

## Gloucester City Open Space Strategy - Consultation response report, November 2020

The draft Open Space Strategy for Gloucester (2021-2026) was put out for a period of public consultation in July/August 2020. Face to face consultation events were ruled out due to the Covid-19 restrictions, so key internal and external stakeholders were notified by email and an online survey was provided for responses.

### The online survey asked the following questions:

Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Q.5	Q.6
<i>Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details</i>	<i>Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?</i>	<i>What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?</i>	<i>Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?</i>	<i>How the local community can be encouraged to get involved in the management of Open Spaces (friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc.)?</i>	<i>The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.</i>

### Consultation Response Summary

- A total of sixty-eight responses were received. These included internal/external stakeholders and Gloucester residents (see Table 1).
- The consultation comments are set out below, along with the council's response where necessary (see Table 2).
- Over 91% of respondents stated their support for the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve open space habitat for wildlife (Q.4)
- **Respondee's suggested ways of helping the community become more involved (Q.5) included:**
  - Help to establish volunteer groups/ especially litter picking
  - Provide small grants or funding to support volunteer and engagement projects
  - Provide lease for sports buildings
  - Provide bat walks/tree planting activities etc
  - Improve signage and better communication and promotion/publicity and marketing of spaces, including providing advice and info in other languages
  - Involve schools and local youth groups
  - Support Friends groups/draw on Rangers' expertise/teach new skills/pass on knowledge/hold events
  - Avoid damage to volunteer work by maintenance teams – very demoralising
  - Provide tools/equipment/funding/free seeds or plants
  - Create Community Champions, run Gloucester in Bloom style comp
- **Respondee's suggested alternative uses for the 21 spaces identified (Q.6) included:**
  - Biodiversity/habitat improvements/bee-friendly planting
  - Tree planting/orchards
  - Sport/formal/informal play/outdoor fitness
  - Community garden/food growing
  - Seating for older people/meeting area/space for artwork
  - Ask the local community
  - Disposal for housing

**Table 1 – List of consultation respondees**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Respondee type/organisation</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Respondee type/organisation</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Respondee type/organisation</b>
1	General public/resident	24	General public/resident	47	General public/resident
2	Gloucester City Council Heritage Team	25	Resident (Friends group member)	48	General public/resident
3	Avison Young representing National Grid	26	Friends of Robinswood Hill	49	General public/resident
4	Highways England	27	Resident (Friends group member)	50	General public/resident
5	Natural England	28	GL Communities	51	General public/resident
6	Fields in Trust	29	General public/resident	52	General public/resident
7	Nash Partnership representing Gloucester City Homes	30	General public/resident	53	General public/resident
8	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	31	General public/resident	54	General public/resident
9	Quedgeley Town Council	32	General public/resident	55	General public/resident
10	Kingsway Wildlife and Sustainability Group (KWSG)	33	Resident (Friends group member)	56	General public/resident
11	Gloucestershire Ramblers	34	Canal and River Trust	57	General public/resident
12	Kingsholm and Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership	35	General public/resident	58	General public/resident
13	General public/resident	36	General public/resident	59	General public/resident
14	General public/resident	37	General public/resident	60	General public/resident
15	Historic England	38	General public/resident	61	General public/resident
16	General public/resident	39	Severn Trent Water	62	Resident (Friends group member)
17	General public/resident	40	General public/resident	63	Community group?
18	General public/resident	41	General public/resident	64	General public/resident
19	Resident (Friends group member)	42	General public/resident	65	General public/resident
20	Woodland Trust	43	General public/resident	66	General public/resident
21	General public/resident	44	General public/resident	67	General public/resident
22	General public/resident	45	Gloucester City Hockey Club	68	General public/resident
23	General public/resident	46	General public/resident		

**Conclusion**

- The responses to the consultation exercise for the updated Gloucester Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 (now updated to 2021-2026) were generally supportive of the council’s overall vision and objectives.
- Respondee asked in particular for further input from the city council in respect of improved communication relating to open space locations, facilities and proposed improvement works or projects, such as the Urban Greening project (ESIF) and assistance for supporting Friends groups and volunteers.
- Many respondees were also keen to get involved in helping to improve, manage and maintain open spaces, particularly in respect of litter picking.
- Where valid comments were made in respect of the content of the updated strategy, minor amendments have been made to the document and are noted in Table 2 below. Additional appendices, in the form of the revised Allotment Strategy 2020 (Appendix 5) and New Housing and Open Space Standards & Calculator (Appendix 6), have been added to the OSS, to ensure a full picture is provided.
- It is not considered that there were any fundamental concerns or comments received sufficient to require significant revisions to the content of the strategy, or further consultation, and the updated Open space Strategy 2021-2026 is now proposed for adoption as amended.

**Table 2 – Full consultation comments and council response** (where appropriate).

No.	Organisation/ general reference	Comment	Response
1	Gloucester resident	<p>In answer to point 1 of your survey. I recently sent the attached objection to the local councillors who have not had the decency to respond:</p> <p>I am very worried about the safety of people walking through this area especially in the winter evenings. Please can local views be taken into account.</p> <p>I've just heard about the Urban Greening Project on the Saintbridge Dry Pond has been any consultation? I don't remember seeing anything in the post! nor on social media? If the original scheme was designed before COVID maybe it should be reviewed in light of current changes of opinion.</p> <p>I have today walked over the area and from the red spots on the grass a lot of the area seems to be taken by this project.</p> <p>Much as I love trees and flowers, I also like to see the children playing in the area when I walk by. Also, during COVID this was a valuable space for not only children playing but outside gym work, Nordic walking, football, biking and just general dog walking. Lots of dog walkers use the area for ball throwing which encourages dogs to work harder!</p> <p>At a time of less and less green space and parks this area is a valued space by the Saintbridge and surrounding area.</p> <p>There are lots of areas suitable for wildflower planting near this area particularly along the banks of the stream and soakaway areas, or maybe around the pond area (which is very overgrown maybe some of the money could be spent there)</p> <p>How the planting is going to be maintained? Come late summer, autumn, the wild flower area becomes overgrown and full of burrs, which are harmful to dogs and wildlife. They get caught in the coats and cause sores etc.</p> <p>Has there been an impact assessment been carried out on the fox and other wildlife, particularly hedgehogs, in this area? Also, how will this impact on the original purpose of the dry pool: being part of the flood reducing plan for this area.</p> <p>It would be nice to see the green areas between houses around Redstart Way and Redpoll Way planted with trees, blubs and flowers, and space on the field left open for activity. As I stated previously, I think planting the banks would be better as this would save grass cutting on an incline!</p> <p>The bank protecting the houses on Curlew Way could also be planted up where already wild primroses are taking hold.</p> <p>Another concern is that this area is use in the evening and night as a cut through between the houses as well as in the evenings by dog walkers. In the winter evenings it is dark early and I worry for lone walkers if people can linger behind trees as they walk through. I would hope s lot of extra lighting is in the plan.</p> <p>Please could the planting areas be reconsidered for all activities which take place in the dry pond?</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The work at Saintbridge Dry Pond is funded by the EU as part of the council's Urban Greening initiative and comprises wildflower meadow creation and some tree planting, to provide wildlife and biodiversity benefits. The proposals were publicised on the council's website and through existing community groups.</p> <p>The areas for wildflower meadow were chosen as they should not impede on people's enjoyment of the area, we are confident that there will still be plenty of space for all the recreational activities people wish to do, that the project will attract more wildlife to the area and provide a more attractive landscape. Tree planting is limited to a dozen individual standards, and with their clear trunks, should not impede on visibility or safety. Two thirds of the space will be left as short mown grass, with mown paths through the wildflower areas. Sadly, the banks of the basin are required by the Environment Agency to remain as mown grass for operational purposes and the original function of the dry basin, for stormwater storage in bad weather, is not affected by the proposals.</p> <p>In terms of management, the council is acquiring a special piece of mowing equipment that will allow the wildflower meadow areas to be cut with arisings collected and taken away. This will be around July time, and again in October, so for much of the rest of the year the areas will only be low level grassland vegetation.</p>
2	Gloucester City Council Heritage Team	<p>Firstly, the document does not mention the historic environment some of the sites are historic parks i.e., Gloucester Park or in St Mary De Crypt case a churchyard, how history has shaped Gloucester's open spaces should be reflected within this document.</p> <p>All these spaces should have a management plans and should include interpretation plans where sites are of historic interest, - Gloucester Park, St Oswald's, Hillfield Gardens to name a few.</p> <p>There are numerous documents which discuss how integral the historic environment and natural environment is and I would suggest that some reference to these documents and infographics are included on this matter the most recent document is</p> <p><a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-environment-2020/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/heritage-counts/pub/2020/heritage-environment-2020/</a></p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Acknowledged. Additional information and references re: heritage value of green spaces or historic features within open spaces have been added to the strategy.</p>
3	Avison Young representing National Grid	<p>We have reviewed the above document and can confirm that National Grid has no comments to make in response to this consultation. (Asked for their contact details to be added to the Consultation Database).</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Noted, thank you for your response.</p>

4	<b>Highways England</b>	<p>Having reviewed the consultation document we consider that the proposed strategy is unlikely to result in an unacceptable or severe impact on the safe and efficient operation of the Strategic Road Network (SRN).</p> <p>However, whilst the draft strategy does not propose new open spaces, we would nonetheless highlight that any future planning applications for open spaces of the type outlined in the strategy that has the potential to result in a severe or unacceptable impact on the SRN should be accompanied by a transport assessment or statement that complies with DfT Circular 02/2013 <i>'The Strategic road Network and Delivery of Sustainable Development'</i>.</p> <p>We would also highlight that any applications for open spaces in close proximity to the SRN will need to consider the potential for any associated infrastructure to impact on the SRN. For example, the position and direction of floodlights associated with sports pitches would need to be carefully considered so as to avoid overspill, glare or distraction to drivers, which could affect the safe and efficient operation of the SRN.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you for your response.</p>
5	<b>Natural England</b>	<p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the production of this open space strategy. We recognise the strong community focus for the published consultation questions. We therefore set out our comments on broader themes and contextual messages below and offer further feedback on selected questions from your published list in Annex A.</p> <p>Natural England welcomes the strategy's clear purpose and statement regarding the important contribution that open space can make to a range of themes that support and enhance residents', workers' and visitors' quality of life.</p> <p>The strategy acknowledges the finite open space resource available within the city's boundaries. We note the intention to focus on the quality and accessibility of those open spaces within the city, while seeking to respond to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. We will continue to work with the Council's planning policy team to address these fundamental and interlinked themes.</p> <p>We draw your attention to the important links between the city's open spaces and those informal recreation resources in the wider area. We support the proposal to provide good quality information for these resources and would welcome further dialogue with you as part of this work. Our experience from across the West Midlands shows that a significant proportion of popular visitor destinations are designated for their ecological and/or geodiversity interest. These designated sites offer a wealth of quality-of-life benefits for visitors but also display symptoms of recreation pressure in the form of, for example, new and widened paths and related trampling and erosion.</p> <p>Natural England is currently working with the Gloucestershire local planning authorities, both individually and collectively, to ensure that their respective local plan evidence bases deliver a sound platform for a policy framework that supports the natural environment and recognises our reliance upon it. Key examples of relevance to the informal recreation theme are the Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which overlooks the city and the Severn Estuary SAC, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site, which lie a little downstream from the city centre and whose migratory fish and wild birds may pass through (via the River Severn) or stop over within the city (e.g., Alney Island Local Nature Reserve). We look forward to working with you to consider suitable education and awareness raising opportunities arising from the new strategy.</p> <p>Additional opportunities to make the most of the city's open spaces and to promote their role as part of Gloucestershire's multifunctional green infrastructure may arise through other mechanisms and initiatives. The Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership 'Gloucestershire First' has recently published its draft Local Industrial Strategy (LIS). This document has been shaped by direct</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support and the additional information provided. The council values partnership working highly and will endeavour to continue with this work.</p>

feedback from the county's young people and their concerns regarding climate change, resulting in a strong green economy and environment theme in the LIS<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See pages 31-38 at - [https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2020/gloucestershire\\_draft\\_local-industrial-strategy\\_2019-updated.pdf](https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2020/gloucestershire_draft_local-industrial-strategy_2019-updated.pdf)

The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership includes a green infrastructure working group, comprising a membership spanning business, planning, education, health and environment. The LNP is currently working on the production of a Natural Capital Baseline map of the county to support decision-making and project design at a range of levels and across sectors. GLNP Manager Matt Whitney can provide an update on progress. New resources like this may be valuable when considering the attributes of, and changes in, the open space and green infrastructure resource within and around the city since the last open spaces strategy and the Joint Core Strategy GI Strategy were produced.

With regard to funding the Defra 25-year environment plan has introduced the 'recovering nature' theme. New funding streams are emerging including the [Green Recovery Challenge Fund](#). We attach an email separately providing some more information.

Response to consultation question Q1: The objectives are positive, and we welcome those with within our remit. In terms of the links between the city's open space resources and those for developments beyond the city boundary (i.e., helping to meet its housing needs) suitable policy coverage will need to ensure a consistent and effective approach. We therefore note and welcome the document's later reference to supporting policy in e.g., the adopted Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury joint core strategy (JCS) and ongoing work to review this.

The maps and text in the JCS Green Infrastructure strategy (2014) may offer a valuable source of historical information on the condition of relevant GI assets at that time and the improvements that were proposed.

Response to consultation Q4: Yes. Examples of information sharing, and good practice include the recent Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) seminar in Birmingham on trees as part of GI design in urban areas – attended by your colleague Dave Ingleby. The seminar recordings demonstrate the opportunities available for Green Infrastructure, including tree planting designs, that tackle traffic related air quality challenges in urban settings. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Green Infrastructure Working Group offers a forum for discussion of related issues.

Response to consultation question Q6: Multifunctional green infrastructure offers a broad range of potential roles for these resources. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership's mapping work on the theme of the Natural Capital Baseline may also provide a valuable reference against which the community's wishes can be assessed.

<p>6</p>	<p><b>Fields in Trust</b>          Angela Lewis          Head of Programmes</p>	<p>We are responding to your Open Spaces Strategy consultation, having received your request for such in early August 2020.</p> <p>We would like to begin this response by stating that we were pleased to see our open space provision standards (Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, 2015 Beyond the Six Acre Standard) strongly referenced within the strategy, and for that Guidance to be followed in relation to the obligations for new developments.</p> <p>In addition, we would certainly agree with your comments within the strategy and questionnaire regarding the vital role that parks and green spaces play in creating strong and healthy communities as well as mitigating the effects of climate change, improving biodiversity and introducing people to nature within towns and cities. Fields in Trust continue to champion the value of local green spaces and urge more policymakers to recognise the holistic benefits of green space, so fully support the actions that you detail in addressing this.</p> <p>The multiple benefits of local parks have been shown even more starkly during the pandemic and they have been a crucial lifeline during the lockdown and they will have a significant part to play in our recovery. Research that Fields in Trust undertook using HM Treasury approved methodology quantified that the physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits to individuals of using parks is worth £34bn per annum and saves the NHS £111mn per year from reduced GP visits alone.</p> <p>As the first study on parks and green spaces to apply welfare weighting methodology it allows for more informed evidence-based policy decisions. It therefore may be of interest to the council in further valuation of Gloucester's green space, and in making the future investment decisions and reviews outlined within the strategy's objectives.</p> <p>We were also pleased to read a commitment from the council to retaining all your existing parks and green spaces. Though we laud the objective to ensure protection through planning policy, we would suggest that the protection with Fields in Trust would be the surest way to achieve that, given that parks are not a statutory service and there are many examples of disposals despite planning designations. Fields in Trust have been legally protecting green space for over 95 years, and implement a Deed of Dedication, which gives a much more robust yet flexible way to protect these vital spaces; further details on our protection can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Over 200 local authorities have entered into these deeds of dedication with us, a good example being <a href="#">Glasgow City Council</a> who have protected a large number of their green spaces. The London Boroughs of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham and Haringey have also committed to protecting most of their parks and gardens with us in this way.</p> <p>Given the audit work the council has done with the strategy, and your use of our standards we also believe that you may be interested in some of our own research tools and insight with regards to provision in Gloucester and provide some further detail below.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your comments, support and the additional information provided. The council values partnership working highly, and we will review whether any other open spaces in the city would benefit from additional protection in addition to our existing King George V and QEII Field protected sites.</p> <p>We will also look to use the Green Space Index as an additional resource when working on potential investment projects and open space improvements.</p> <p>The Fields in Trust benchmark standards and guidance are still an extremely valuable resource for local authorities to draw on when working with developers and we have used these as the basis for setting our local standards for many years.</p>
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We would start by highlighting our annual [Green Space Index \(GSI\)](#), a barometer of publicly accessible local park and green space provision across GB. Our nation's local parks and green spaces have played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic as places for us all to get outdoors, exercise and to meet loved ones safely but our latest release of the GSI finds that 2.7 million people across GB do not have access to such a space within a ten-minute walk of where they live. The south west is just at the minimum level of provision, but of course future population growth will have a negative impact on that measure.

You can view our online interactive webapps at LSOA level for an in-depth look at indices for your area. There are 'GSI scores' for each LSOA in the country. The Index scores are based on our Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play, with which we know you are familiar; where a score of 1 demonstrates a minimum standard of provision across our benchmarks.

The Green Space Index shows that Gloucester only has three wards that meet or exceed this minimum provision standard score: Longlevens, Matson and Robinswood, and Podsmead. The ward of Barton and Tredworth has the lowest level of provision based on our standards, with a score of just 0.0392, this is followed closely by Quedgeley Severn Vale, with Hucclecote, Moreland and Abbeydale not far behind.

We are using our research and data to identify areas of high priority need using a variety of indicators to enable us to make a series of recommendations about prioritising green space within a portfolio to make interventions that have the most impact. These factors include a range of socio-demographic data, mental and physical health data, type of accommodation e.g. without a garden and air quality. Our research shows the wards of Kingsholm and Wotton, and Westgate as those with the most pertinent data based on the above factors, with Barton and Tredworth following close behind.

