


Local Green Space Toolkit Application

Site 26

Victoria Cricket Ground

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 Victoria Ground, Princes Street, Cheltenham, GL52 6BE	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site.</i> <i>Please indicate the scale.</i>	

		
1.3	<p>Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i></p>	
	Fairview Community Association (FCA)	
1.4	<p>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></p>	
	The Cheltenham Cricket Club	

1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	Yes. Submission and Green Space designation agreed in a review with Andy Gallagher, Club Chairman.	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	See appendix 1	
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>	
	Fairview area as designated by the NCG It is a central facility for community and social meetings as recognised in the attached proposal document: Building Stronger Communities in Fairview, 9 April 2013 to re-establish the FCA. The majority of formal and committee FCA meetings are held there throughout the year. This stability has been recognised by the award of an enabling, CBC Neighbourhood Management Grant. Individual, recent meetings have included the August 2013 Gloucestershire County Council Traffic Consultation for Cheltenham, an October 2013 Fairview Stakeholder Meeting and this, GRCC, Green Spaces plan. The FCA	
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	
	The area covers approximately 3 hectares (7.4 Acres).	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? (<i>Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space</i>) <i>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. Whilst it is the most significant green space within the Fairview area, the land in itself is not extensive in comparison to alternative public spaces such as Sandford and Pittville Parks. It is therefore, highly valued.	
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 Cricket Club hosts on this ground an active social scene of both club and community events. Recent events have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 Community Queen’s Jubilee celebration – limited to 120 attendees to contain a seated meal within the pavilion • Annual September Beer Festival – attracting nearly 1,000 attendees over two days • Annual November Fairview Community Fireworks Party – with nearly 2,500 attendees • Annual December Resident’s Christmas Party 	
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>	
	There is a shortage of accessible green space in the Fairview area to hold community events, the most significant of which are a community firework event and an annual Beer Festival. For families within the local area the space offers a chance to escape from urban area offering a both physical and visual connection with the Cleeve hills. The CBC green space audit from 2008 showed All Saints had less green space per head than any other ward (Steve Jordan (CBC) e-mail 17 th December 2014 as attached)	
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 in the heart of the local community and is within easy walking distance for all residents of the Fairview Area	
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. Direct access to the Victoria Ground is enabled to all 53 resident families on its periphery through their garden gates.	

	Access to the Ground and Pavilion are readily available from two, CC committee key-holders in Kings Road.	
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>	
	Introduced and listed by local residents attending the Fairview Community Association meeting on 4th December as in the attached : Initial assessment matrix - research by communities Fairview_4 December 2014.	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
	Initial assessment matrix reviewed and appended to Steve Jordan (CBC) e-mail 17 th December 2014 as attached Without the green area the FCA would not have been able to undertake a local community survey at the 2014 Annual Fireworks display. 800 local community residents offered their support through the survey carried out on Nov 7 th 2014. Detailed survey and results are available from the FCA and an outline summary is attached.	
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>	
	October 2013. Local stakeholder consultation including Local Councillors, business leaders and CBC community engagement officers provided support during consultation for the importance of maintaining a green space facility within Fairview. Information on consultation available from FCA.	
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>	
	To be updated to include local schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berkhamstead School (daily use of green space) • St Johns School (annual school sports day) Likely completion in February 2015 after assignments of funds from the Fireworks Event proceeds.	
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?	
	NO	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	

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?	
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>	
	The pavilion includes a Commemorative Plaque erected with assistance from Cheltenham Civic Society.	
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>	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	

8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site? Opened by Dr. W. G. Grace on 21 June 1897	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
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 criterion relevant to this site?	
	YES There are several series of regular community activities held in the pavilion including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly, local choir practice • Weekly art classes • Pilates classes • (previously) Ballet classes conducted by Helen Gill School of Ballet In addition, social activities include its availability for family parties, annual company events and the regular screening of major, international sporting events such as rugby and football championships hosted by the Cricket Club.	
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>	
	Predominantly used by the Cricket Club, however, many local schools use this site for typically football, rounder's, hockey and other sporting activities. There is club membership but the space can be accessed for use throughout the year. Organised activities over the last two years have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berkhamstead School (daily use of green space) • St Johns School (annual school sports day) • Weekly, seniors,fitness training with Matt Holdback of Just Camps • Weekly Boot Camp training • Regular Skittles team and occasional, inter-street community matches • Recreational rounder's for community use 	
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 – public can access the site during organised activities or on request. Local residents have access to the Ground especially those living on the perimeter of the site.	

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>	
	Local residents use the site for dog walking, recreational play for children on a daily basis plus social and family parties, BBQs and picnics	
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 criterion relevant to this site?	
	NO	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
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 criterion relevant to this site?	
	NO	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc.</i> <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records</i>	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site? <i>e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern.</i> <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB</i>	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network;</i>	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	

12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u> ”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criterion relevant to this site?	
	NO	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	

Appendix 1



The 2014 Community & Cricket Club Fireworks







Appendix 2

Subject: RE: Green spaces assessments
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2014 16:32:22 +0000

