Local Green Space Designation: Background Paper

June 2016
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. LGS Assessment Process</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Conclusion</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Next Steps</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 1: Explanation of LGSD Assessment Spreadsheet Headings</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 2: Summary of Criteria for the assessment of nominated Local Green Spaces</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix 3: Policies, Sites and Places Plan Policy Wording, Proposed Submission June 2016</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Introduction**

1.1 Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Any type of green space could be suitable for designation and may also include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis.

1.2 This background paper outlines the process that the Council’s Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Team undertook in preparing the final list of Local Green Spaces suitable for designation in the Policies, Sites and Places (PSP) Plan. It details the background and the assessments undertaken on nominated spaces.

1.3 The assessment process is covered in section 2 below and;

- The full assessment of all nominated spaces are available in two spreadsheets from here: [www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication).
  - An explanation of the headings used in both assessment spreadsheets is set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
  - A summary of the criteria used to assess suitability for designation is set out in Appendix 2 of this report, and was reported at the 29 June 2016 Council meeting, available to view here, at item 10: [https://council.southglos.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=7726](https://council.southglos.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=7726).

- Those green spaces suitable for Local Green Space designation appear in the PSP Plan (in Appendix 2) and in the corresponding changes to the Policies Map, these are available from here: [www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication).

- Mapping has also been released on line, via the online mapping here: [http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/southglos.html](http://map.n-somerset.gov.uk/southglos.html).

1.4 Mapping for nominated LGS not suitable for designation are also available to view here: [www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication).

1.5 The consultations and engagement processes which were undertaken as part of the Plan’s preparation is set out in the Engagement and Main Issues Report and can be viewed at: [www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication). All representations relating to spaces from 2014 onwards are available at: [https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/PSP_LGS_Summer2015/viewContent?contentid=289427](https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/PSP_LGS_Summer2015/viewContent?contentid=289427).

1.6 Appendix 3 of this report contains the policy and supporting text relating to Local Green Space designations, included in the June 2016 Proposed Submission version of the PSP Plan.

1.7 This report does not discuss the details of the engagement which commenced in 2013, but rather concentrates on what has happened as a result of all the information which has been collated. Thus enabling a description or reasoning of those spaces suitable for recommending designation and those which are currently not being recommended for designation within the PSP Plan.
2. **LGS Assessment Process**

2.1 In accordance with national policy and guidance local green spaces are being proposed for designation as part of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. All nominated spaces have been assessed to ensure that they are consistent with sustainable development and take account of the need for sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services; and are capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. This is discussed in more detail in the next section.

2.2 The criteria set out at a national level are not specific, but act as guidance which has been interpreted at a South Gloucestershire level. The information which has been sought and used in reaching a decision on nominated LGSs included the criteria set out in the guidance note which was made available throughout the plans preparation (updated in June 2015) and available to view here: https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/PSP_LGS_Summer2015/consultationHome.

2.3 As set out in the guidance note, educational sites, school and college playing fields and grounds have not been recommended as suitable for designation. This is because national guidance states that the space must be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. In order to address future needs for school places there may be a need to reconfigure the arrangement of school buildings and playing fields. The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools. Therefore, educational sites (grounds and playing fields) have not been recommended for designation.

2.4 Furthermore, highway land/roadside verges have not been recommended for designation and removed from any nominated space. This is because national guidance states that the space must be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. Land adjoining an existing highway is the subject of ‘Permitted Development’ rights, which could be used to bring forward development that may be contrary to a Local Green Space designation, but would not require planning permission to be granted. Highway land may also be utilised in bringing forward future highway/transport schemes. Therefore, highway land/roadside verges have been removed from those spaces recommended for designation.

2.5 Landowners and leaseholders of nominated LGS have been contacted, where known (identified through land registry searches or by the person or group nominating the space). This has included South Gloucestershire Council Property Services, who are responsible for a considerable number of nominated spaces which are in public ownership. In addition, other council departments have been consulted, such as Education, Highways and Transport. This was considered necessary to ensure that the nominated spaces met with the criteria and did not conflict with future sustainable development in South Gloucestershire.