When we take this data and combine it with our Green Space Index scores we can list wards where green space is potentially most crucial. The top five wards based on this methodology in Gloucester are:

- Barton and Tredworth
- Kingsholm and Wotton
- Moreland
- Hucclecote
- Quedgeley Severnvale

It's interesting to compare this data to that produced in your strategy draft, particularly as the wards highlighted from our data do not always tally completely with the council's audit results. We note for example that the quantity summary for Abbeydale does not fully reflect our GSI score for that ward, and that Moreland may not be as high a priority based on the council's audit of the quantity, quality and value of the spaces within it. We would suggest that comparing our modelling to the data in the council's audit may be another way of prioritising inward investment.

We would recommend that the council give consideration to legally protect your green spaces with us, particularly those within those wards highlighted above. We would also state that the spaces listed in list (6) of Appendix 3 of the strategy found within these wards should be retained if at all possible. The strategy itself notes that there are areas of both Hucclecote and Quedgeley Severnvale in which access to a park or large amenity space within the walking guideline is not possible, making the protection of the spaces that are found within these wards and nearby even more vital.

Finally, we would return to your objective to invest in new facilities and would add that it seems clear that the council are in need of investing in children's play facilities given the overall lack of quantity provision; and that there are parts of Elmbridge, Longlevens, Hucclecote, Abbeydale, Matson & Robinswood, Kingsholm & Wotton, Tuffley and Quedgeley in which a play area is not easily accessible.

Please do contact us should you wish to discuss any element of our work in more detail, or if we can be of further assistance in any way with regard to your strategy.

7	<p>Nash Partnership representing <b>Gloucester City Homes</b></p>	<p><b>Representations on Gloucester City Council Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025</b> On behalf of Gloucester City Homes</p> <p><b>Contents</b></p> <p><b>1. Introduction</b>..... 2</p> <p><b>2. The Background and Vision for Matson and Podsmead</b> ..... 3</p> <p>Background ..... 3</p> <p>Current Situation ..... 4</p> <p><b>3. Representations on The Open Space Strategy 2020-2025</b> ..... 5</p> <p>General Comments ..... 5</p> <p><b>Question 1:</b> Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details ..... 6</p> <p><b>Question 3:</b> What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community? ..... 6</p> <p><b>Question 4:</b> Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature? ..... 7</p> <p><b>Question 5:</b> How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend’s groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)? ..... 7</p> <p><b>Question 6:</b> The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy?..... 7</p> <p><b>5. Summary and Conclusions</b> ..... 9</p> <p><b>1. Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 This document is prepared by Nash Partnership on behalf of Gloucester City Homes (GCH). It provides representations on the Gloucester Open Spaces Strategy 2020-2025.</p> <p>1.2 This response is prepared in the light of ongoing work by GCH in liaison with Gloucester City Council (GCC), in preparing a regeneration strategy for both the Matson and Podsmead estates within the City of Gloucester. GCH has worked in partnership with the GCC in preparing Supplementary Planning Documents – one for each estate - and is now in the early stages of preparing an outline planning application for each estate.</p> <p>1.3 These representations comment on the priorities outlined within the Open Space Strategy. It focuses on the key questions posed within the consultation, albeit set within the wider context of the regeneration project and our understanding of the issues facing Gloucester as a whole. This document provides a single response within the context of proposals for both estates – Matson and Podsmead.</p> <p>1.4 The document is structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Section 2 provides a recap on the background to the project, and the vision for both estates agreed by the GCH and its Strategic Partners.</li> <li>▪ Section 3 provides some general comments on the Strategy, together with representations on the key questions posed in the consultation (Q1-Q6 as set out above)</li> <li>▪ Section 4 provides a summary and some conclusions, based on our responses to the above.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. The Background and Vision for Matson and Podsmead</b></p>	<p><b>Key points raised by GCH and GCC response:</b></p> <p>GCC response: Point 3.1 OSS reference to the NPPF 2018. Now amended to 2019.</p> <p>GCC response: References to Environment Bill timetable now amended.</p> <p><i>GCH: ‘In relation to community value (p.27), there is a need to acknowledge that estate regeneration projects of the nature promoted by GCH for Matson and Podsmead come at a cost. In this case, the quantitative loss of open space, which we are seeking to offset through qualitative enhancements in terms of function, play, biodiversity, drainage enhancements and community involvement, all of which should create spaces of greater value to the community in the long run. Therefore, in some instances some loss of open space will be necessary to facilitate the enhancements to community value desired. This should be acknowledged in this section.’</i></p> <p>GCC response: Any quantitative loss of open space is generally against the council’s adopted planning policy (2002), emerging City Plan policy C3 and JCS policy, apart from certain exemptions, which are set out in the policy documents.</p> <p>The strategy acknowledges that there may be a small number of open space sites that would potentially benefit from alternative uses, with disposal only as a last resort, for example if they are poorly located and generally small pieces of land. The council’s over-riding objective and policy framework is to protect all existing open spaces against development, and find new uses, e.g., sports use, food growing or natural habitat creation, for those open space areas highlighted in the strategy.</p> <p><i>GCH: ‘In relation to the site assessments at Appendix 2, we also have the following comments to make:</i></p> <p><i>More information is required to define how the values (low, medium, high) will be arrived at for each of the three criteria (Site Quality, Community Value, Current and Future Biodiversity Value). Otherwise, this gives the impression the process is arbitrary and affects the transparency of the process.’</i></p> <p><i>‘Further, it would be useful to have some notes within this section (Appendix 2), to indicate how the conclusions on each site have been reached. For example, there is little evidence to suggest that Scott Avenue in Podsmead is of High Value to the community, while would question why Cole Avenue is even considered to be of medium quality, given the lack of features, lack of buildings overlooking the space and relationship to the traffic-heavy Cole Avenue.’</i></p> <p>GCC response: Additional information regarding assessment criteria has been added to the strategy. Scott Avenue provides a centrally located, accessible, well overlooked green space, with existing facilities that serve the needs of the local community, it has the potential to hold events and activities, to provides facilities to help reduce inactivity and promote a healthy lifestyle, is a visual buffer in amongst dense housing blocks, and generally contributes to the quality of life of residents of all ages and backgrounds. The site has significant potential to be improved, to provide additional community facilities, as well as biodiversity improvements via tree planting and wildflower areas. These cumulative reasons provide an assessment outcome of HIGH community value.</p> <p>Byron Avenue (Cole Ave) is an area of amenity green space, its main function is providing a visual and physical buffer between residential properties and the busy main road. It comprises areas of mown grass, some meadow planting areas and mature trees, which is generally well maintained. It has no significant management or maintenance issues that require intervention and as such would merit an assessment outcome of MEDIUM quality.</p>
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**Background**

2.1 GCH successfully bid for an enabling grant of £1,249,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to consult with the local communities and produce a masterplan for the regeneration of Matson and Podsmead estates in 2017.

2.2 Matson and Podsmead are facing many of the same challenges deprived estates in other UK cities face. These include high levels of deprivation, high unemployment, lower skill levels, a high concentration of social housing, high rates of crime and issues with the built environment that often reinforce these issues. GCH therefore see the regeneration of these two estates as an absolute priority (**'the why'**).

2.3 To kick-start the regeneration process, in addition to the MHCLG grant, GCH provided £250,000 to assist with legal costs and other professional fees required to develop an overarching vision for the regeneration of the estates. The assumption has been that, with the right planning policy framework, new investment could contribute towards tackling key deprivation issues, rejuvenating the ageing physical environment, creating better opportunities for residents and helping build confidence in the community.

2.4 A Strategic Partnership was created between GCH, GCC (the City), Gloucestershire County Council (the County) and the MP for Gloucester – Richard Graham. This was subsequently expanded to include everyone providing services to and with an interest in the estates, including, most importantly, the community and residents' groups. The partnership agreed a joint vision for Matson and Podsmead, to *'...Work together as partners to bring positive change, co-ordinating resources, land, planning and community consultation.'*

2.5 The key project aims (**the 'what'**) or outcomes sought - were agreed to be as follows:

- Stronger and Cohesive Communities
  - Meaningful resident empowerment/ active citizenship
  - Support tenants to sustain their tenancies
- Sustainable Environment and Housing
  - Provide homes that meet the needs of local people
  - Create greener cleaner communities and improving the quality and use of green open space
- Safer Communities
  - Reduce antisocial behaviour
  - Reduce crime and fear of crime
- Health and Wellbeing
  - Improve access to activities and healthcare
  - Encourage healthier lifestyles
- Thriving Economy
  - Better access to training, skills and employment opportunities
  - Improved local shops and amenities for residents.

2.6 The key project principles (**the 'how'**) are summarised in Figure 2.1. The mechanism for achieving this was initially thought to be the preparation of SPD, which would clearly articulate the vision, set the parameters and principles and explain the trade-offs required to deliver the regeneration of each estate.

**Current Situation**

2.7 Since that time, GCH has been working with its Strategic Partners to prepare the SPD to provide some guidance on how development might come forward and in parallel, the development of more tangible, rigorous proposals through the preparation of outline planning applications for each estate. The former, which was adopted at a Council meeting on 21st November 2019, is purely guidance to articulate higher level policy and help guide future planning applications on the estate. The documents will be a 'material planning consideration' in planning terms. The latter will provide

GCH: *'3.3 In relation to the Analysis of Community Value Assessments at Appendix 3, we also have the following comments to make:*

- *We would question the community value ascribed to Scott Avenue in Podsmead (High). Though we recognise its centrality is a benefit and unusual locally, scarcity in itself is not necessarily a good thing if a space is poor in terms of definition, function and the types of facilities provided. We would also highlight that regeneration offers the potential to bring about substantial qualitative enhancements in community value, which perhaps then would lift it in to the 'High' category. Without further detail, we would contend that the space should be 'Medium' value at best, but with the potential to become 'High'.*
- *We support the Council's acceptance that disposal of spaces may be necessary in some instances, where spaces are of low community value in areas of high deprivation, such as in relation to Byron Avenue in Podsmead. Here GCH are having to consider disposal of part of the space to facilitate the regeneration but would mitigate the loss through qualitative enhancements (landscaping, biodiversity and play).*

*These comments, and the emerging proposals for both estates, should be reflected in any future open space-related designations coming forward in the next iteration of the Gloucester City Plan.'*

GCC response: See responses above re: Scott Avenue and potential sites for disposal.

**Question 1:** *'GCH support the proposed vision and objectives outlined in the OSS.'*

GCC response: Your support is noted, thank you.

**'Question 2.** *GCH: The key open space appear to have been included. It is important that the Council have recognised that privately owned open space also holds value for the community, particularly where these can be accessed by the public for recreational purposes. For example, schools, where the public can use their sports facilities, such as Gloucester Academy, which provides an important leisure resource for estates such as Matson; and sports clubs, such as Old Cryptonians/ Memorial Ground, Tuffley Rovers FC and Old Centralians ground.'*

GCC response: Noted, thank you.

**'Question 3:** *GCH: Open spaces bring many benefits to the communities of Matson and Podsmead. These include:*

- *Spaces that serve as a meeting space and focal point for the social life of the community.*
- *Providing space to interact with nature through species-rich planting, natural features, the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems and the incorporation of both existing and supplementary tree planting.*
- *Providing space for sports and recreation – both formal and informal.*
- *Providing space for events, that bring the community together, such as markets, fairs, festivals and similar.*
- *Providing a visual amenity and some relief from built development.*

*Central to ensuring open spaces are better utilised to support community value are ensuring they form part of a well-connected network of open spaces, are easily accessible and, where both possible and appropriate, serve multiple functions to ensure their value is maximised.*

*The relationship between built and unbuilt space is also critical. Generally, spaces that are well enclosed and overlooked by buildings at different times of day (residential and other uses) and are activated by adjoining uses (for example cafes, community centres and retail facilities) are likely to feel safer and therefore better used. This can create a virtuous cycle, creating more vibrant and popular spaces, further contributing to the wellbeing of the community.'*

GCC response: Noted, thank you.

**'Question 4:** *GCH: Yes – we support these objectives. They are important for the long-term health and wellbeing of the community and as a means of combatting both the climate and ecological*

the legal (statutory) basis for development, through securing consent for the principle of how development will come forward, often explaining broad land uses and setting key parameters for development. Some matters, for example the layout of routes, spaces and buildings; how the site will be accessed; the scale of development across a site; the approach to landscaping and the appearance of the development will then be agreed through the more detailed (reserved matters) applications that follow.

2.8 GCH is currently working up an outline application for Podsmead estate, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority and intends to do the same for Matson soon. The key challenge faced by GCH – created by the absence of government grants to fund regeneration projects such as this one - is in moving from a significant deficit created by the original Tibbalds masterplan that underpinned earlier versions of the SPD (which was circa £90 million for Matson and £38 million for Podsmead). This necessitates some difficult decisions and makes compliance with all planning policy (both adopted and emerging) difficult to achieve, as with any major planning project.

2.9 It is against this background that we are providing comments on the Gloucester Open Space Strategy 2020-2025.

### 3. Representations on The Open Space Strategy 2020-2025

#### General Comments

3.1 Some general comments are provided below:

- We note the OSS refers to the NPPF 2018. This should be 2019.
- We note some of the commentary on the Environment Bill (p.11) needs updating, making reference to a new government yet to be formed, post the 2019 General Election.
- It is notable that overall Gloucester does exceed the guideline Six Acre Standard of 2.4ha per 1,000 population significantly, although it is also acknowledges that there are particular shortfalls in relation to Parks/ Gardens, Formal Sport (outdoor) Formal play, youth facilities and allotments.
- We support the comment that assessing quantity and quality of open space and whether this is sufficient is a complicated and nuanced issue, with no 'one size fits all' solutions. There are a spectrum of open space typologies in a city, and few fall neatly into a single category. Therefore, as set out, 'The full value of open space must always therefore be viewed in the context of broader environmental and planning considerations' (p.21)
- We also note the normal approach is to provide a financial contribution to mitigate any increase in population but would highlight that sometimes this will come in the form of qualitative improvements that enhance the usability of existing open spaces and access to them, rather than quantitative improvements.
- We support the assertion on p.23 that accessibility is an important factor in the usability of open space, including the need to ensure routes to/ from open spaces are clearly signposted and as user-friendly as possible, in places to compensate for lower levels of open space provision.
- In relation to community value (p.27), there is a need to acknowledge that estate regeneration projects of the nature promoted by GCH for Matson and Podsmead come at a cost. In this case, the quantitative loss of open space, which we are seeking to offset through qualitative enhancements in terms of function, play, biodiversity, drainage enhancements and community involvement, all of which should create spaces of greater value to the community in the long run. Therefore, in some instances some loss of open space will be necessary to facilitate the enhancements to community value desired. This should be acknowledged in this section.

*emergencies. However, there needs to be an acknowledgement that funding these improvements can be a challenge, particularly in the context of estate regeneration projects within deprived areas. To do so, there will be instances where some quantitative open space loss is required to facilitate the ecological enhancements needed. This justifies acknowledgement as an 'exceptional circumstance' in the public benefit, which should be acknowledged in the document.'*

GCC response: Quantitative loss of open space to fund ecological improvements has not been identified as an option within the open space strategy and would not be classed as an 'exceptional circumstance'. Biodiversity improvements can sometimes just involve a change of maintenance regime or allowing the process of natural succession to continue unhindered. Biodiversity is also directly related to the size of an area (island biogeography theory), so less green space ultimately means less biodiversity. The city council's Urban Greening project to date has been mostly funded using externally sourced EU grants (ESIF). Creating a strong, connected green infrastructure and open space network is one of the main ways that the council can bring benefits to the city to help combat climate change and improve biodiversity, so it is important that all existing open spaces are retained as far as possible and used to form this connected network.

*'Question 5: GCH would welcome the Council's support in the establishment of voluntary groups to help maintain and manage key open spaces in Matson and Podsmead. This could serve as a valuable initiative to help empower the community to bring about positive change in the community, create stronger sense of ownership over the project and build greater community cohesion through bringing people together over a common cause.'*

*This is already being investigated through the Community and Economic Development Strategy that will ultimately support any planning application for the regeneration of Podsmead.'*

GCC response: The council will continue to support and encourage the formation of local Friends groups and community-led maintenance and management of open spaces across the city.

#### **'Question 6: GCH: Space MR8 – Saintbridge Recreation Ground**

*In relation to space MR8 – Saintbridge Recreation Ground, GCH would support the disposal of the site for housing, as a means of funding the regeneration of the wider estate. This, in turn, would help to address the deprivation issues faced by the estate in other ways, such as through the following:*

- *Providing new social housing to replace existing sub-standard accommodation for current tenants.*
- *Providing the funds for the renovation of the local centre at the heart of the estate.*
- *Providing the funds to improve better used and located open spaces elsewhere.*

*This should not, therefore, be carried through into the City Plan as a designated open space.'*

GCC response: The Saintbridge Recreation Ground is a designated public open space of almost two hectares in size, and has been POS for many years, so the open space designation cannot be 'declassified' and the site left out of the open space strategy. It has been identified as one of the more under-utilised green spaces in the city, particularly in this part of Matson and Robinswood, where there is limited access to open space, and in particular to formal sports facilities, so the council is seeking suggestions for ways to improve the green space, such as new play or sports facilities, to provide a better offer for local residents to use.

The council would most certainly not be seeking to fully dispose of the green space in its entirety and it falls outside of the criteria for disposal in planning policy – emerging City Plan, JCS and OSS. Generally, any sites that would be potentially identified as suitable for disposal (subject to meeting the right planning exemptions) would be much smaller (e.g. 0.2ha or less), or a small part of a larger site.

**GCH: 'Summary and Conclusions**

3.2 In relation to the site assessments at Appendix 2, we also have the following comments to make:

- More information is required to define how the values (low, medium, high) will be arrived at for each of the three criteria (Site Quality, Community Value, Current and Future Biodiversity Value). Otherwise, this gives the impression the process is arbitrary and affects the transparency of the process. For example:
  - Site quality – Could be determined by the features of the space, relationship to built development, maintenance regime, range and quality of amenities, amongst other factors.
  - Communal Value – Could be determined by the range of activities it can accommodate, the relationship to the community it serves, the range of activities that take place there (markets, fairs, festivals, leisure activities etc.) and scarcity of the type of space within the ward etc.
  - Current and Potential Biodiversity Value – Could be determined by the range of type of planting, number range and quality of trees, drainage solutions, potential to support a range of flora and fauna.
- Further, it would be useful to have some notes within this section (Appendix 2), to indicate how the conclusions on each site have been reached. For example, There is little evidence to suggest that Scott Avenue in Podsmead is of High Value to the community, while would question why Cole Avenue is even considered to be of medium quality, given the lack of features, lack of buildings overlooking the space and relationship to the traffic-heavy Cole Avenue.

