document I wrote a while back:

"Traditional orchards have now been given **NATIONAL Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Status** following recent detailed ecological surveys by Natural England, and under which they are designated priority habitats.

They are also part of the **Local Habitat Action Plan for Gloucestershire**, promoted by the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust, the Wildlife Trusts etc. The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species are currently undertaking orchard surveys across the UK, including Gloucestershire.

The orchard has excellent connectivity to the green spaces within the existing Up Hatherley housing developments i.e. Greatfield Park and Holmer Park.

These two informal green spaces are on the other side of Up Hatherley Way (opposite the orchard) and are adjacent to each other but separated by a substantial wide (double) hedge with an opening linking both spaces. Both abut the Up Hatherley Way road, which is the Green Belt boundary.

So there is an existing beneficial green link across Up Hatherley Way to the orchard*, which lies behind the thicketed high hedge opposite."

The above explains it a bit more, and can be copied if necessary into your document.

Regards,
Mary

[Working group note*. This orchard is also referred to in Paragraph 2.10 of this report, and is hence part of a key biodiversity corridor from Chargrove Open Space. See also Appendix (5)]

Working group reference: <http://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside-2/traditional-orchard-survey/orchard-maps/>

From: M E Nelson [<mailto:marynelson22@yahoo.co.uk>]

Sent: 17 November 2014 23:22

To: CouncillorRoger.Whyborn@cheltenham.gov.uk

Cc: whyborns@blueyonder.co.uk; stuart.fowler@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: Re: Wildlife in Up Hatherley Green Spaces

Hello Roger,

The area you refer to is, I think, what we call Greatfield Park, which adjoins Holmer Park. The old wide hedge dividing these two areas is indeed an important wildlife habitat, especially for birds, but also for bees/insects. In April the blackthorn blossom provides food for bees, followed in June, July and August by large quantities of blackberry flowers - one of the few "major honey plants" for bees. There are many "minor honey plants" but not so many major ones.

Greatfield Park is the remaining green open space of what was once called The Great Field. This was a very big field, the largest in the area (our house sits within its former boundary). This space is important as it provides a "green link" from the open countryside on the other side of Up Hatherley Way, encouraging wildlife into the urban area. The extensive hedge running down Greatfield Lane (in front of our house) links to this green space, and this hedge and the hedges around Greatfield and Holmer Park are important bird habitats. We have a large population of sparrows and starlings in the hedge in front of our house, and both these species have been falling sharply in numbers over recent years. We do everything we can to support this population. If you walk down Greatfield Lane, sometimes you can hear them chirping all together and it is an incredible sound.

There is a magnificent mature oak in the Greatfield Park hedge - the oak provides a habitat rich in diversity supporting more organisms, especially insects, than any other tree. A mature oak tree can support up to 284 species of insect, birds, fungi, etc. and because of its longevity it plays an important role in the ecosystem. We should treat mature oaks like this one, with the greatest reverence and respect. Also a couple of perry trees are now growing within the hedge, the remnant of a small orchard, the perry pears yet to be identified (we have been too busy lately to concentrate on the remaining perry trees on this side of Up Hatherley Way), but it is possible these could be "squashes".

The other important aspect of these interlinking green spaces is that they are very accessible by the local community, being surrounded on three sides by residential development.

So yes they could qualify as LGS. They could be improved in terms of providing more wildlife habitat, by planting a few more trees perhaps, and creating a wildflower area. It would be great to get Quince and Medlar fruit trees planted, as these are becoming scarce now.

Do these spaces need LGS status to qualify as "green space" in the Local Plan? There are other green spaces in Up Hatherley but none that I can think of which provide that important link to open countryside.

Hope this helps,
Regards,
Mary



12 January 2015

Local Green Space Application

Holmer Park and Greatfield Park, Chargrove Lane, Up Hatherley

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust was asked to offer a letter of support by Up Hatherley Parish Council in its application for Holmer Park and the adjoining Greatfield Park off Chargrove Lane (known as Chargrove Open Space) to be designated as a Local Green Space within the meaning of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraphs 76-78.

The parks are owned and maintained by Cheltenham Borough Council. The Council's Biodiversity Ranger has been advised that the Trust has been asked to submit a letter of support. Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) has confirmed that there are no wildlife records for the area.

A brief ecological survey of the site was undertaken on 9th January 2015. The site is surrounded by a hedge on the edge of a large development. There is an overgrown double hedge dividing the parks in two. Across a busy road there is an old orchard and farmland. The proximity of the orchard and farmland offers means the site may have some value as a buffer habitat for generalist species from these areas, although local gardens are likely to be of higher value than the farmland.

The double hedge is reported to be 100 years old – however, it was not possible to determine if it contained the diversity of species that would be expected in a hedge of that age as it is currently overgrown with bramble. There is a large oak tree in the middle of the hedge, which has some value for wildlife. The grassland has low value for wildlife as it is mown regularly by the council, but there may be some naturalised plants in the sward that would flower if it was left uncut. To ascertain its current biodiversity value a more thorough survey would need to be done and the records submitted to GCER.

The site is of health and wellbeing value to the local community as an area to walk, exercise and play in a large development and has the potential to be improved for wildlife (for example putting in a small orchard, leaving areas of the grass uncut) subject to agreement by Cheltenham Borough Council.

Jo Worthy-Jones

North Gloucestershire Community Wildlife Officer