2.6 South Gloucestershire Council’s Property Services team responses, as landowners of some nominated LGS, have been treated by the Council’s Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice team in a consistent way with any other landowner response. For example, where a landowner objects to a nominated LGS
due to its potential alternative use, the space has not been considered appropriate for designation at this time. It should be noted that even if only part of a nominated space has been objected to, the nominated space has also not be considered appropriate for designation at this time.

2.7 The nominated spaces have been fully assessed against the criteria and context set out in this report. In particular, account has been taken of the fact that the council is not currently able to demonstrate the required supply of housing sites over the next 5 years. However, if a space has not been recommended for designation as part of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan it should not be assumed that these will be subsequently allocated for housing. A new South Gloucestershire Local Plan is being prepared and will be completed during 2018 and intends to provide details on housing allocations. Additional housing allocations are no longer being considered through the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. The designation of additional Local Green Spaces, including those spaces not recommended for designation as part of the PSP Plan, may be considered as part of the New Local Plan. The June 2016 Proposed Submission version of the PSP Plan lists those spaces the council considered suitable for designation. The explanation of the criteria used to assess spaces (a summary of the information contained in this report) and reported to Council in June 2016 can be viewed at Appendix 2 of this report.

2.8 The following table reflects the local interpretation of national guidance and national planning policy. It sets out the information and the process used to assess the suitability of designating a LGS, adapted from the June 2015 Guidance Note (available from: www.southglos.gov.uk/lgssd15). Professional officer judgement was also utilised during the process. The results of the assessment were collated into a spreadsheet. The full details of the LGS assessment for all spaces can be viewed on the website at: www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication.

2.9 Mapping extents, of nominated spaces may have changed for the following reasons:

- i) Nominated spaces included Highway Land, which was cut from all spaces. Some spaces were entirely Highway Land and therefore not considered suitable for designation;
- ii) Nominated spaces included areas covered by planning permission. Areas affected by a planning permission were cut from the nominated space;
- iii) Nominated spaces included areas of incompatible Local Plan Policies. Areas affected by an incompatible Local Plan Policy were cut from the nominated space.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Application of criteria in assessing the suitability to recommend designation of LGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan?</td>
<td>The designation of Local Green Spaces should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. The space should also be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. In particular, the NPPG states, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making. The nominated LGS were assessed against existing and emerging Local Plan policies. An assessment of compatibility was made as to whether designating a LGS was in accordance with emerging Policy PSP4 (Designation of Local Green Spaces). An example of a compatible policy would be for sporting or recreational use, an incompatible example would be an allocated housing site. If the space met all other criteria and sufficient space remained to be allocated as a LGS, the area affected by the incompatible local plan policy was removed from the proposed boundary of the LGS and the remapped space assessed accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the space the subject of a planning permission for development?</td>
<td>Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. A search for all planning permissions granted since 2010 was undertaken. Permissions granted prior to this date would have either have been built/completed or expired. Those remaining were considered for compatibility against the Policy PSP4 on LGS. An example of a development not compatible with a LGS would be a new dwelling, a compatible example would be a spectator’s stand at a sports pavilion or an area of open space proposed as part of a masterplan of a larger mixed used, residential scheme. If the space met all other criteria and sufficient space remained to be allocated as a LGS, the area affected by the incompatible planning permission was removed from the proposed boundary of the LGS and the remapped space assessed accordingly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was it possible to map the space?</td>
<td>It was considered important that an accurate map be provided with the nomination of a space to clearly identify the space being proposed. If it was not possible to map the space it was considered inappropriate to recommend the space for designation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the space an extensive tract of land, i.e. over 19 hectares in size?</td>
<td>Blanket designation of all/most green areas or open space within an area is not appropriate. Spaces over the size of 19 hectares have been highlighted as not being suitable for designation in accordance with a recent independent Examiner’s decision relating to a Neighbourhood Plan in North Somerset. We are therefore using this as a suitable measure. Where spaces have been considered a blanket approach to designation, these have not been considered appropriate to recommend for designation. The size of each space has been recorded to the nearest hectare and spaces 19 hectares or over have been assessed as an extensive tract of land and therefore not appropriate to recommend for designation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How close is the space to the community it serves?</td>
<td>The space would normally be within easy walking distance of the community it serves. The information submitted with a nominated space was used to assess proximity to the community, for example how long it was claimed it would take to walk to the LGS from the nearest residence, the likely user of the space, and through identifying the location of the space through mapping the process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| The space must be demonstrably special to the local community.          | Blanket designation of all/most green areas or open space within an area is not appropriate. The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of six criterion. These criteria are based on the value the community places on the space with regards to its beauty, history, recreational use, tranquillity, wildlife offer or for some other justifiable reason. Examples of local significance might be:  
  1) Beauty - this relates to the visual attractiveness of the space, and its contribution to townscape, landscape, character and/or setting of the settlement, which would normally be expected to be significant.  
  2) History - local historical significance, e.g. WWII connection; historic buildings or structures in the space (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument); |
| Has sufficient information been provided to make a recommendation? | An assessment of all the information provided in the nomination of a space, including further justification received following the summer 2015 consultation was reviewed and a decision reached as to whether sufficient information had been received to make a recommendation. This judgement included assessing the nature of the justification/reasoning provided by the nominator of a space. For example a submission which simply stated a space was suitable for its recreational value would be unlikely to be recommended, due to insufficient justification. Those spaces with no justification, i.e. no details provided at all or simply stated ‘Yes’ under beauty or tranquillity for example, with no reasoning, were not considered appropriate to be recommended for designation, as there was no justification. However, a space which stated for example, recreational value due to local people using the space for the children’s play area/equipment, informal sport, running, dog walking, were considered more appropriate, as they provide more by |