3.3 In relation to the Analysis of Community Value Assessments at Appendix 3, we also have the following comments to make:

- We would question the community value ascribed to Scott Avenue in Podsmead (High). Though we recognise its centrality is a benefit and unusual locally, scarcity in itself is not necessarily a good thing if a space is poor in terms of definition, function and the types of facilities provided. We would also highlight that regeneration offers the potential to bring about substantial qualitative enhancements in community value, which perhaps then would lift it in to the ‘High’ category. Without further detail, we would contend that the space should be ‘Medium’ value at best, but with the potential to become ‘High’.
- We support the Council’s acceptance that disposal of spaces may be necessary in some instances, where spaces are of low community value in areas of high deprivation, such as in relation to Byron Avenue in Podsmead. Here GCH are having to consider disposal of part of the space to facilitate the regeneration, but would mitigate the loss through qualitative enhancements (landscaping, biodiversity and play).

3.4 These comments, and the emerging proposals for both estates, should be reflected in any future open space-related designations coming forward in the next iteration of the Gloucester City Plan.

3.5 Responses to the specific questions posed by the consultation are provided within the following paragraphs.

**Question 1: Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details**

3.6 No – GCH support the proposed vision and objectives outlined in the OSS.

**Question 2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?**

*Overall, we welcome the vision, objective and much of the contents of the Strategy. However, we have some relatively detailed comments and do not agree with some of the conclusions relating to the value of some existing open spaces - notably Scott Avenue in Podsmead. We also feel that greater transparency over how the criteria have been derived and values ascribed is necessary, to ensure the process is robust.’*

GCC response: See earlier responses above.

*GCH: ‘Conversely, we do support the values ascribed to Saintbridge Recreation Ground, and the scope to consider alternative uses on the site.’*

GCC response: See detailed responses above.

*GCH: ‘Overall, these comments reflect the need to be open to allowing some loss of open space in exceptional circumstances, where this would deliver qualitative open space enhancements and other regeneration benefits. These comments, and the emerging proposals for both estates, should be reflected in any the final version of the Strategy and future open space-related designations coming forward in the Gloucester City Plan.’*

GCC response: See detailed responses above. This consultation relates only to the OSS, not the City Plan.

3.7 No – the key open space appear to have been included. It is important that the Council have recognised that privately owned open space also holds value for the community, particularly where these can be accessed by the public for recreational purposes. For example, schools, where the public can use their sports facilities, such as Gloucester Academy, which provides an important leisure resource for estates such as Matson; and sports clubs, such as Old Cryptonians/ Memorial Ground, Tuffley Rovers FC and Old Centralians ground.

**Question 3: What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?**

3.8 Open spaces bring many benefits to the communities of Matson and Podsmead. These include:

- Spaces that serve as a meeting space and focal point for the social life of the community.
- Providing space to interact with nature through species-rich planting, natural features, the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage systems and the incorporation of both existing and supplementary tree planting.
- Providing space for sports and recreation – both formal and informal.
- Providing space for events, that bring the community together, such as markets, fairs, festivals and similar.
- Providing a visual amenity and some relief from built development.

3.9 Central to ensuring open spaces are better utilised to support community value are ensuring they form part of a well-connected network of open spaces, are easily accessible and, where both possible and appropriate, serve multiple functions to ensure their value is maximised.

3.10 The relationship between built and unbuilt space is also critical. Generally, spaces that are well enclosed and overlooked by buildings at different times of day (residential and other uses) and are activated by adjoining uses (for example cafes, community centres and retail facilities) are likely to feel safer and therefore better used. This can create a virtuous cycle, creating more vibrant and popular spaces, further contributing to the wellbeing of the community.

**Question 4: Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?**

3.11 Yes – we support these objectives. They are important for the long-term health and wellbeing of the community and as a means of combatting both the climate and ecological emergencies. However, there needs to be an acknowledgement that funding these improvements can be a challenge, particularly in the context of estate regeneration projects within deprived areas. To do so, there will be instances where some quantitative open space loss is required to facilitate the ecological enhancements needed. This justifies acknowledgement as an ‘exceptional circumstance’ in the public benefit, which should be acknowledged in the document.

**Question 5: How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend’s groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?**

3.12 GCH would welcome the Council’s support in the establishment of voluntary groups to help maintain and manage key open spaces in Matson and Podsmead. This could serve as a valuable initiative to help empower the community to bring about positive change in the community, create stronger sense of ownership over the project and build greater community cohesion through bringing people together over a common cause.

		<p>3.13 This is already being investigated through the Community and Economic Development Strategy that will ultimately support any planning application for the regeneration of Podsmead.</p> <p><b>Question 6: The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy?</b></p> <p><b>Space MR8 – Saintbridge Recreation Ground</b></p> <p>3.14 In relation to space MR8 – Saintbridge Recreation Ground, GCH would support the disposal of the site for housing, as a means of funding the regeneration of the wider estate. This, in turn, would help to address the deprivation issues faced by the estate in other ways, such as through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing new social housing to replace existing sub-standard accommodation for current tenants.</li> <li>▪ Providing the funds for the renovation of the local centre at the heart of the estate.</li> <li>▪ Providing the funds to improve better used and located open spaces elsewhere.</li> </ul> <p>3.15 This should not, therefore, be carried through into the City Plan as a designated open space.</p> <p><b>5. Summary and Conclusions</b></p> <p>5.1 This document is prepared by Nash Partnership on behalf of Gloucester City Homes. It provides representations on the Gloucester Open Space Strategy 2020-2025.</p> <p>5.2 This response is prepared in the light of ongoing work by GCH in liaison with Gloucester City Council (GCC), in preparing a regeneration strategy for both the Matson and Podsmead estates within the City of Gloucester. The regeneration project is a joint endeavour, designed to bring about long-term transformational change to both estates. Complex, long-term projects of this nature require the inputs of several partner organisations. GCH and GCC have signed up to a shared vision, objectives and principles for the project, and GCH are in the process of trying to bring this forward, both through formulating deliverable masterplans in liaison with GCC.</p> <p>5.3 Overall, we welcome the vision, objective and much of the contents of the Strategy. However, we have some relatively detailed comments and do not agree with some of the conclusions relating to the value of some existing open spaces - notably Scott Avenue in Podsmead. We also feel that greater transparency over how the criteria have been derived and values ascribed is necessary, to ensure the process is robust.</p> <p>5.4 Conversely, we do support the values ascribed to Saintbridge Recreation Ground, and the scope to consider alternative uses on the site.</p> <p>5.5 Overall, these comments reflect the need to be open to allowing some loss of open space in exceptional circumstances, where this would deliver qualitative open space enhancements and other regeneration benefits. These comments, and the emerging proposals for both estates, should be reflected in any the final version of the Strategy and future open space-related designations coming forward in the Gloucester City Plan.</p>	
8	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	<p><b>1. Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details</b></p> <p><u>Vision</u> GWT welcomes the recognition that urban green spaces play an important role in providing people with opportunities to experience nature. These spaces also have an important role in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies. This is reflected in the objectives, but GWT feels it is of such importance to Gloucester that it should also be referred to within the vision.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> OSS Vision has been amended as below, to include the suggested reference to climate and ecological emergencies:</p> <p><i>Vision - To create, maintain <b>and protect</b> a diverse network of good quality, sustainable and accessible open spaces which serve the needs and aspirations of the residents of Gloucester, facilitate frequent contact with the natural world <b>and help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.</b></i></p>

Perhaps by this could be achieved by amending to ‘...which serve the needs and aspirations of the residents of Gloucester, facilitate frequent contact with the natural world and help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.’

Objectives

GWT welcomes the outlook of greenspaces being used by all the community for recreation as well as health and wellbeing. It is vital, in light of the current crisis, that the Council recognises the significant impact a local green space can have for all members of the community and that value is placed on these spaces for community members to use for their benefit mentally, emotionally and physically. A greater emphasis in the strategy needs to be made on the value of open green spaces for people and the benefits of good quality green space and nature for all members of the community. More statistics and a stronger outline on health and wellbeing benefits would be welcome.

GWT Welcomes the commitment to utilising green spaces to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies. The aspiration should be stronger as mitigating biodiversity loss is not a sustainable approach and has continually failed to halt and reverse biodiversity declines. A commitment to delivering Biodiversity Net gain within the open spaces over the duration of the plan would demonstrate the City’s commitment to making a tangible difference.

GWT also welcomes the commitment to reviewing the grounds maintenance contracts. This is a vital step if the Council is to gain greater value from its green spaces in terms of the range of environmental, social and economic services they provide. It is recommended that the default position for all green spaces should be for low intervention maintenance with vegetation left to grow between April and July. There will of course be a need for more intensive management on sports pitches, footpaths, play areas and where there are genuine road safety issues. However, intensive management with regular cutting should be the exception where a case has been made, rather than the default position. There is growing evidence from other local authorities that this approach can save significant costs and deliver greater benefits, but the Council has to show leadership, making it a requirement of their contractor and communicating the benefits of change to communities.

GWT welcomes the commitment to creating high quality Green Infrastructure through the planning system and the recognition that this will require land outside of the city boundaries. Communities, wildlife and environmental services readily move across city boundaries, so it is important that this does not become a restriction to providing high quality GI.

GWT welcomes the commitment to site management and enhancement plans in order to increase biodiversity value. It is important that this is retained.

GWT welcomes the commitment to continue investing in developing high quality open spaces. The challenge of financing the operation of the city’s open space portfolio is recognised, but any disposal or alternative use must not result in a net reduction of publicly accessible green space. This is particularly important in parts of the city that fall below the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt), as inequalities in access to natural greenspace that must not be exacerbated.

**2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?**

GWT does not know of any open spaces in excess of the minimum size threshold that have been overlooked by the strategy

**3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to**

Where the initial assessment has established that there is the potential to achieve significant biodiversity gains, a more formal site assessment will be carried out, using the DEFRA biodiversity assessment metric, which provides a way of measuring and accounting for biodiversity losses and gains. Individual Biodiversity Enhancement Plans will then be created and implemented for those sites.

In terms of providing additional statistics and a stronger outline of the health and wellbeing benefits of green space, we are content that these benefits are already well known, in the public domain, and the strategy does not need to include any further breakdown at this stage.

The council is committed to increasing the biodiversity value of its green space portfolio wherever possible. The objective in question has therefore been amended to read:

*‘To utilise green space to help mitigate **and reverse** the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, through habitat creation and management, increased tree planting, water management schemes and other appropriate measures.’*

An additional reference to biodiversity net gain has been included in the section re: Environment Bill (p.12).

The current grounds maintenance contract is under review and will include a greater emphasis on reducing intensive management where appropriate.

The Trust’s comments in relation to Q.4 are noted. The council’s baseline assessment of low/med/high biodiversity value is based on a comparison of all the green space sites across the city, in the context of the urban setting, and their relative value within the city’s boundary. Additional explanatory notes have been added to indicate this.

It is acknowledged that there is further work to do to assess the city’s sites against the wider Nature Recovery Network assessment criteria in the wider county/nationwide context. The OSS assessments are a broad-brush starting point, identifying which sites have the most potential for enhancement/improvement or protection where appropriate. The council would welcome further dialogue with the Trust in relation to these ambitions.

The council welcomes the valuable partnership already in place with the Wildlife trust, and projects such as All Paths Lead to the Hill and Milton Avenue Community Space bring greater benefits with the inclusion of the Trust’s expertise and commitment. We hope that this beneficial partnership will continue in the longer term.

The Trust’s suggestions for the various sites identified under Q.6 are noted. Thank you.

**you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?**

The human population is increasingly moving into cities. Around 90% of the UK population now live in towns and cities. The increase in people living in urban areas is leading to an increasing pressure on open green spaces in those urban areas and this has been made even more stark during the current crisis of COVID-19. In addition, access to green space is affected by socioeconomic and demographic factors. In England, poorer communities are 10 times less likely to live in the greenest areas because they live in urban areas (RSPB and Wildlife Trusts, 2014). The value open green spaces bring to all communities across the City therefore is incredibly high – to have a space to breathe, to relax, to contemplate, to take time out, to exercise, to learn, to share and to play. Open green spaces are vital for our health and wellbeing and this needs full acknowledgement in the strategy.

There is now a wealth of evidence on the benefits of the natural environment to human's physical and mental health and well-being. Both published and non-published literature has been produced globally on mental and physical health issues and the benefit of staying connected to nature (Keniger et al, 2013; Sandifer, Sutton-Grier and Ward, 2015; Shanahan et al, 2015). Research, such as Mathew White et al's report (2019), on connecting with the outdoors highlights the mood enhancement connecting to nature can provide. The University of Derby's ongoing research piece (2020), taking into account large populations across the UK, evidences nature connectedness as being vital to our national health and wellbeing. It cites connections from viewing nature through our window, observing nature on our doorstep or being fully immersed in nature as all important ways to wellbeing.

Open green spaces can be used in a multitude of ways to benefit a large variety of audiences and every member of the community. Learning about the wildlife and habitats, exploring and monitoring key areas, getting immersed in nature, taking part in managing and maintaining open spaces, carrying out walks and talks are all examples of ways to promote physical and mental wellbeing using the natural environment. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust would welcome initiatives such as these being used across the open green spaces in the City.

**4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?**

GWT strongly supports the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and the ecological emergency. The proposed actions of meadow creation, watercourse naturalisation and lower intervention management are all important steps that need to be retained in the strategy. GWT is particularly pleased to see proposals to reassign many of the city's close-mown amenity grass to more diverse flower-rich swards or trees.

It is important that biodiversity enhancements are informed by and align with the countywide evidence base for nature's recovery (Nature Recovery Network) and natural capital that has been produced by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership. This will ensure that the most suitable habitat is created in the right locations that will then deliver the biggest possible benefits. Meadow creation should seek to retain local genetic diversity by allowing natural colonization or by using green hay from donor sites. Where seed mixes are needed it is important that these are carefully sourced and reflect the appropriate species compositions for the area rather than annual mixes that are often dominated by arable species and contain non-native varieties.

Similarly, whilst urban tree planting should be encouraged it is important that this is planned in line with the NRN and the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy to ensure it does not fragment

important open habitat networks. As a minor note, it would be good to see the designations associated with the different sites listed as an appendix to the strategy.

GWT welcomes the assessment of current and potential biodiversity value but would like more detail on how this was assessed. An assessment that provides a relative comparison to other sites in the city is likely to overestimate the current value of all sites due to the very depauperate condition of some sites. From GWT's knowledge, many of the sites ranked as 'high' or 'Medium' existing value do not merit this status. A better approach would be to assess their value through the Nature Recovery Network, and thus provide a countywide comparison that is data driven. This would reveal the true scale of change required to enhance the biodiversity value of the City's open spaces.

**5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?**

As mentioned on p.28 of the Strategy, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust 'is also working in the city, to help bring improvements to urban wild habitats and encourage residents to explore and learn about Gloucester's wild places. Initiatives to date include All Paths Lead to the Hill, Wild Kingsway and the Milton Avenue Green Space project.' We would welcome continuing to work closely with the Council on urban initiatives that support and promote urban green spaces and the positive use and access to these spaces. We would welcome more consultations and continued strong communication with the Council, as well as support through funding of engagement projects within those green spaces. We would also welcome initiatives that support community ownership, and co-created volunteer groups as well as working on programmes that support the community to be empowered to support the Council to manage local green spaces. Initiatives such as Milton Avenue Green Space with Podsmead Big Local are a strong example of community-led green space enhancement and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust would welcome more of these across the City.

**6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.**

It is not completely clear on the document which are the 6 spaces where development may be an alternative use. It would be helpful for these sites to have been presented in a separate list.

**AD12** Important air pollution function and may provide other ecosystem services.

**CH1:** This area would benefit from lower intervention management with a view to biodiversity enhancements. Some tree planting might be suitable.

**CH5:** There are opportunities for habitat enhancements. The grassland along the railway corridor here contains nationally threatened plant species, so the most suitable enhancement would be to expand this area through habitat creation. This would provide a new stepping stone across the city for wildlife and an enhanced amenity space for people to enjoy.

**EL4:** This land forms a corridor linking green spaces within the city to the wider countryside, as such it would ideally be managed for wildlife with a mixed mosaic of open habitat, wetlands and trees.

**EL5:** This area is too small to provide significant biodiversity enhancements but could be a suitable site for tree planting.

**EL7:** This area is too small to provide significant biodiversity enhancements but requires some tree management work.

**GR4 and GR11:** These may be suitable locations for tree planting due to the air pollution benefits.

**GR8:** Location is not clear on the maps

**HU6:** This area has been identified as a priority for open habitat restoration. Whilst GWT would not want to see the loss of mature trees, where it is possible to open up the canopy and enhance grassland species richness this should be pursued.

**HU10:** This could be a suitable location for woodland planting to expand the existing woodland network nearby.

**KW2:** This could be a suitable location for tree planting as there would be benefits for biodiversity and air pollution.

**KW6:** This could be a suitable location for tree planting as there would be benefits for biodiversity and air pollution.

**KW7:** This could be a suitable location for meadow creation to expand nearby species rich fragments along the railway.

**MR8:** Habitat creation in this location would be an opportunity to buffer Robinswood Hill and provide a steppingstone across the city. A mosaic of species-rich grassland and wood pasture might be suitable. This could also create a new natural green space for location communities.

**MO1:** This area would benefit from lower intervention management with a view to biodiversity enhancements. Some tree planting might be suitable.

**QF4:** This area is too small to provide significant biodiversity enhancements but might be suitable for tree planting.

**TU2:** This forms part of the ecological corridor provided by the railway, which links sites within the city to the wider countryside. A mosaic of habitat enhancements would be beneficial, including meadow creation.

**TU6:** Habitat creation in this location would be an opportunity to buffer Robinswood Hill and provide a steppingstone across the city. A mosaic of species-rich grassland and wood pasture might be suitable. This could also create a new natural green space for location communities.