Hello *name supplied*

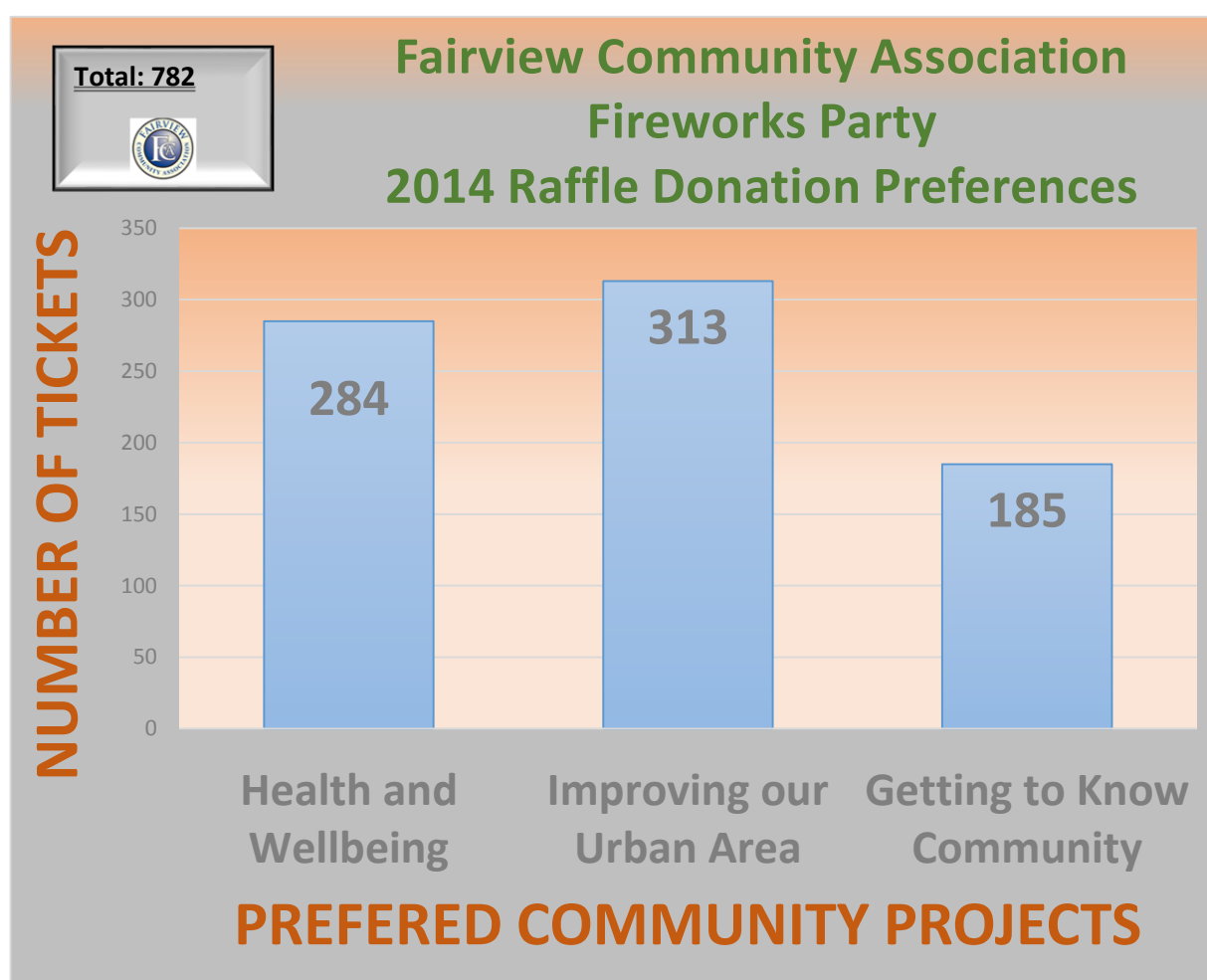
Have added some details on why the sites picked are special - let me know what you think.

Not sure if/when the owners of the land get involved. Most are CBC so no problem with those but I guess the schools and church may be interested at some point – presume you can cover the cricket club.

I had a look at the CBC green space audit from 2008 which showed All Saints had less green space per head than any other ward – shows why each site is important! It also listed a couple of sites we didn't. Both are in the 'new' bit of FCA area. They were The Grove (presume the green bit in the middle of the turning circle at the end of the cul-de-sac) and Hales Close (not really sure what that refers to unless the green verge on the left hand side). Having said that, I'm happy to go with what we've got.

As mentioned I think that's all we need at this stage. Are you happy to go with this or would you like to meet/discuss?

Thanks, Steve.



Building Stronger Communities in the Fairview Area

9th April 2013

Proposal

To build a stronger community in the Fairview area based on utilizing the availability of the facilities and resources at the Cheltenham Cricket Club, Victoria Ground

Background

The Victoria Cricket Ground is the most- significant green-space within Fairview Community Area. It covers approximately 3 hectares (7.4 acres) of grounds including a Pavilion providing function and changing rooms, a licensed bar, kitchen, Skittle Alley and toilets. It is

home to Cheltenham Cricket Club (CCC) which fields a number of competitive teams in local leagues including a thriving Junior section for both Boys and Girls.

In addition to the sporting aspect; the club hosts an active social scene of both club and local community events. These include regular, local school activities, Boot Camp and Personal Trainer sessions plus dance classes. The most-significant events are the annual Beer Festival and a Fireworks evening; both managed and staffed by volunteers.

Potential

There is a common desire to improve the CCC social facilities to create a more-flexible environment for increased community use; particularly out-of-season. Initially, this would need to be instigated and led by local volunteers. Longer-term, additional resources from Cheltenham Borough Council plus funding from sport and community initiatives are being sought to augment CCC and Fairview residents' contributions.

Plan

We need to engage the Fairview community to:

- audit already existing facilities, community groups, their staffing and volunteers within the area
- establish the needs and wishes of the community. Priorities could, for example, include Disabled and Women's groups; particularly as both of these are not adequately catered for within current Victoria Ground facilities. However, we may need to be open to an extensive range of requirements suited to our diverse community. We need to find out what these are.
- confirm the enthusiasm of Fairview residents to develop and build a stronger community and central facility to accommodate its needs. This initiative will only be successful by utilising the skills and contributions of our Fairview community.