**TU8:** This could be a suitable location for tree planting as there would be benefits for biodiversity and air pollution.

**WE8:** This could be a suitable location for tree planting as there would be benefits for biodiversity and air pollution.

**BT3:** Opportunity to create natural green space in the middle of a large population that has limited access to natural green space.

**CH2:** Subject to a condition assessment of the pond, an expanded wetland area could be created that provides biodiversity gains and enhanced SuDS function.

**EL7 and**

**GR5:** there is an opportunity here for low density tree planting to create a wood pasture habitat that would deliver benefits for biodiversity, air quality and amenity.

**GR1 and GR3:** Both of these areas would benefit from lower intervention management with a view to biodiversity enhancements.

**MR14:** Part of this site should be considered for meadow creation and low-density specimen tree planting, as it could provide a useful stepping stone for wildlife between Robinswood Hill and Alney Island

**MR17:** This site has the potential to be multifunctional. It could be used for tree planting or an extension to the community allotment site that would also provide biodiversity enhancements.

**MR5:** The north area has areas of UK priority habitat in the form of native broadleaved woodland. It would be good to see an expansion of this habitat.

**MR6:** This area would benefit from lower intervention management with a view to biodiversity enhancements.

**PO6:** The boundary of this site is an important wildlife corridor across the city. It's integrity as a corridor needs to be maintained and there are opportunities to enhance its functionality by creating a stepping stone area of species-rich grassland habitat within PO6.

**References**

Keniger, LE, Gaston, KJ, Irvine, KN and Fuller, RA (2013) *What are the benefits of interacting with Nature?* Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 10, 913-935

	<p>RSPB and Wildlife Trusts (2014) <i>A Nature and Wellbeing Act: A green paper from the Wildlife Trusts and RSPB</i></p> <p>Sandifer, PA, Sutton-Grier, AE, and Ward, BP (2015) <i>Exploring connections among nature, biodiversity, ecosystem services, and human health and wellbeing: Opportunities to enhance health and biodiversity conservation</i> Ecosystem Services 12, 1-15</p> <p>Shanahan, DF, Lin, BB, Bush R, Gaston KJ, Dean, JH, Barber, E and Fuller RA (2015) <i>Toward improved public health outcomes from urban nature</i> AM. J. Public Health 105, 470-477</p> <p>White, MP, Alcock, I, Grellier, J, Wheeler, BW, Hartig, T, Warber, SL, Bone, A, Depledge, MH, Fleming, LE (2019) <i>Spending at least 120 minutes in nature a week is associated with good health and wellbeing</i> Open Access</p>	
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9. Quedgeley Town Council					
Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
Implement the six-acre standard, 24 ha of open space per 1000 population recommended by FiT. Include this in the planning process for future developments.	Consider the balancing pond opposite KS12 could be included in some amenity value. The area appears to be large but the whole site is fenced and access to the public restricted.  <b>Response:</b> This balancing pond (Kingsway devt, Pond 5) has some engineered control structures which would be dangerous if accessed by the public (vertical drop into deep water). The site does not form a part of the POS provision for Kingsway but does provide a wildlife resource.	City parks and green areas and open spaces improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make our neighbourhood a more attractive place to live and work.  Strong evidence shows that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Regular physical activity has been shown to increase health and reduce the risk of a wide range of diseases. Physical activity also relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, improves mood, and enhance psychological well-being.  General increase in opportunities for sport can be regarded as a contributor to community well-being, and local authorities should be required to make adequate provision for facilities for the inhabitants of their area for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities this will involve a maintenance programme and a desire to create high quality playing surfaces fit for the sport of today. This will bring the community together through sports and spectating and create a sense of belonging. Vital to address the issue of mental health faced today.	Definitely, but areas left for nature must be specifically for that purpose and not used as an opportunity to save money on grounds maintenance.	Provide the lease for Waterwells Sports Centre and Kingsway Pavilion that have been promised for many years.	QF4 Needham Avenue, possible site for disposal. Could QTC take this on, it is close to Waterwells and could be utilised as a small sided football pitch or grants sought for a small play area. If the site is disposed, invest the income into a new artificial surface for the astro @ Waterwells Sports Centre which is nearing the end of its life.  KS13 unused cricket square, New Haven Road, this should be brought back for community use, in its current form it is a waste of a valuable community asset. Quedgeley Council will support discussions in relation to taking over this land.  <b>Response:</b> As the Needham Avenue site directly adjoins private rear gardens, it would not be suitable for sports or play area use, as this would create a nuisance for residents (no space for noise buffers).  Consultation with Needham Avenue residents is strongly recommended before any decision are made on this future of the site. Needham Ave is a private road.
<b>Response:</b> The FiT benchmark standard (or greater) is included in the strategy and criteria for calculating the provision of new POS within future housing development.	There are no plans at this point to open the space for public access.	<b>Response:</b> Noted. The site at Fisher's Meadow (Dimore Playing Field), which is managed by the QTC (owned by Robert Hitchins Ltd) has capacity for two full size winter playing pitches, but we understand that the Town Council voted to not allow sports use (Quedgeley Wanderers FC would like to utilise these pitches).  Perhaps this decision could be further reviewed?	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, this is an issue to pick up with the Council's Legal Services team.	KS13 (Newhaven Road) is owned by Robert Hitchins Ltd and subject to a current outline planning application, including POS use for the old cricket pitch site.

<b>10. Kingsway Wildlife and Sustainability Group (KWSG)</b>					
<p>Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.</p>	<p>2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?</p>	<p>3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?</p>	<p>4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?</p>	<p>5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?</p>	<p>6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.</p>
<p>We are optimistic at the Council's ambition to drive change through this new strategy, and our comments throughout this feedback are intended to help define key areas where we think this can be strengthened and connect the proposed vision with the actions stated.</p> <p>Firstly, the Vision is missing any reference to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and how important these sites are in Gloucester's role in reversing its decline.</p> <p>We welcome the ambition of the objectives but believe that the addition of educating Gloucestershire's residents on the need to take action themselves in their gardens and green spaces, which are equally as important to improving Gloucester's biodiversity and would compliment the Council's ambitions in this area.</p> <p>We also don't see any commitment to ensuring that the total green space available to residents is not reduced beyond the current levels, but plenty of references to the need to allow development where supposedly necessary. It is also disappointing that the current open space provisions outlined in reference to agreed development have little reference for any requirements around nature enhancement.</p>	<p>The two allotment spaces have been missed for Kingsway in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>In Kingsway the accessibility of our open spaces to the local community bring immense value to the overall wellbeing of the area and those who enjoy the spaces we have on our doorsteps. However, a key issue we experience is the lack of awareness of these green spaces and the wildlife that is able to survive in these spaces. By connecting people throughout Gloucester with the green spaces near them has the potential to benefit not only their mental and physical wellbeing, but to connect them with the nature on their doorstep. Something that we have seen and experienced the enormous benefit of and it should not be underestimated the links between wellbeing and improving our nature environment. While we appreciate that budgets are limited, we would encourage the Council to consider allocating additional funds to communications and awareness raising, to support local community groups and the Wildlife Trust in taking action in this area.</p>	<p>We very much welcome action in this area, and are encouraged by the Council's intention to assess key areas in more detail, and would encourage them to engage with the local community and active groups in these areas, to include them in decision making to increase local buy in and support.</p> <p>However, we do not see any Kingsway sites listed as priority sites for action, which is disappointing.</p> <p>We also would like to understand how the Council are going to ensure these changes are protected from contractors through performance related penalties and to ensure their support for these objectives, and look forward to the review of this contract and how future contracts will be constructed with this in mind.</p>	<p>Our comments in response to question three are also relevant for this question.</p> <p>In addition, we could feedback our biggest challenges in response to this question, which have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Getting people involved and willing to take part - some events prove popular such as litter picks, bat walks and tree planting which are simple and easily understood. However, getting people involved in other less well understood activities has proved challenging, yet are enjoyed and are found rewarding by those who do. So we would encourage the council to consider how they can encourage more people to get involved in the activities necessary to deliver against these objectives, as there is so much more that can be done if more people were involved.</li> <li>2. The Council's contractors destroying the improvements we have made or making knee jerk reactions. This has been a key source of frustration and resulted in us scaling back activities in reaction to the trees and wildflowers which have been decimated and not replaced. Better management of these situations (as well as prevention through the intended review) will be necessary to maintain enthusiasm of volunteers.</li> </ol> <p>These need to be considered and provisions in place if the community is key to the Council's plans.</p>	<p>Most of these spaces lend themselves to becoming priority sites for nature, by being left to re-wild or being planted with trees or wildflowers.</p> <p>More open spaces could be used to create community garden or growing spaces - allowing people to grow food or flowers in a community environment. This could also help those which suffer with anti-social behaviour, as this is often associated with unused spaces.</p>

<p><b>Response:</b> The vision and objectives have been amended to clarify the commitment to achieving biodiversity improvements in open spaces wherever possible.</p> <p>There is a clear policy commitment to protect existing open spaces, with very limited exceptions, as set out in the City Plan. Allowing limited, minor development within just a few of the city's open spaces, to enable enhancement of the remainder, would also need to satisfy the clear planning requirements before it could proceed.</p> <p>The future housing developments as indicated (inside and outside the city boundary) would be subject to planning requirements to provide sustainable development, in line with the policies set out in the JCS and City Plan.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Kingsway allotment site 1 is included in the Strategy – reference QF9 (it falls within Quedgeley Fieldcourt Ward).</p> <p>Kingsway allotment site 2 has not been included in the OSS list of sites, as it is not yet completed. However, it is noted as a new site within the Allotment Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Noted. Raising awareness of local green spaces is one of the council's aims within the strategy and the council will continue to seek funding for this purpose.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The majority of the Kingsway green spaces have been developed within the last 5-10 years, with the benefit of each phase of the development working to clear targets, e.g., for providing sustainable drainage systems and quality green spaces including retention of existing trees and meadow features, as well as extensive habitat creation, all in line with current good practice.</p> <p>Many of the city's older green spaces were created when watercourses were culverted or canalised, and green spaces were kept as short mown grass with little in the way of habitat creation, and therefore the focus of the Urban Greening initiative across the city has initially been on addressing these older spaces in the first instance.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The council has addressed the maintenance issues with the Amey grounds maintenance management team.</p> <p>The current grounds maintenance contract is under review and will include a greater emphasis on reducing intensive management where appropriate.</p> <p>The council is looking to establish more formal arrangements with all Friends and volunteer groups across the city, which would include mutually agreed targets, aims and objectives, as well as health and safety implications, so that both sides are aware of these.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Noted. Thank you.</p>
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<p><b>11. Gloucestershire Ramblers</b></p>					
<p>Thank you for providing the opportunity for Ramblers to submit our views to the Gloucester Open Spaces Strategy Consultation.</p>					
<p>This response addresses the aims of Ramblers in relation to the protection of footpaths within open spaces. This includes routes that connect residential or industrial areas with natural environments, including along canals and rivers. The footpaths also provide recreational use and access to public amenities.</p>					
<p>Ramblers encourage the establishment of policies that enhance and protect access and provide enjoyment of open spaces using Public Rights of Way. This includes local footpath networks, the Glevum Way (Gloucester Circular), the Severn Way and other long-distance trails that pass through or around the City of Gloucester.</p>					
<p>Natural open spaces that can be reached and enjoyed on foot provide a vital role in promoting mental and physical health and well-being.</p>					
<p>In response to the questions raised:</p>					
<p>Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.</p>	<p>2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?</p>	<p>3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?</p>	<p>4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?</p>	<p>5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?</p>	<p>6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.</p>
<p>Ramblers welcomes the vision that planning policies will be in place in the City Plan and in the Joint Core Strategies to protect existing open space, link new communities and provide effective green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Greater emphasis could be placed on the protection and maintenance of the PRow networks that contribute to the open space inventory, especially as there are several long-distance trails threading through or around Gloucester. These include</p>	<p>Footpath networks provide recreation and passage and could reduce the use of motorised vehicles to get to a destination, reducing the carbon footprint. They enable people to enjoy the benefits of being outdoors and for families</p>	<p>Yes, Ramblers would support the creation of additional natural and wild areas if they are sensitive to the surroundings and have species indigenous to the region or setting. Where there are natural, or heritage</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council already offers connection and support to footpath maintenance teams to keep footpaths clear of obstructions and overgrowth, ensuring they remain usable and walkable which is appreciated.</p>	<p>It would be good to see a commitment in the strategy to respect and preserve the footpath network in areas being developed, to ensure that footpaths are not diverted unnecessarily, nor diverted on to streets but to maintain their</p>

<p>Ramblers welcomes the vision to promote open spaces as attractive places to sustain and improve mental and physical health and well-being</p>	<p>the Glevum way, Gloucestershire Way, Severn Way, Wysis Way and Three Choirs Way as well as other footpath networks within the city.</p>	<p>and friends to participate in outdoor activities together. Walking has known benefits to mental and physical health and well-being.</p> <p>The City securing more open space should provide connectivity between green assets.</p> <p>For optimal utilisation and a safe walking environment, maintaining the footpaths within Green Flag sites by minimising path erosion, clearing overgrowth and ensuring there is adequate signage would help to keep the routes walkable and provide enjoyment of this green open space. This includes the multiple footpath networks at site such as Robinswood Hill.</p> <p>Adequate maintenance of footpath networks with features such as drainage channels should ensure surfaces remain walkable</p>	<p>features already in the surroundings those should be preserved.</p>	<p>The council could encourage neighbourhood or volunteer teams to keep footpaths clean to promote the enjoyment of walking in the natural environment.</p> <p>The council could help to ensure signage is appropriate where there are shared footways for walkers and cyclists so that users of these routes and be suitably segregated and respectfully share the route.</p>	<p>historical lines. Paths within developments should be within a green corridor, with walking access to natural areas, such as wooded, wildflower meadows or along streams and waterways. Paths should also provide access from the developments to both urban amenities and to the countryside and long-distance trails.</p> <p>New developments should be sensitively located and work harmoniously with the character of their surroundings and have full environmental accreditations.</p> <p>We would be happy to engage with you to review the plans and policies as they develop in relation to these specific themes.</p>
<p><b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted. Although many parts of the long-distance footpath network do not fall within the council's open spaces or ownership, so this would always need a partnership approach with other landowners and organisations.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted. Wherever funding allows, the council will maintain and upgrade the public footpath networks across its open space portfolio and increase signage and waymarking to improve navigation.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.</p>	<p>Response: The prime responsibility for funding and maintaining the Public Right of Way (PROW) network lies with Gloucestershire County Council, but wherever PROWs cross the city's green spaces they will be signposted and improved whenever funds allow.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Again, statutory functions relating to planning and PROWs lie with the county council, who are consulted on all planning applications and are able to set out the requirements for diverting or retaining PROWs as necessary.</p> <p>Wherever possible, as part of the formal planning process, the city council will seek to have new developments provide connected green infrastructure, including adequate footpath routes.</p>

<p><b>12. Kingsholm and Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership</b></p>					
<p>Kingsholm &amp; Wotton Neighbourhood Partnership welcomes the opportunity to comment on this document. We deal with the eight sites in the ward in turn. We note that Kingsholm and Wotton ward has less open space of all kinds (4.12 hectares) than all but one of the wards in the City. The focus must therefore generally be, as the report itself acknowledges, on the improvement of what we have. The need for improvement is reinforced by two other factors. First, Kingsholm and Wotton ward is very diverse in the age, type and quality of its housing stock and the environment in which that housing is set. This is in turn consistent with the extent of deprivation in some parts of the ward. Whatever the relevant indices say, the ward is certainly deprived of open space. This emphasises the need to create the best possible living environment for its residents. Secondly, the lack of open space increases the need for what exists to be cared for properly. Unfortunately, some spaces, for example KW2 and KW6, have been neglected.</p> <p>We very much hope that this consultation exercise can include a "walk round audit" of these areas with councillors and officers to make sure everyone is fully informed and aware of possible potential.</p>					
<p>Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.</p>	<p>2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?</p>	<p>3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote</p>	<p>4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by</p>	<p>5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter</p>	<p>6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.</p>

		the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	
No	Yes	Please see the comments below on the eight individual areas in the ward.	In principle these are good ideas. However, the scope for putting them into practice in Kingsholm and Wotton ward is relatively limited.	On the basis of this consultation the Council should take the lead in identifying the scope for collaboration between it, local residents and interest groups and set out a model strategy.	Not applicable to Kingsholm and Wotton ward.
<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you. (no comments received re KW8 – Deans Way Allotments).	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted.
<b>KW1 Dean’s Way Meadow</b> This appears to be a reasonably well-used amenity. The Partnership supports its maintenance and improvement. The Twyver Triangle Residents Association (via KWNP) has supported the idea of improved surfacing on the lumpy mini football pitch - with appropriate field markings and new posts the Deans Way Meadow could facilitate netball/basketball, 5 a side football and training equipment. This is a potential site for outdoor gym equipment. Some of the Section 106 funding arising from the Redrow Homes development could help create much needed exercise facilities for this area of Kingsholm. Some more general efforts are needed to make the area more welcoming.		<b>KW2 Kingsholm Rest Garden</b> We consider this area, located next to one of the busiest roundabouts in the City, to be of very limited value in its current condition. We wonder whether many local residents are even aware of its status as public open space. Its condition has declined in recent years, mainly as a result of the (presumably unauthorised) removal of a number of conifers adjacent to the boundary of the garden at 102 Kingsholm Road, and the dilapidated appearance of the garden fence does not help.  We are not sure that the Council is correct to say, as it does on page 100, that the “development of Civil Service site will disrupt this space”. Building has recently resumed on this site and there is little to indicate that the Rest Garden will be affected either way. In itself, the Rest Garden would appear to have no value for development, so there would be little point in the Council disposing of it. Indeed, it would be an advantage to retain it, to help prevent the kind of development in the rear garden of number 102 Kingsholm Road proposed by planning application 15/00163/OUT and at least one subsequent application. Some new planting as the document suggests might be helpful, but we consider that there are more urgent priorities for planting elsewhere. Instead, this is another useful potential site for some gym equipment as part of a trim trail around Kingsholm and Wotton. It would be easily accessible from many parts of the ward and it is en-route to Plock Court. In addition to gym equipment, a couple of seats and a waste bin would be helpful and not costly.		<b>KW3 Sebert St Recreation Ground</b> This is a well-used and on the whole well-respected amenity. The Partnership is currently in discussion with the Council about the potential for Section 106 monies arising from the Redrow Homes development to be applied here. However, there is a potential danger of over-development. Any expansion of the play facilities here should only take place after full consultation with the users and local residents.  <b>KW4 Hampton Court (Lansdown Rd)</b> This area is located at the end of a long cul de sac, at least 400 metres from the junction of Lansdown Road with Heathville Road. Other pedestrian access to it is little easier, via Posy Lane or the public footpath running between Estcourt Road and Lansdown Road. The most recent edition of the Ordnance Survey sheet at 1:25,000 scale shows a public right of way leading to the area from Posy Lane but this does not exist on the ground. As a result, the area is probably only used by, perhaps even only known to, residents in the vicinity. Its continued maintenance and improvement are nevertheless supported.	
<b>Response:</b> Community consultation on the proposed allocation of the S.106 funds from the Civil Service site development will be undertaken before any final decisions are made.  Any improvements funded this way would need to be in line with the terms of the S.106 legal agreement.		<b>Response:</b> There may still be some minor disruption to the green space, as the road network for the development is revised following completion of the house building.  Some tree planting has recently been undertaken and the council will seek to provide further improvements to the garden, which is on a prominent junction, as and when funding allows. Community input and involvement in improving the site is welcomed.		<b>Response:</b> As with KW1, it is anticipated that some of the S.106 funding from the Civil Service site can be used to make upgrades to this site.  Community consultation on how to allocate the funds will be undertaken before any final decisions are made.	
<b>KW5 Hillfield Gardens</b> We expect that the Friends of Hillfield Gardens will be making a detailed response. The Partnership considers that the Gardens are a major asset to the area which receive insufficient attention from the Council. We recognise of course the diminishing resources available. For some years now, since the formal opening of the sensory garden in 2013, most of the effective		<b>KW6 Great Western Rd Rest Garden (London Rd)</b> We note what the document says about this area on page 100. Like KW2, it is too small for any development, and is unsuitable in other ways. Also like KW2, it is located on a major junction on one of the City’s main radial roads. However, whereas KW2 is in practice indistinguishable from the grass verges of the highways land, KW7 is an easily identifiable site. It is on a pedestrian		<b>KW7 Great Western Rd Rest Garden (Horton Rd)</b> We think the Council is right to link the future of this area with the redevelopment of the site identified as SA05 in the submitted City Plan. In fact, this site as depicted on page 95 of the Plan appears to include all of area KW7. We ask the Council to raise this matter with any applicant in pre-application discussions as a legitimate recipient of S106 contributions.	

<p>maintenance work has been carried out by volunteers. The Partnership hopes that some kind of service level agreement can be drawn up to identify resources, define responsibilities and set priorities.</p>	<p>route to the City centre from many parts of the ward. It is located in the London Road Conservation Area, and has listed buildings (Northgate House, Wellington Parade) nearby. For all these reasons we consider it very important that the area is improved with a robust and easily managed scheme which will deter the kind of anti-social behaviour that led to its closure and boarding up.</p> <p>We understand from the local members that an application for a grant to improve this area has been made to the GWR Community Fund. In the event of this application being unsuccessful, we hope that the Council itself will be able to fund improvements.</p>	
<p><b>Response:</b> Noted.</p> <p>The council is happy to undertake further work with the Friends of Hillfield to identify key priorities for the site.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> A contractor has been appointed to undertake the work to lay out the rest garden at KW6, with an anticipated start date (subject to any further Covid-19 related delays) of Spring 2021.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> The council's planning officers will be working with any developer proposing to build on site SA05 to ensure that the existing space KW7 is fully considered and upgraded or extended as part of any wider scheme.</p>

**Other responses received via online survey:**

	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details	Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? (See page 99 -100 of the strategy) Please specify site and use
13.	Yes	Yes	Podsmead is a green please but alot of its open spaces have not been kept well for years we have team who cut grass and keep the area in good shape but it is a battle to keep Amey out as them just cut things down pct are much better at keeping things for the bee and butterfly etc. people use all the green areas walk and ride bike which we need link up community more ways of getting around them	yes PCT (Podsmead Clearance Team) will help to keep them looking good in Podsmead.	using local school to do out side play and work with Podsmead big local	milton ave Podsmead
	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> The Podsmead Clearance Team are currently responsible for grass cutting on the majority of the open spaces in the ward. Where grass cutting is carried out by Amey this is largely restricted to areas owned by Gloucester City Homes or Gloucestershire County Council. The grass cutting undertaken by Amey is in accordance with the current maintenance contract, which is currently under review.	<b>Response:</b> See left	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> -
14.	Yes This is a very important document	Yes	Open spaces are important for the physical and mental well-being of the community. It enables visitors to connect with nature. We need to give people time and space to receive the benefits of these areas. Facilities such as public toilets would help.	These objectives are important but the examples that you list take a lot of effort to achieve. Wild flower meadows are difficult and take time and expertise to achieve. Removing concrete channels needs the acceptance and support of the local residents. More trees in the right place is a great ambition. Leaving some areas for nature will need a lot of education for the public to understand what is being done and the council contractors to maintain the areas sympathetically and not hit everything with mowers and strimmers at the wrong time.	Support for friends groups is an important way forward. Advice on how to care for specific areas is important. The countryside rangers have a lot of knowledge that would be invaluable to friends groups.	None of these open spaces are in my area. I think that the local communities need to be involved with their development. Is this an area where the councillors could be asked to help coordinate this development?

	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments re: education around changes to green space management and appropriate contractor maintenance are noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> City councillors would be part of any consultation process regarding change of use of open spaces.
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
15.	Yes Many of Gloucester's 'opens spaces' are historic spaces, parks, gardens and cemeteries. These are valuable heritage assets that make a positive contribution to the city's character and well-being. Their historic significance and therefore need for sensitive upkeep and attention should be highlighted. We would recommend liaison with your 'heritage' colleagues and refer to the Gloucester adopted heritage strategy that refers to its historic open spaces.	Other (please specify) Might the strategy highlight the historically significant open spaces within the city that require due consideration.	Historic England has illustrated the role of our historic spaces and places in supporting health and well-being. <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/back-issues/wellbeing-and-the-historic-environment/">https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/back-issues/wellbeing-and-the-historic-environment/</a> Again this is also highlighted within your adopted heritage strategy.	With care, landscape designed proposals can be compatible with these objectives and the significance of Gloucester's historic open spaces.	Local communities are often enthused to volunteer in helping to safeguard their locally treasured and historic open spaces.	Please liaise with your heritage officer colleagues to ensure Gloucester's historic spaces are identified and appropriately considered by this strategy.
	<b>Response:</b> Acknowledged. Additional information and references re: heritage value of green spaces or historic features within open spaces have been added to the strategy.	<b>Response:</b> Agreed, see left.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Agreed and noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> See left.
16.	No	Other (please specify) NA	Sense of place - the changing seasons - taking time out of work and the stresses of life - reconnecting with nature - meeting people friends and making new ones. Clean air and food generation	Absolutely	NA	NA
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -
17.	Yes It is good to see a focus on our open spaces and the strategy as a whole is encouraging, will look forward to its implementation	Yes	Open spaces provide for informal recreation, fresh air, experience of local wildlife (more so in some areas). They help take you away from our more crowded lives and to be closer to wild plants and animals. Ensuring that there is enough space for all, and people can feel comfortable using it, providing opportunities for recreation, learn more about local environment actively encouraging involvement.	Strongly support any measures that reduce/mitigate our effects on the planet. Giving space and improving the lot of any flora and fauna is also vital, as is helping people understand the rest of the natural world's importance for its own benefit as well as ours. Being able to link these spaces somehow would be good.	Encouraging and facilitating involvement of local people in their surrounding environment is very important. If we want future generations to live within a world with greater biodiversity than we have now, and to care more about nature, then starting locally is a good stepping stone. It has to be a long-term strategy with good communication,	I would support things such as food growing, bringing these spaces into local management, improving the environment for benefit of wildlife and local residents. Continued involvement of people who live nearby.

					ongoing support and ensuring people feel they are part of the process and valued.	
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: Noted</b>	<b>Response: Noted</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
18.	Yes I agree with the key objectives but would just caution one thing, on the planting of more trees. I've lived alongside Barnwood Park since it was first created and the bushes and a few trees that were originally planted have now grown in to a thick boundary. It looks good but there have been major problems to some local houses over the years, so please take this into account when planting trees, especially as we are mainly on clay soils. Another problem which needs to be monitored is the anti-social behaviour of a few youngsters who use the park in the evenings sometimes.	Yes	Encourage wildlife, provide a peaceful, green area to walk, ponder, picnic and chat. In more normal times many from the Barnwood business area walk to the park and along the green footpaths in their lunch hours. For me, I love just being able to down tools etc and go for a walk in a place which is almost like countryside, especially Barnwood arboretum. During Lockdown many of us appreciated the grass being left to grow in the park and along the local bike/footpaths. I loved the clover and buttercups in the park, and the swards of cow parsley in the small green area in Lilliesfield Avenue. It might have been the weather as well but there were a lot more butterflies in the park and along the nearby footpaths this year.	Yes, I do wholeheartedly with the proviso mentioned before about being careful not to plant trees near houses.	More communication - The Barnwood Arboretum group does a great job but I don't think I would have heard much about the work being done in the balancing pond at the moment if I'd not had connections with them. Also, more information available to the public and contact with council staff over concerns e.g. the rats in Barnwood Park which are being fed regularly by some people	Sorry I didn't read that
	<b>Response: Noted.</b> Tree planting is only undertaken by the council in open spaces where there is sufficient space for the trees to mature. Anti-social behaviour should be reported to the police.	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: Noted, thank you.</b>	<b>Response: Noted, thank you.</b>	<b>Response: -</b>
19.	Yes The OSS is a very comprehensive document and those who put it together should be congratulated. I feel very encouraged by the vision and key objectives. Climate change and reduced biodiversity are the major challenges of this decade and I am pleased to see that Gloucester City Council is developing a plan with these challenges at the forefront. This summer I have seen large	Yes	Open spaces provide an opportunity for exercise, relaxation, to watch and learn about wildlife and nature, to experience the changing seasons, to find peace and quiet and lift the spirits in today's noisy and busy world. Local green spaces need to have beautiful trees and wildflowers that will attract wildlife to make them attractive and interesting places to visit, thereby encouraging us to get outside and take some exercise with all the benefits that that is known to bring.	YES! However, I think more time should be spent on assessing what trees and wildflowers etc are already on a site before spending money on artificially creating wildflower meadows etc. As part of a Friends group we have surveyed our local site, taken advice and added to what is already there. Local communities (schools, colleges, youth groups) can be involved in this sort of activity (tree, bulb and wildflower planting) which encourages investment in and care of the space.	I have been involved in a Friends group for many years. At the beginning we had a dedicated council officer who invested a lot of time in the creation and nurturing of our group. I cannot imagine, in today's world, how any current council officer has the time to spend in setting up new groups. I think this will require a dedicated (community?) worker, perhaps employed in	I have no comment on these 21 sites as none of them are local to me. However, I agree that there is great need and opportunity to involve local people in developing Coney Hill Park.

	<p>areas of grass in public open spaces that, in my opinion, have been unnecessarily closely mown when paths could have been mown through areas of long grass instead. However, I do think that a lot of the general public do not understand the importance of long grass, wild areas etc. and that it is very important to bring more people on board with these changes by making more opportunities to get the message across to residents (and local councillors).</p> <p>I note that there is no mention of dogs in the strategy. I do not own a dog but am aware of the different views of dog owners and those who don't like dogs running towards them in parks. I think there should be room for both. At present I feel that the balance is in favour of dogs to roam freely rather than those who are anxious about free roaming dogs because they are frail or have young children - or simply don't want muddy paw prints on their clothes. Unfortunately there are a minority of owners who think their dog is just being friendly when it jumps up at strangers. Many dog owners do not appreciate that their dog can disturb wildlife.</p>				<p>partnership with another agency. Working in community spaces has the potential to bring communities together and to increase a general sense of well being (there have been many examples of this on TV programmes) so is worth the investment on many fronts. We are fortunate to have a beautiful green space on our doorstep, with an active Friends group and great support from council officers. The one issue that is recurring is the problem of communicating management strategy to/within Amey, some of whose staff members do not recognise bulbs, wildflowers or the basics of tree/shrub care. We have many examples of shrubs and wildflower areas being strimmed (in full flower), bulbs being mowed before they had died back and young trees damaged by mowers. These incidents are costly in time and money and are very frustrating for volunteers - sometimes making us ask why we bother at all! The next maintenance contract should make the contractor more accountable for paying attention to the management plans of sites and emphasise the need for training and better supervision of employees who use strimmers and mowers.</p>	
	<p><b>Response:</b> Thank you're your comments re: dogs and dog owners are noted.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> ✓</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> ✓</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you, we will always endeavour to survey and check existing flora and fauna before undertaking any works to open spaces.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> The Council appreciates the work done by volunteers and friends groups and strives to</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted.</p>

					ensure that contractors are fully aware of the damage that can be caused by inappropriate maintenance. We will continue to work with our contractors to ensure that care is taken when undertaking maintenance operations on all Council owned sites. We will emphasise the need for operatives undertaking strimming and mowing operations to be fully conversant with best practice and site-specific requirements in respect of these operations.	
20.	<p>Yes</p> <p>These comments are provided by the Woodland Trust. As the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust's vision is for a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife. We work to protect, restore and create native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future. We manage over 1,000 sites, including over 200 across the South West, and have 500,000 members and supporters. We welcome the vision and the objectives. We note that a 'network' is central to the vision (which we support), but this could be better reflected in the objectives. Greater connectivity of green spaces is crucial for promoting ecological corridors throughout the city. Networks of green spaces also provide green active travel routes to support health and wellbeing. We urge Gloucester to consider the concept of a 'Gloucester Park' or 'Gloucester Green Network' where larger and pocket parks are connected to a tree-rich public realm. Beyond public assets, private gardens also play an important role in ecological connectivity across the city. We strongly welcome the objective 'to utilise green space to help mitigate the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss, through habitat creation and management, increased tree planting, water management schemes and other appropriate measures'. We also strongly welcome the objective to 'identify opportunities for less intensive open space management, to increase biodiversity, sustainability and ensure best use of available resources'. We would like to see explicit targets in the Open Spaces Strategy for city-wide tree canopy cover (e.g. 20%, aligning to the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership target, subject to local assessment) and nature-rich spaces (e.g. 30%, aligning to the EU Biodiversity targets), recognising that the Council's assets are a significant contribution to these targets, and in demonstrating leadership - while wider private landholdings clearly also play a role. We strongly support aims to promote more nature-rich areas, and we would welcome aims to promote mosaics of habitat. Where appropriate, and where there is seed stock (i.e. around existing woodland), we urge Gloucester City Council to consider promoting natural regeneration of trees (and promoting the wildlife value of scrub). Woodland that is established in this way is more genetically diverse and more resilient to disease and the impacts of climate change. With new tree planting, we urge Gloucester City Council to adopt a policy to only plant trees that have been sourced and grown in the UK to help avoid the spread of disease. New trees should be ecologically appropriate to the site and include a diversity of species. The Council might consider establishing a local tree nursery to support tree planting ambitions in a bio-secure way while also promoting skills, training and employment opportunities. We welcome exploring with the Council how we can support in increasing tree cover in Gloucester, especially if sites can be identified for planting this coming winter. We welcome that the Council intends to use the Defra biodiversity metric across its open spaces to inform management plans that deliver net gains in biodiversity. With regards to the 'Open Space Standards' (p17): We highlight the Woodland Trust Woodland Access standard, which aspires that: no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size; and there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km of people's homes (<a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf</a>).</p>			We strongly support these interrelated objectives, which also provide nature-rich spaces that support health and wellbeing.		Acknowledging that there is limited land within the city boundary to support new housing, we urge Gloucester City Council to consider where new, multifunctional green spaces might be supported through the future review of roads and other infrastructure. The pandemic has shown a glimpse of a possible future of increased homeworking, more street-play and reduced use of the private vehicle. We urge a strategic approach to green infrastructure that is wholly integrated with the climate emergency response and future placemaking for a changing world.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments. We have amended one of the strategy objectives to read as follows:			<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.		<b>Response:</b> Noted. The council has a Green Infrastructure Strategy

	<p><i>'To develop site improvement plans or site management plans for larger/priority open spaces and sites with the greatest potential for increasing biodiversity to create a connected green infrastructure network through the city.'</i></p> <p>We acknowledge the Woodland Trust's emphasis on tree planting (with local or UK provenance where possible) and increasing the percentage of woodland cover where appropriate, and as part of the ongoing biodiversity assessments we will work with partner organisations to establish where tree planting, meadow creation or other habitats are most appropriate for open spaces within the city's Severn Vale setting.</p> <p>We acknowledge the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard and although we have not assessed the city against this standard and clearly within the densely built-up or historic parts of Gloucester an accessible woodland of 2ha within 500m is unlikely to be achievable, our targets for general accessibility to green spaces align with a similar principle.</p>					(JCS) and works with neighbouring authorities to develop regional GI targets and proposals.
21.	<p>Yes</p> <p>I am concerned that weight is given to the Fields in Trust Six acre standard in relation to playing pitch provision. The NPPF paragraph 96 does not support standards. GCC has a robust playing pitch strategy and that should guide any new provision of playing field.</p>	No	<p>the ability to provide both formal and informal opportunities for physical activity.</p>	<p>yes, but care is required not to compromise formal playing fields and the ability to move/rotate playing pitches.</p>	N/A	<p>Where possible the sites should be redeveloped, and the capital receipt invested into supporting both this strategy and the playing field strategy.</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Although weight is given to the general principles set out by the FiT standards in the strategy, it is also made clear that for playing pitch needs and assessment, the Playing Pitch Strategy should be referred to, to provide further details on local sports pitch shortfalls and priorities.</p>	<p><b>Response: -</b></p>	<p><b>Response: ✓</b></p>	<p><b>Response: Agreed.</b></p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p>	<p><b>Response:</b> The intention of highlighting specific, under-utilised sites is not to just dispose of them all for housing as a default position but to find ways of better using them. In fact, many would not be suitable for housing. The council's primary objective is to retain and protect all existing open space, apart from in very exceptional circumstances. The spaces identified could be used for a number of open space functions, including sport, so disposal is not the primary intention, where alternative uses is possible.</p>
22.	<p>Yes</p> <p>I think the vision is good as are the key objectives. I would like to see also the Bee Friendly approach incorporated into the Strategy where Bee Highways are part of the public open spaces. I would like this to be adopted</p>	Yes	<p>Open spaces have been found to be particularly valuable during lockdown. There is nowhere in my area QSV to socially distance mix within walking distance for the elderly or people not able to walk far. The canal path is an excellent walk, but it became overcrowded in the lockdown period due to people having nowhere near to exercise. The value of open space and greenery cannot be underestimated in promoting a healthy heart, preventing mental health illnesses such as depression, and</p>	<p>I certainly do support this. I understand this is support for Bee Highways and I have read the following article <a href="https://www.positive.news/environment/wildflower-highways-to-give-bees-a-boost/">https://www.positive.news/environment/wildflower-highways-to-give-bees-a-boost/</a> . I think all the bus shelters should have grass and flowers on them. I like to the wild flower verges which we have and what a difference in the country lanes which have been left uncut. The flowers have been varied and in full bloom British flowers suitable for our bees to access pollen</p>	<p>Advertise for people, set up set days and times where people can meet to do this together. Use people's skills and encourage them to plant for you and maintain their patch of open space near to them. Encourage pride</p>	<p>Needham Avenue, could this become a park with seating for older age residents living nearby. Make it an area for meeting up, a stage for artwork. Encourage wildflowers and make it</p>

	whole heartedly so that greenery in the form of bee friendly flowers and more trees are part of the built environment which surrounds us.		encouraging exercise which prevents many health problems. Trees are a valuable protection against pollution and walking in an avenue of trees lifts the spirits, provides shade and prevents seagulls from landing on you. I think we should have trees in large tubs throughout the city centre to hide the ugly buildings, enhance the environment for people living there, and visiting there and provide shade and protect people from the seagulls. Personally, to me I would be very depressed if I could not reach an open space , my mental health would be affected as well as providing the opportunity for exercise which also protects my mental health. Exercising in a gym is not comparable to exercising in the open air in a natural environment. There should be safe places for children to play not just equipment but tennis courts, netball courts, places to run, shout , dance without having to be confined. The older age group if not able to join in for longer walks need paths and parks with seating to be able to sit and feel comfortable with pretty flower borders (bee friendly) to look at. The older age person is not due to mobility restrictions always able to negotiate uneven rural areas and areas which may be suitable for younger people. Provision needs to be made for them too, suitable seating attractive and clean open spaces which are easily accessible. The canal path is shared by cyclists and walkers and sometimes you have to be quick to get out of the way of speeding cyclists, you need good hearing and vision to negotiate this path.	easily. I think if land at Clearwater drive had not been built on we could have encourage the natural brooks there and encouraged the diversity of wetland plants. But now the natural willows and the hedgerow is in pieces, it has not been cared for at all. If you are going to have these policies you need to have the structure to maintain them not just neglect them	in their area and show them what can be achieved with their support. Acknowledge that when people are working they don't have the extra time for groups but suggest ways they can contribute.	part of the Bee highway. Make it a park.
	<b>Response:</b> Gloucester became the first 'bee guardian' city in the UK in 2011 and has been committed ever since then to increasing wildflower coverage across the city, particularly in open spaces and in conjunction with the county council on large highway verges.	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b> The council is committed to making its existing open spaces welcoming to both people and wildlife, including the provision of seating, habitat improvements, tree and wildflower planting.	<b>Response:</b> Gloucestershire County Council is the authority responsible for the care and maintenance of highway verges (and bus shelters) and also was the landowner of the Clearwater Drive development site, which was not a designated public open space.  If there are areas of open space where poor maintenance is a concern, this should be reported to the city council on 01452 396396 or <a href="mailto:heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk">heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk</a> , so that it can be checked and addressed.	<b>Response:</b> Your suggestions are noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments and suggestions re: Needham Ave are noted, thank you.
23.	Yes	Yes	The dry pond area of Saintbridge at back of Redstart Way should remain an open space not planted with trees and wild flowers. It is well used by children playing, dog walkers and for community exercise. There is inadequate lighting in this area for public safety if this is filled with trees.	I agree with removing concrete and planting wildlife meadow along the banks of streams as long as they are maintained and not allowed to become full of rubbish. I do not agree with planting of trees in open spaces	more communication	I support leaving open spaces for children to play in away from roads eg the area at the end of Redstart Way
	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Less than a third of the dry basin has been planted with wildflower mixes (in 2020), and around a dozen trees, which should not impede on residents' safe use of the site and will enhance the visual quality and biodiversity value of the site.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments are noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.
24.	No	Yes	Proximity and accessibility. Promote the availability and facilities within the community.	Yes	Sharing information from high quality and community value sites so that the community can help to identify activities	Saintbridge recreational ground - outdoor fitness and wildflower meadow

					and support they can provide to Increase the value of their local green space.	
	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you for your suggestion.	<b>Response:</b> Your suggestion is noted. Thank you.
25.	Yes I agree with the objectives and the particular emphasis more recently on managing green spaces to promote biodiversity	No	A pleasant place to walk straight from home, an opportunity to see wildlife and plants, to observe the changing seasons and to volunteer with other people in helping to maintain the space. get to know people and feel part of a team.	Yes absolutely	I already belong to a Friends Group and value the support and advice received from the council especially if there are problems as there sometimes are within the local community	Nothing to add
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support of these objectives.	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for the positive feedback.	<b>Response: -</b>
26.	Yes They sound good.	Other (please specify) There is a triangle of land which gets mowed on Finlay Road near St Barnabas church opposite the houses on Pembury Road (Robinswood Hill side). It is quite a large area which would look great with wild flowers.	As I am answering for the Friends of Robinswood Hill I will restrict this answer to the Country Park. The Coronavirus pandemic has reinforced how highly important Robinswood Hill is to our city. People stated on our Facebook page how much they valued the space to exercise and clear their heads during the stressful lockdown period. The hill is large so gives space for people to find their own place of peace which isn't always possible in a smaller open space. The carpark area is well serviced with outdoor play and bbqs to encourage people to get out in the fresh air. Maybe more links to the bigger hill would encourage people to explore more as in publication of leaflets for the trails, interpretation boards around the hill explaining, history, wildlife etc. Maybe a sculpture trail?	Yes although probably Robinswood Hill doesn't need more trees. If trees are planted they should be considered for different reasons eg stunning blossom, berries for wildlife,	Friends' groups are not easy to keep going as people will join but few want to commit to helping in its organisation. However the Friends of Robinswood Hill's Working Party is very popular and as well as people getting exercise is also a valuable social event. It has been able to restart with limited numbers and we do hope in the near future numbers participating will be able to increase. Litter picking is sadly a necessity and it would be great to see a much tougher line on littering in the country park (and city wide). Maybe a campaign to change people's attitudes to littering is required. Litter picking is a waste of the Ranger's skills and time.	Does disposal mean selling for housing? Don't think you would want to put any new allotments/veg growing near busy roads e.g. EL5. M01 would benefit from new railings and tree reduction to open out the space and encourage use. Maybe some play equipment and seating and protection for the monument.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support of the strategy objectives.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you. However, this area is a highway verge under the control of Glos County Council and is not a designated open space.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments re Robinswood Hill are noted. There are plans to further improve family-friendly trails and waymarked routes around the hill as part of the ongoing management plan for the country park. A routes leaflet is available to download online at <a href="https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/media/1749/robinswood-hill-leaflet.pdf">https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/media/1749/robinswood-hill-leaflet.pdf</a>	<b>Response:</b> Trees are planted as part of the country park's ongoing management plan, to provide a continuation of native tree cover and to replace those lost or removed through old age, inappropriate species choice or disease.	<b>Response:</b> The council acknowledges the importance of the time and efforts given by Friends groups across the city, without whom many aspects of green space management would not be possible.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your suggestions for those sites.

					Littering is an ongoing issue and the council is always looking at ways to educate people to use bins and recycle wherever possible.	
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
27.	Yes We would like to see more local allotments and more trees.	Other (please specify) We think so.	Provide amenity areas for allotments, recreation, team sports and play areas. Open spaces should be managed to provide a diverse habitat for wildlife. 'Outdoor gym equipment' that is easy to use would encourage fitness. Living in Abbeymead I walked to the office at Barnwood, the shops, doctors, dentists and pharmacies at Saint Bridge, Hucclecote, Abbeydale and Abbeymead. One of the delights in living in this part of the city is being able to minimise walking alongside the main roads by using the footpaths, open spaces and cul-de-sacs to get around.  When walking around the city I notice the changes in the seasons, buds appearing, leaves sprouting, flowers and fruits appearing, autumn colours appearing and the leaves falling. Each day I noticed the birds I often saw black birds, sparrows, collared doves, house martins and swallows and on very rarely occasions saw I saw a woodpecker, kingfisher, or a little egret. My favourites arboretums are those towards North Upton Close in King George V playing field and at Barnwood Park	Yes. We must do these things so that we have a planet that can support us and a pleasant environment in which to live. We must support biodiversity and build local resilience.	By telling people that they can join a group that cares for their favourite places or a place near their home that it is free to join and that by joining they will be kept informed of activities. As a member of the "Friends of Barnwood Arboretum" I enjoyed planting trees and pruning them. It is a pleasure to see trees that you planted or pruned thrive.	Can these spaces be utilised for allotments or the planting of trees?
	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments and for supporting the city's open spaces.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> There is potential for some of the sites identified to be used for these purposes.
28.	Yes GL Communities works in partnership with a number of agencies covering areas such as Matson and Robinswood, White City, Coney Hill, Podsmead and Tuffley. Community consultation undertaken every year shows how much green spaces in the city are valued by the community so we welcome the City Council having a strategy to support the development of green spaces.	Yes	Open spaces are very valued by the community for a full range of uses from sports through to the creation of spaces that increase wildlife in the city. Use of these spaces can be improved through partnership working with local agencies, particularly at the current time of Covid 19 where community activities are better organised outdoors.	yes		We would very much like to work with the City Council on the development of Evans Walk and Rectory Road Gardens as these adjoin two of our buildings and although small spaces could be better designed to maximise their use.

	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support of the strategy objectives.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.		<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments on Matson open spaces are noted.
29.	Yes I feel there is a lack of attention given to connecting green spaces across the city, particularly by means of active travel. Also, I would like to see consideration of creating green space in situ, for example, transforming car parks as was the plan for the Ladybellegate car park, and reverting St Michael's square back into public gardens. I would also like to see the green space - bowling club - between Eastgate Market and the library opened up permanently and utilised as green space, particularly given the substantial increase to the density of urban living surrounding these spaces.	Other (please specify) The playing field adjacent Deans Way (via Deans Row) was omitted.	Green spaces provide people places to exercise, socialise, and to connect with and be inspired by nature. They also mitigate environmental pressures such as air pollution, flooding and provide cool spaces during heat waves. The best way to promote them is to enable everyone to have access, regardless of age and physical ability. However, at present people are put off by busy roads which are dangerous, polluted and noisy.	I support these objectives as long as they are clearly explained to the public using message boards and promoted to local schools and other organisations as educational resources. See, for example, how the urban parks of Amsterdam are utilised: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Secondary-schools-in-Amsterdam-and-available-public-green-spaces_fig5_283165378">https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Secondary-schools-in-Amsterdam-and-available-public-green-spaces_fig5_283165378</a>	I feel the local energy and resource is available, it just needs more publicity, for example, flyers around town and the docks. I think there needs to be a permanent community hub for people to join up, gather and be educated. The old bowling club in the centre would make a perfect place for a sustainability hub.	If new "uses" could not be found then as a bare minimum all of these sites should be maximised for their value as ecosystem services, particularly pollinators and wildlife, flood mitigation and Gloucester's future resilience to climate change.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments. Your views re city centre green spaces are noted.	<b>Response:</b> This is KW1 – Dean's Way Meadow, which is included in the strategy.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you for the link. The city council is happy for its green spaces to be used for educational purposes. Primary and Secondary education in Gloucestershire comes under the county council's remit, so the city council does not have any direct input to curriculum planning.	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments are noted, thank you.
30.	Yes "Facilitate frequent contact with the natural world"- Could this be 'Encourage frequent contact' instead? Make it more appealing to make use of the green spaces? "Increased tree planting"- Could this be broader in terms of not just planting trees? Living walls etc? The idea of using green space to link new communities and get communities involved in taking responsibility for and helping maintain green spaces is really exciting. "Invest in developing high quality open spaces"- This is admirable but I think that 'developing' would be a step beyond where many open spaces are at the moment as some need	Other (please specify) Small spaces such as St Oswald's priory which attracts young people as a gathering space but could be more... accommodating? Large spaces like the old boating lake and are behind St Oswald's- currently looking a little neglected. Is there an opportunity here to make it a functioning space?... When it isn't flooded of course.	For many living in the city centre (including myself) public green spaces are substitute gardens. Potential for socially distanced group seating is a big appeal as it means safe socialising without being indoors and needing a mask.	YES! I think that that it is worth considering the use of 'living walls' also that could be constructed by and then 'planted' in communities. The communities could even decide the plants that they would like featured. Attracting insects and challenging CO2 production.	Communication. I am not sure how I found out about this survey but this has been the first time that I have noticed being asked for input. I think if more people knew that there opinion was sought then there would be more feedback. I am VERY keen to help in any way that I can.	EL7 – Horton Rd Cemetery- inaccessible due to fencing within the cemetery itself. Could this be a wildlife project for St Peter's primary? WE8 – Jubilee Gardens- I would like to see this combined with the bowling green (that is now in quite a sorry state) and turned into some sort of community gathering space or youth club. Young people have very few safe spaces to convene where they don't cause complaints from members of the community who feel intimidated.

	'maintaining' before they can be further developed... if that makes sense. I look forward to the consultation to identify new spaces for investment.					
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments.	<b>Response:</b> The spaces mentioned (WE3, WE1) are included in the strategy and could be part of future improvement projects, subject to available funding streams.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for the suggestion. Living walls are a positive environmental solution, but perhaps more relevant for other urban settings, such as buildings, rather than in open spaces which have more limited wall-space.	<b>Response:</b> The city council uses social media to publicise its work, as well as more traditional forms of communication. The council supports many voluntary groups and organisations across the city and would welcome your involvement.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your suggestions re Horton Rd cemetery and Jubilee Gardens.  Following the approval of the strategy, a list of priority sites for further study into other uses will be drawn up.
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
31.	Yes It seems very vague and woolly. I could find very few concrete proposals except in the final appendix. The document is very long and off-putting and requires a big commitment to wade through. I would have welcomed a much shorter version with clear proposals.	Yes	Vital, for fresh air, greenery and exercise, especially when something such as Covid happens. Open space, greenery, wildlife, nature. Leave them alone as much as possible, don't over-develop.	Yes, definitely.	Support for local groups especially their publicity. Information boards in green spaces eg more information about wildlife, how to feed ducks properly, discouraging rats. Where they exist, information boards about eg the purpose of balancing ponds are generally good. Consultation and communication, but please make it simple and accessible.	I do not support disposal unless a site is dangerous. Gloucester does not have anywhere near the recommended amount of open space. I support the use of funds to develop open spaces where provision is currently low. CH5 Savernake Road - Friendship Cafe already have excellent community involvement, ask them if they would like to manage allotments/food growing. EL5 Cross Keys/TU8 Grange Road - why would you think about disposal if these spaces could be used for food growing??
	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for the comments re: communication and information sharing.	<b>Response:</b> Disposal is the last option the council would consider for the open spaces identified; we would prefer to see increased/alternative uses where possible. Your suggestions re CH5/EL5 and TU8 are noted, thank you.
32.	Yes I think it is extremely important to have our open	Other (please specify) I hope you have. :-)	My open space is the brook outside my house in GL4. Important things are: the brook has been re-routed and revamped to lessen the likelihood of flooding; moorhens	Yes, to all of that.	I have been a volunteer litter picker for some years in the area just	Apologies, I have not looked at these.

	spaces, to value and maintain them. I support this.		are nesting there, whereas they never did before the works were done in the brook area; I saw a broad bodied chaser dragonfly in my garden a few months ago but had never seen one before the brook works were done; Himalayan Balsam has started growing in the area, whereas it never did previously - one of my friends and I have pulled it up; people are sitting by the brook, having a picnic or just relaxing, whereas adults never did this previously; more children now play in the brook and around the ponds, which is good on the one hand but slightly concerning on the other, as they often bring little fishing nets and containers with them and I suspect that the wildlife caught is not returned to the ponds. I look forward to the planting of wildflowers and trees to replace the ones that have died. At the moment, the area looks a bit bare.		outside my house, by the brook and all the ponds. I used to do the litter-picking because the litter spoiled my view. Then the diggers came along and ruined my view completely. I have just started to do some litter-picking again, after not bothering for some time. Ellie Eamer at the Council has been helpful in the past, when I have to arrange for litter to be collected. Not sure what else could be done, really.	
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support of the strategy objectives.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for letting us have your comments and concerns.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for undertaking litter picking in your community space, it is very much appreciated.	<b>Response:</b> -
33.	Yes I live close to Gloucester City Park and in line with the OSS key objectives I think the quality should be improved. New Aviary, fountain repaired and working again, a cafe and toilets and revived skate Park, some colour in the flower beds. It looks run down and drab. This Park represents the whole City and is well used and loved. It should be a Green Flag Park and should be something the city can be proud of and visitors delighted by.	Yes	Immeasurable! Especially when living in the city Centre. To see a beautiful green open space lifts the spirits. It's great for the health, seeing people walking, running, relaxing, playing. I love walking my dog and relaxing with family and friends. I think there are many improvements that could be made to Gloucester City Park to make it more aesthetically pleasing and more things for people to do. It could be amazing and it's not. A beacon for visitors to the city and place of pride for the city.	Yes, definitely. I think the lockdown has shown us more than ever how invaluable our green spaces are and given us a greater awareness of environmental issues. We should be investing for the future.	We have set up a Friends of Gloucester Park Group (FROGP) and would welcome the Councils support and help with finding funding for projects.	While I fully appreciate the need for development I can only speak from experience of living in the city centre where we have been flooded with flats with little concern for the affects on the existing residents. Small areas that had trees and benches and plants have gone and these are so important among high density populations and to wildlife so I would urge that these things be considered before developing everywhere. Sorry I can't specify sites but I'm afraid of losing the survey if I go off it!
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your general support and specific comments re Gloucester Park, which are noted.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> The council is happy to work with the Friends of Gloucester Park.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments are noted.
34.	Yes Can the vision say that planning policies should protect and seek	Yes	The Canal & River Trust has long promoted our towpath as multi-functional green infrastructure and we are increasingly promoting it as a free to use resource for active travel and to improve mental health and well-being.	yes	The Canal & River Trust have a Friends group and active volunteers on the Gloucester & Sharpness	No comment

	improvement of existing open space? Can the vision say that communities and partnership working should be used to manage develop and fund open space improvements?		The trust would welcome discussions on partnership working to best achieve this.		canal but would also welcome discussions on how we can best work together to promote, increase and support volunteer activity and reach out to all communities within the city council area.	
	<p><b>Response:</b> We have added 'protect' to the open space strategy Vision:</p> <p><i>Vision - To create, maintain <b>and protect</b> a diverse network of good quality, sustainable and accessible open spaces which serve the needs and aspirations of the residents of Gloucester, facilitate frequent contact with the natural world and help tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.</i></p> <p>One of the strategy objectives already includes reference to working with partners and the community.</p>	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> The council acknowledges the significance of the Gloucester to Sharpness Canal as a valuable open space resource to the city and would be happy to further discuss partnership working opportunities with the Trust.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, the council welcomes increased partnership and volunteer working opportunities.	<b>Response:</b> -
35.	No The paper does not mention the role of Gloucester City Housing, and other Housing Associations, which controls a lot of small open spaces in the City. How will they be bought into the ecological and recreational plans? Also, schools have big areas open space, not controlled by the City Council but important in improving biodiversity.	Other (please specify) You have missed: The Barnwood Rest Garden at the junction of Barnwood Road and Armscroft Road (51°51'55.2"N 2°13'03.0"W). The open space at the back of Kingsholm Court and Kingsholm Square (51°52'27.5"N 2°14'32.8"W). This is the site of the old Roman Fort. The Rest Garden at the junction of Worcester Street and Skinner Street (51°52'11.8"N 2°14'31.8"W).	The fact that that the space is open a offers views and a variety of terrain. Somewhere to walk and play away from the traffic.	Yes. We need more bee friendly planting. A couple of lavender bushes provides a huge resource for spittlebugs (philaenus spumarius), bees, and shelter for birds and small mammals.	Restart the volunteer website Engage in Gloucester. Encourage Councillors to organise regular litter picks. Consultation/engagement on each ward's green spaces.	For Kingsholm Ward you should include the Skinner Street Rest Garden. The issue of Public Safety should be addressed for in the paper and for individual sites. Anti-social behaviour and crime incidences uses of PSPOs etc.
	<b>Response:</b> The city council does not manage the areas owned by housing	<b>Response:</b> The Barnwood site referred	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> The Engage in Gloucester website is not	<b>Response:</b> The Skinner St/Kingsholm Rd area is a small highway amenity

	<p>associations and the smaller amenity spaces in and around social housing areas are not generally part of the formal open space network, so would not be covered by the Open Space Strategy. However, the city council does encourage all landowners to increase biodiversity in their green areas wherever possible.</p>	<p>to is the Cross Keys Rest garden, ref EL5.</p> <p>Kingsholm Square is a private green space owned by the residents and is not open to the public.</p> <p>The Skinner St/Kingsholm Rd area is a small highway amenity space with street trees, around 0.02ha (200m<sup>2</sup>) in size, owned by Gloucestershire County Council, and is not identified as a formal public open space.</p>			<p>owned or run by the city council.</p> <p>Many Ward councillors are proactive in respect of promoting community consultation and engagement.</p>	<p>space with street trees, around 0.02ha (200m<sup>2</sup>) in size, owned by Gloucestershire County Council, and is not identified as a formal public open space.</p>
	<p>Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.</p>	<p>2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?</p>	<p>3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?</p>	<p>4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?</p>	<p>5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?</p>	<p>6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.</p>
36.	<p>Yes need to strengthen the objectives within the document they need to be more specific and state the you 'will' do things rather than 'encourage', encouragement doesn't deliver specific quantifiable or measurable outputs or outcomes .. ie x number or trees planted, or new volunteers engaged.? Any objectives on developing partnership projects with the GWLT? to get in funding? Although planning sites dont deliver great numbers or land spaces they are key in connectivity and creating corridors, for biodiversity and together do add up.. this needs to be considered.. ivy on roadside railings to absorb pollution.. new tree planting on new developments to create shade and offset temperature rise....etc</p>	<p>Other (please specify) no comment</p>	<p>biodiversity and green space, space to exercise but not necessarily team sports</p>	<p>absolutely..more</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Planting wildlife and recreation</p>
	<p><b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments are noted. It is considered that the objectives, as set out, provide</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> -</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> ✓</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> ✓</p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.</p>

	a framework to enable the council to achieve the outcomes mentioned.					
37.	Yes Looks comprehensive. It is pleasing to see continued development of play, sport and outdoor activity/leisure time.	Other (please specify) I have seen it as a city wide perspective.	Physical and mental activity, health and wellbeing are vital in indoor and outdoor settings, for the benefit of all those in our communities. They will be utilised to their potential if they are well-maintained, seen and perceived as being safe places to be/dwell and are actively advertised as such, as part of an 'active and healthy lifestyle'	Yes	By playing an active role alongside the community to lead in effective maintenance, development and promotion of safety of outdoor spaces	The key is to ensure that all open spaces, regardless of their uses, are effectively and consistently well maintained/kept clear of litter/well lit.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Acknowledged, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.
38.	No	Yes	Sense of community among users of the space; promoting respect/tolerance amongst users of the space	Only to a certain extent; this must not be used as a justification for allowing open spaces to lapse into disrepair. Any proposals for change (eg reduced maintenance) to a specific open space should be made by explicit agreement with that local community	Set out what a friends group can do (some should be after discussion with the council (eg tree pruning), and some should be able to be done without reference to council (eg bramble clearance), so that a friends group understands what organisational and physical help is available from the council and what limits are placed on the activities of a friends group. Perhaps a Friends Charter could be developed.	No comments
	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>
39.	Yes Severn Trent is particularly supportive of Objective bullet point 2 relating to water management. We would note that open green spaces sometime offer the only suitable locations to undertake flood alleviation, in some cases it is possible for flood alleviation schemes to enhance local green spaces by increasing amenity and biodiversity. As such Severn Trent would recommend that the following wording is included within your plan: Development of flood resilience schemes within areas of local green spaces will be supported provided the schemes do not adversely	Other (please specify) N/A	N/A	Yes, Severn Trent is supportive of implementation of such measures.	N/A	N/A

	impact the primary function of the green space.					
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you. The council is satisfied that support for the inclusion or addition of SUDS/GI infrastructure within green spaces is covered in the strategy.	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
40.	Yes To ensure if dogs are allowed on open spaces, that owners tidy up or pick up poo after there animals. Ensure there are adequate bins.	Yes	helps if people have no garden or small gardens where people can play or enjoy .	yes	haven enough bins where people can put there rubbish in. places like Robins wood hill need to be inspected and other parks where a lot of young people frequent and leave the gas cannisters all the time.	
	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments are noted, thank you.	-
41.	No	No	They provide safe, free places for people to socialise, people to exercise, people to have a quiet space to breathe and a safe place for children to play.	Definitely. Wild flowers, perennial borders, trees and water can only be a good thing for the climate and environment as well as our well-being and comfort.	Better promotion of things like free tennis and sports courts as well as city wide promotion of the different green spaces around the city and the different facilities and opportunities these spaces have.	I have no idea
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	-
42.	Yes Looking at the scorings most of the parks have a medium rating. As a user of these parks I disagree with these ratings. Many of the parks have a neglected feel to them, grounds overgrown with weeds, dirty and equipment broken and not useable by the younger demographic. As the parks have a feel of disrepair to them this doesn't promote respect and the parks are therefore abused more. Many just need a good clean and paint to make them feel more inviting and not barren. Gloucester Park in particular,	Yes	Looking at the scorings most of the parks have a medium rating. As a user of these parks I disagree with these ratings. Many of the parks have a neglected feel to them, grounds overgrown with weeds, dirty and equipment broken and not useable by the younger demographic. As the parks have a feel of disrepair to them this doesn't promote respect and the parks are therefore abused more. Many just need a good clean and paint to make them feel more inviting and not barren. Gloucester Park in particular, if the play park was freshened up, the aviary cleaned and revamped and the paths relayed and widened would significantly raise the profile of Gloucesters central park area.	Yes, as Gloucester is turning into a concrete jungle having more green space, trees and wild areas reminds our generations how important having these things are. In particular many gardens are now being paved over, artificial grass to become low maintenance. The Council offsetting this in our public areas would be a massive help to our environment.	The Council need to lead from the front with the ward councillors speaking to the constituents and getting them involved. There is a view that the council should be taking care of everything (city and county included) and as we pay taxes why should we have to do what is perceived as a council job. The Council need to help the public realise that by doing their bit evokes community spirit and positivity in the areas. There is already a lady who does litter	

	if the play park was freshened up, the aviary cleaned and revamped and the paths relayed and widened would significantly raise the profile of Gloucester's central park area.					picking and she has got a few others involved. She may be helpful in understanding problem areas and what can be done to help. There was also a project in the Barton street area to reduce fly tipping. This had a huge backing but needs more support to keep it going. One off events or vague support will rally the troops for a short while but it needs to be kept up and communications continued to keep people involved and get more people to support any initiatives put In place.	
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments, which are noted. The assessment criteria are set out in the open space strategy.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted. The assessment criteria are set out in the open space strategy.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Your comments are noted, thank you.	-	
43.	Yes	No	Seating areas near plants that smell nice, bird boxes in trees, perhaps grasses flowing in the wind. This should help with mindfulness. Perhaps smaller seats for young children. Not everyone enjoys the outside so you can do so much. I walk our dog on the lower end of the field as all the play area is at the other end.	YES at last..Please leave blackberrybushes they are not weeds but food for the wildlife.	I live in Podsmead and unless you pay them or there is something in it for them ....like most areas i dont think the people who are so called community workers actually want the community involved I dont know what is happening in Podsmead so how do you get the message out to ALL residents.	Ask residents what they would like give them chance to fill out form then go from there Also ask for helpers on the form.	
	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your comments.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, brambles are a valuable wildlife food plant and are generally only controlled within open spaces when they impede on the function of the space or access routes.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	
44.	No	No	Place for children to play	Yes	Litter picking	Sport	
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> Agreed.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	
45.	Yes	Reference is made to the Playing Pitch Strategy. This needs updating as the City's growth projection is not reflected in that and it is now 5 years out of date. The	Specific Comment re formal sports: The strategy needs to allow all sports to develop and flourish which requires sufficient pitch availability for games and training facilities.		Gloucester City Hockey Club to become key/anchor user at a designated site to give ownership to members		

		opportunity afforded to existing and future members of Gloucester City Hockey Club needs to be accommodated including not only the existing teams and training, summer camps for youngsters, 'back to hockey' but also new opportunities such as walking/less able hockey				
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> The population growth figures for the city won't have changed significantly from the 2015 projection.	<b>Response:</b> Pitch provision and availability is set out within the council's playing pitch strategy (PPS), which is updated regularly via the PPS Delivery Group, which includes representatives from England Hockey and Sport England.	-	<b>Response:</b> Further dialogue with the hockey club is welcomed.	-
46.	Yes	Other (please specify) You have included overgrown, muddy wet poor Footpath with a disgustingly silted up stagnant 'stream' QS8 as 'open space' which it quite blatantly isn't. Not fit for children to play on at all. Shocking you have included this.	It would be nice to actually have some REAL open space in Quedgeley Severn Vale rather than infrequent small patches of green.	Yes	Try providing some real green space	
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> QS8 forms the 2km long Canalside Park open space, which runs parallel to the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal. This is a designated public open space and connects with larger green spaces such as Fisher's Meadow, Green Farm Orchard and Clearwater Drive.	<b>Response:</b> Quedgeley Severnvale housing development was built in the late 1980s and early 1990s under Stroud District Council before becoming part of Gloucester City under the boundary review in 1991. The smaller green spaces were created as part of the approved planning development of the area, as well as a linear 'Canalside Park', which connected to other green spaces, such as Green Farm Orchard (Local Nature Reserve), Clearwater Drive POS, Field Court Drive and Dimore Playing Field (now called Fisher's Meadow) as well as the Bristol Rd Recreation Ground, which provide space for sport and playing pitches.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted. See comments in column to the left.	-
47.	No	Yes	Open spaces are meeting places, areas for exercise, and places to help mental health. Their importance cannot and should not be underestimated.	Yes - Plock Court is a good example.	More signage/communication	
	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response: -</b>
48.	Yes Continue tree planting, create wild flower areas	No	They are the lungs of the city and must be protected.	Yes	Friends groups, involvement of local schools	X
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Thank you	<b>Response:</b> Noted.	<b>Response: -</b>

49.	Yes	Yes	Space to meet, exercise and enjoy nature or even just being outside	Yes	I don't know	Mixed use: done play spaces but also gardens that are attractive to walk through and encourage bees etc
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: Thank you.</b>	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: Thank you for your suggestions.</b>
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
50.	No	No	Necessary for mental health. Without being able to go for walks in my local green spaces since Covid 19 I think I would of gone crazy.	Yes definitely	By setting up volunteer groups	N/a
	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Response:</b>
51.	No	Yes	My little boy being able to run around and play, I would love them to be litter free/tidier for young children	Yes	Better communication with teens and people with English as an additional language to convey the importance of cleanliness in our local area	
	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: Noted.</b>	<b>Response: Thank you.</b>	<b>Response: Noted, thank you.</b>	
52.	No	Yes	<p>It's important to have them well maintained if they're parks in a city. Fountains and water in park working. Vibrant feel with plenty of variety. Bring play rangers with equipment/beach day in school holidays. Open a locally sourced vibrant cafe with fresh cakes, artisan breads and sandwiches. A proper nicely organised seating area. Many businesses would use park then at lunchtimes giving people a break. Try to link up park and quays in some way between Spa Road. Gloucester is deserving of a park it can be proud of. Resurface and tidy up paths by cricket ground and Queen Anne or Mary? Statue - at moment it's a space not utilised well. Paint railings, cancel fireworks and use these funds towards improving park. Plus, personally cancel fair from the park as it creates poor atmosphere. Have live music on the band stand or mini festival.</p> <p>I was involved in a multi-cultural festival here years ago and did a salsa demonstration. There was Indian dancing, belly dancing, street and it was so busy a lovely atmosphere children and all ages performing. This park has so much potential for our community and is central to the city. Love Robinswood Hill regularly go here with my family picking blackberries, riding bikes. Also wonderful to see poppies at Alney Island a beautiful space. Also love Arboretum at Barnwood and can see wonderful conservation work going on here too. Also park at Elmbridge is a wonderful varied space. We are very fortunate in Gloucester but feel city park is disappointing</p>	Yes definitely and love the natural environment this creates	Organise a proper committee for Gloucester City Park and have diversity, environment, community as its central aims. How for example did Pittville Park in Cheltenham receive its funding for improvements and transformations? If Gloucester Park was improved a cafe would thrive like the ones on Cheltenham Pittville. I have seen these busy winter and summer as atmosphere seating, picnic areas are lovely. A working committee could work towards improving this space for our city.	Will need to find strategy but there should always be principles and expectations about what meets criteria of supporting community, diversity, environment.

			considering wonderful developments currently happening. Canal paths and walks out to Maisemore are wonderful. Sometimes though pass a lot of rubbish left from people camping in bushes again such a shame for the city.			
	<b>Response: -</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Your comments re; Gloucester Park and other green spaces are noted, thank you.  Events held in Gloucester Park (and on other Open Spaces within the City) are not generally funded or directly facilitated by the Council. The Council does however authorise appropriate events when approached by outside bodies. Your comments will be forwarded to the Council's Events Committee for their information/consideration.	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Noted, there is a 'Friends of Gloucester Park' group and the council welcomes further dialogue with residents and other stakeholders regarding improvements to The Park and other open spaces across the city.	<b>Response: ✓</b>
53.	Yes	Yes	Space away from traffic, the city etc. Places for exercise and quiet time. Well marked walking routes of differing lengths and variety as well as local information would be improvements. Litter needs to be seriously managed.	Yes	Creating or financially supporting groups who are already looking after areas eg saintsbridge pond. Creating & supporting childrens groups for educating them how to use outdoor spaces. Incentive litter picks or crack down harder on those who leave bbqs/bottles and cans etc. Send out seeds and things for free if someone applies for them so they can create wildflower areas	Better promotion and encouragement of how they can have an impact on physical and mental health
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Your comments are noted, thank you.	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your suggestions.	<b>Response: ✓</b>
54.	Yes Why no focus on the Westgate area, particularly as this once was a well-attended boat lake, with pitch and putt. We have nothing in Gloucester like this and would be a considerable aspect to focus on regenerating. With key high value park and open spaces, I believe community groups should work more closely together and be given the opportunity to develop and maintain these areas more, this would get more people involved long-term.	Other (please specify) Westgate lake and green that one held pitch and putt. Also, Linden area needs an improvement, the overthrowing weeds on public footpaths around alma place could be removed and an allotment area built for residents.	Well-being, relaxing, enjoyment of bringing people together and using what's provided. More focus on cross aged equipment, adults love parks too and can't just be Gloucester park!	Yes and again community involvement would be keen and willing to help in this.	Community champions, people who care for their local area are the people who will be most passionate. Why can't the council create a Gloucester in bloom style competition too, so that different area showcase their area, people will help if they feel valued and have the power to change things. A friends group could be helpful and create good areas that quickly improve and take away often lengthy process of the council having to act.	I agree with the proposals, however as stated bring back Westgate Park as a place for all to enjoy, create a space for fun, enjoyment and as it once was.

	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments are noted in respect of Westgate Park.	<b>Response:</b> Westgate Park is ref: WE1 in the strategy.  Pavement maintenance would come under Glos Highway remit. If there is an issue with overgrown pavements in Linden this should be reported to them. Allotment sites are available across Gloucester, there would not be space at Alma Place open space for any allotments.	<b>Response:</b> Noted. Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Your suggestions have been noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Noted.
55.	No	Yes	Green-ness, sense of space and trees are good for mental health. Physical fitness opportunity. Casual interactions can promote neighbourliness for young families and dog walkers especially. Benches might be beneficial for older residents but accept there is a problem with misuse.	Yes both for the climate change and biodiversity reasons but also because they improve appearance. Compare Barnwood Park and Arboretum (interesting, wildlife friendly, visually attractive) with Hucclecote's George V playing field (bit barren and boring) which doesn't seem to get a lot of sports team use actually.	Kick start volunteer litter picking groups. I would volunteer as part of a regular session at George V playing field. Community Centre in Hucclecote with outside noticeboard and website.	
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Sports pitches across the city's open spaces are generally fully utilised by local sports teams with few spare allocations. There is scope in a lot of spaces to accommodate both sports use and wildlife friendly planting, King George V field would be a good example of this.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	
56.	No	Yes	Since covid our parks are more used than ever before, exercise and fresh air are essential for mental health	yes		
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -
57.	Yes more all-weather 3G sports football cages, improved play apparatus (Cheltenham Pitville is a good example), more outdoor gym equipment, water fountains, better litter picking and dog control in parks open spaces	No	more all-weather 3G sports football cages, improved play apparatus (Cheltenham Pitville is a good example), more outdoor gym equipment, water fountains, better litter picking and dog control in parks open spaces	yes	more all weather 3g sports football cages, improved play apparatus (Cheltenham pitville is a good example), more outdoor gym equipment, water fountains, better litter picking and dog control in parks open spaces	more all weather 3g sports football cages, improved play apparatus (Cheltenham pitville is a good example), more outdoor gym equipment, water fountains, better litter picking and dog control in parks open spaces
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments are noted.	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> See left	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> See left	<b>Response:</b> See left
58.	Yes	Yes	Provision for community to interact with and experience nature as well as space to play whether formally in sport or informally.	Yes.	Raise awareness of open spaces' need for a level of community ownership, assist with facilitating Friends groups.	Ask the people who live adjacent to them before considering disposal. Many areas of amenity land are used informally, it may not be obvious to

						identify their uses with consulting local people. For example, land on Needham Avenue is used for play and to exercise pets, despite the nearness of Waterwells playing field. There is value to local people in a patch of open grass that is far more important for quality of life than yet another development opportunity.
	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments are noted.
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
59.	Yes Would it not be more sensible to publish an abbreviated version with the salient points for members of the public to read? Facing a 104-page document is very daunting for someone like myself who is happy to plough through it and will be totally off-putting for less literate or busy people.	Other (please specify) This is a ridiculous question: answering 'Yes' could mean the spaces have been included or it could mean some have been missed.	Open spaces mean it is possible to walk, sit or play in natural environments, away from traffic and the pollution that that brings. Open spaces enable people to relax, realise the importance of nature and our relationship with it.  Open spaces, such as parks etc, should not be used to house funfairs etc as these destroy the ecosystems that are living in them, and cause a lot of noise pollution that shouldn't be in that environment. There are brown field sites that should be used for such events.	As the OSS clearly states, the City is severely lacking in green spaces compared with the national minimum guidelines and 91% of the existing green spaces are substandard. I therefore fully support any measures to improve wildlife and green spaces.	I have co-founded a local litter picking group for primary school aged children. The Council could help by donating hi-vis jackets, gloves, litter pickers, hoops and collecting bags. At the moment we borrow some equipment from Quedgeley Town Council, who have generously bought some small jackets and gloves for the tiniest members. However it is a hassle having to coordinate collecting and returning the equipment.	As the City is already lacking in open / green space for residents, I think using any site for an alternative use should be avoided. The Council should be looking to increase the spaces available as well as invest in improving all existing spaces.
	<b>Response:</b> The document contains a two-page executive summary (p.4-5) which outlines the strategy.  It would be difficult to distil all the information down into a smaller document, but a short summary or infographic could be produced post-adoption, to disseminate the main points of the strategy in a more user-friendly format.	<b>Response:</b> Accept that the wording of this question is ambiguous.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your views are noted.	<b>Response:</b> The city's open spaces provide 4.28ha per 1000 residents, which is well over the national (Fields in Trust) benchmark standard of 2.4ha per 1000.  However, the city's provision for children's play, youth facilities, playing pitches and allotment provision do fall below the national benchmark levels.  In terms of the quality assessment, only 20% of the council's 150+ green spaces were considered of 'Low' quality, requiring some improvement.  We note your support for wildlife and green space improvements, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> Litter picking equipment can also be loaned by the city council, but this would not be as convenient in terms of location as the Town Council office.  There should be grant funding available for litter picking equipment (e.g., Keep Britain Tidy, or other bodies providing community funding).	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comment is noted.

60.	Yes Agree with them, especially protecting spaces from future development and managing for climate change.	Yes	Space for wellbeing, fresh air and exercise. Provide high quality spaces, plus lots of activities within them - encourage small scale events, workshops, outdoor learning to take place there.	Absolutely	Make it so that informal activity/maintenance sessions are held regularly, with an experienced person to direct/lead the activity. Don't expect the community to do everything, give them support and provide resources for assistance. Some friends groups can feel a bit intimidating and cliquy, which puts people off.	Food growing, orchard, tree planting
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> The city council does provide support, including supervision and advice, when approached by Friends Groups but we currently do not have the resources/staff to organise a proactive programme of maintenance or activities on open spaces. We will continue to provide support and seek additional funding where possible.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.
61.	Yes Open spaces definitely need to be maintained and where possible additional open spaces and allotments should be created for the residents in these areas. The benefits of local open space allotments have been a complete lifeline for all communities during lockdown and ever since. The benefits have been multiple for health physical and mental for all who have had access to them.	Other (please specify) Land between each new development should have open space for wildlife, play and leisure space to relax outside of the homes. The park's departure in the 1960'-Late 1990's provided a much enhance a quality and respect for the communities with swaths of colour. Due to cut backs we had to settle for wild seeds along our dual carriageway and neglected roundabouts. If you could boost employment for the young by creating jobs as plants people grass cutters in house	The pandemic should have certainly focused the council's mind and quiet simply highlighted every conceivable reason why open space matters.	Totally. But we also need structure displays that alter with the seasons.	Stop off-loading council responsibilities to volunteers and trades bidders. Stand up increase the rates for all residents and take charge yourselves you have the inverstructure you've lost your way spending funding on employing companies For lengthy reports & consultations that don't result in action. Take charge that's what people voted for not you to pass the buck.	Stop talking take action make things happen. This council has been stale for the past 7 years you have a new leader take charge stop the talking act.

		instead of bids by companies who have no respect for our magnificent city just how much money they can make from the council purse to keep themselves afloat .				
	<b>Response:</b> The strategy sets out that it is difficult to create new open spaces within Gloucester's densely built form and tightly defined boundary. However, whenever opportunities arise for new open spaces or allotments, the council will seek to secure these, either provided direct by housing developers or via financial contributions.	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> The council will continue to focus its resources on delivering sustainable, native planting schemes, which will benefit biodiversity and reflect seasonal changes.	<b>Response:</b> Your comment is noted.	<b>Response:</b> Your comment is noted.
62.	Yes Overall this document provides movement in the right direction. From experience with Green Abbey (Clocktower Park, Abbeydale/Abbeymead) I would like to see clear protocols around local consultation when there are big redevelopment plans in local green spaces, as well as joined up thinking around mowing regimes. I would welcome more support, for community groups who are considering moving towards Green Flag status. A mix of things would be welcome - expertise to support with developing a management plan; financial (only small grants needed); communication so that the local group and the council are on the same page. New community groups may need support with getting an appropriate structure together - insurance, constitution etc.	Other (please specify) Yes but the wide verge along Bittern Avenue is in danger of being forgotten as it is officially Barnwood Ward and Clocktower Park but feels like it is part of Abbeydale, being across the brook. There is huge potential here for management for wildlife, changing the mowing regime to just mow a wide margin rather than the whole area.	Critical - both for human wellbeing and for biodiversity as well as the broader climate crisis. Lockdown underlined this for us as we all discovered how important our local green spaces are to us.	Yes, absolutely.	I already chair a new 'Friends group' called Green Abbey. We would value a jointly discussed management strategy to ensure that the local group and council are working towards the same goals. A small scale annual grant would be valued to, to cover insurance and some tool and/or plant purchase.	I am concerned about building development on flood plain though conscious that they are Tewkesbury area - any increase in flooding will be felt in the city though. The list on p99-100 are not local enough for me to be confident commenting in detail, though I will always support anything that both increased biodiversity and encourages community use - blended space.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your comments re consultation,	<b>Response:</b> Agreed and noted. The Bittern Ave	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> The Council is keen to work with	<b>Response:</b> Noted.

	support for community groups and Green Flag applications are noted.	linear green space (part of BA1) would benefit from a more wildlife-friendly approach to its management.			community and Friends groups to improve maintenance of green space. We are happy to devise shared management plans, as we have on a number of sites, and to agree roles and responsibilities. Any commitment to provide annual grants would be dependent on available funding.	
63.	Yes It's great that the City Council is doing this work and notes the importance of opens and green spaces.	Yes	The strategy clearly describes the role that open spaces play in people's wellbeing both from a physical and mental health perspective.	Yes, we support this work and the opportunities for local communities to be engaged in the management of their local open spaces.	We are able to support the council to involve more people locally in the management of their open space through our work and by sharing practice from across the country.	We would encourage the council to consider how the spaces might be used by the community perhaps for either environmental projects or in the case of sports facilities to bring back in to use.
	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your support.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Thank you.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Noted, thank you.
64.	Yes The quality of the maintenance from Amey is poor. Litter bins in public spaces are frequently overflowing. The standard of garden maintenance is low since they do not employ gardeners who know what they are doing. This leads to a lower quality of amenity.	Other (please specify) The council needs to ensure that all open spaces which are not specifically linked to housing areas are available for public use. They need to work closely with land owners to ensure access for all, even if the area may be built on at a future date.	Value can be high where access is good. This should include providing some parking and definitely some facilities where bikes can be safely left. Working with health professionals to support initiatives is essential.	Yes, so long as the changes do not affect access. Also some maintenance is still required to ensure the spaces look attractive and things like Himalayan balsam and rubbish are removed from water courses to ensure the water flows.	We are involved, but slow reactions to identified problems are a real issue, including the removal of people sleeping rough and taking away all the associated tents and rubbish. Change the fencing around the Denmark Road High School playing field on Lansdown Road so members of the public can use the outdoor gym equipment.	All ok
	<b>Response:</b> Amey staff carry out basic grounds maintenance operations such as grass cutting and hedge/shrub trimming. The Council have few formal gardens, and where they do exist, they are maintained primarily by Friends groups/volunteers.  Bins are emptied by Amey according to an agreed schedule. During the recent pandemic however parks and	<b>Response:</b> The council cannot demand that private land is put into use for public open space, but where possible will work with landowners to agree dual use (e.g., school sports facilities) or other community access if appropriate.	<b>Response:</b> Within the city many open spaces would not have the facility for on-site parking, but where possible this is provided (e.g. Robinswood Hill). The council provides bike racks in most parks, especially near playgrounds and sports facilities, but would be happy to look at additional bike parking provision if there is a site-specific demand. The council is keen to encourage open space visitors to walk or cycle to local parks whenever possible.  Gloucestershire County Council is the primary social care provider in the county, but the city council is happy to promote its green space portfolio to help with social prescribing and outdoor well-being activities.	<b>Response:</b> Increasing the habitat value of a sites may result in a less 'formal' appearance but should not equate to a diminution in the sites value as a recreational resource. Litter and fly tipping will still be removed in line with current practices.  Water courses are managed to ensure that the risk of flooding is minimised and removal of vegetation and other potential impediments to water flow are remove as necessary.  Invasive species management can be costly and cover extensive areas of land. The council will look for solutions wherever possible and will take particular	<b>Response:</b> The issue of rough sleepers using the city's open spaces is a difficult and sensitive one. The council works with a partner, the street outreach team, run by P3, who support and advise the city's rough sleepers. The Denmark Road High School Playing Field is a private field and is not open to the general public, (apart from a community use	<b>Response:</b> ✓

	open spaces have seen an increase in visitor numbers, and as a result bins are getting filled more quickly. Where they are made aware of a full bin Amey will try to arrange an additional litter collection.			care to deal with invasive plants in sensitive sites such as nature reserves.	agreement with Spartans RFC, who use the playing pitches). It is within the school's rights to keep the site and facilities fenced and safe for the schoolchildren to use, as is the case with most other school playing fields across the city.	
	Do you have any comments on the vision and key objectives of the OSS? If so, please give details.	2. Have we included all open spaces in your area, or have any been missed for consideration?	3. What value do open spaces bring to your community? What is the most important thing to you about your open space? How can open spaces best be utilised to promote the mental and physical health/wellbeing of the community?	4. Do you support the objective of implementing measures to combat climate change and improve wildlife such as creating wildflower meadows, restoring natural brooks, streams and rivers (for example, by removing concrete channels), having more trees and leaving some areas for nature?	5. How can the Council help you/ your community to become more involved in caring for and using your local green space (for example friend's groups, volunteer litter pickers, consultations, communication etc)?	6. The strategy identifies 21 open spaces for other uses including six for new development. What alternative uses would you support on those nominated spaces? See page 99 – 100 of the strategy.
65.	Yes Clearly a lot of time and effort has gone into preparing this document and my concern is that very little attention will be given to it after publication	Yes	Huge value as seen during the Covid lock-down period to allow some time in the open air.	Yes	The statement that the Council continues to support local Friends group must be evidenced. Who are the personal responsible and what results can they highlight to evidence their actions? Appears nothing is in place at the moment.	
	<b>Response:</b> The council is confident that, as with previous open space strategies, the actions and recommendations set out will be taken forward over the life of the document and will be reviewed annually.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Council officers are currently supporting the work of a number of Friends Groups including the Friends of Barnwood Arboretum, Saintbridge Pond, Robinswood Hill, Hillfield Gardens and Gloucester Park. Support provided by the Council includes arranging for waste and arisings to be removed, providing plants, supervising work parties, providing advice and information and creating shared management plans. As a result of this joint working three sites, Barnwood Arboretum, Saintbridge Pond and Robinswood Hill have been awarded Green Flag Award status.	
66.	Yes It's encouraging to see a focus on promoting wildlife	Yes	Open spaces are essential in my community- it is fairly densely populated and is considered to be an area of deprivation. Visiting parks and open spaces is crucial for maintaining positive mental health	Yes, this is a great idea	Ensure that young people are involved- we have a very successful youth club as well as a primary school that could be used for this	May Tree Square- lots of elderly neighbours and young families. Perhaps some more planting (if it can be managed). Seating around the edges, perhaps more trees to

						lessen the impact of the road. Savernake Road- the only patch of green space in this area, could do with flattening the area. A community garden could work, perhaps in conjunction with the Friendship Cafe? It is quite secluded so potential for ASB must be considered here.
	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: ✓</b>	<b>Response: Agreed.</b>	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your suggestions have been noted.
67.	Yes It's a great idea to involve community groups and residents get involved with caring for local green spaces. This way the green spaces can be shaped in a way to reflect with aspirations of the people that actually use them rather than an overriding authority strategy	Yes	The most important thing about my open space is it provides as much habitat and benefit to wildlife as possible. I think open spaces should be a mix of the "countryside on your doorstep" and somewhere for picnics and a kick around.	Yes	Better communication is essential so the council can understand the aspirations of friends groups and residents which don't always match those of the council	CH5 – Savernake Community garden, EL4 - Estcourt wildlife corridor, AD12 - Awebridge Way community orchard/wildlife area, CH1 – Maytree Community orchard/wildflower planting EL5 – Cross Keys community EL7 – Horton Rd garden rewilding area/green corridor GR4 – Tuffley urban meadow/wildflower/tree planting GR8 – Meredith Community garden GR11 – Greenhill Nature reserve? HU6 – Green wildlife corridor to link up with HU1 and HU7 HU10 – Bircher Grass verge/wildflower creation in area KW2 – Kingsholm community garden KW7 – Great Western Rd wildlife corridor MR8 – Saintbridge Urban meadow MO1 – Sydenham community garden QF4 – Needham wildfie corridor to link up with playing fields TU2 - Brookthorpe Nature reserve TU6 – Grange wildlife area TU8 – Grange Rd Community garden WE8 – Jubilee

						integrate site into Greyfriars bowls club as a park
	<b>Response:</b> Agreed. Community involvement in shaping and managing local open spaces is welcomed by the council.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> The council is committed to increasing the habitat and wildlife value of many of its open spaces in line with the strategy and wider environmental policies.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> The council uses a range of communication methods to inform and contact residents, including via councillors, social media, direct mail, site notices or press release.  The Council are in regular contact with Friends groups and have produced a number of shared management plans.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you, your suggestions have been noted.
68.	No	Other (please specify) not sure	Gives an opportunity for people to get out and about, used by the school at times. The lack of open space in Kingsholm means that there are not a lot of benefits for the community	yes	Get the local school involved	
	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> -	<b>Response:</b> There are just over four hectares of open space within the Kingsholm and Wotton ward, as well as other open spaces in adjacent wards, such as Plock Court in Longlevens. As an historic, densely built-up part of the city, it would be difficult to increase the quantity of open space provision in Kingsholm and Wotton, but wherever possible the city council will improve the quality and accessibility of the existing green spaces in the ward.	<b>Response:</b> ✓	<b>Response:</b> Wherever possible the council will involve local schools in consultations on improvement projects, and community activities.	<b>Response:</b> -