historic landscape features on the space (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows); historic literature or art connection; or any historic rituals.

3) Recreation - what variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. children’s play area/equipment, rugby/football pitches, informal recreational area for dog walking and picnics). National guidance states that there is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.

4) Tranquillity – areas that offer an oasis of calm, perhaps in a busy town, or a space for quiet reflection, war memorial or church grounds etc.

5) Wildlife – what wildlife does the space support? For example is it a designated area, such as a SSSI, SNCI or Local Nature Reserve? Are any important habitats or species found in the space or irreplaceable habitats such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees? Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure?

6) Any other reason/justification – for example are events held on the space or is it used as allotments?

Officers considered the statements submitted by nominators, as part of the process when assessing a space against these local significance criteria when making judgements on whether a criteria had been met.
the way of evidence of how a space is used or important to the local community, thus meeting this criteria.

This review has led to changes to some spaces from not recommended to recommended since the summer 2015 consultation and vice versa, which was due to a review of consistency in approach.

| Have any objections been received to the nominated LGS? These could include objections from landowners / leaseholders of nominated LGS. | Previous objections from 2014 were reviewed to establish if the objection raised had been overcome through for example, further justification being submitted during 2015 or remapping. Landowners/Leaseholders were given the opportunity to comment on nominated spaces, where these were known. Generally, any landowner objection to the designation of a LGS resulted in the space not being recommended for designation at this time. However, a review of objections was undertaken to establish if these had been overcome. For example, through additional justification being provided by nominators during summer 2015, through the assessment of the Local Plan existing/emerging policy review and planning permission compatibility checks. Where objections could not be overcome through for example, the remapping of a space to remove the area affected by an incompatible local plan policy or planning permission, the landowner objection remained and therefore it has been considered inappropriate to recommend the space for designation. Land and buildings owned by South Gloucestershire Council were treated in the same regard and the response to the nomination provided by the Property Services Team was considered fully in line with national policy and guidance. For example, not recommending school buildings or grounds or Highway Land. As a matter of routine all spaces were assessed against Highway Land. Spaces found to contain designated Highway Land were amended / remapped to remove these areas. In some instances entire LGS nominations were identified as Highway Land and therefore not recommended for designation as they were entirely Highway Land and therefore inconsistent with national policy. It was necessary to take into account that the council is not currently able to demonstrate the required supply of housing sites over the next 5 years. Therefore any objections relating to a space that has highlighted any form of development potential (for a use incompatible with the emerging policy for LGS) has not being recommended for designation, even if the objection relates to part of the |


space. At this time, without the ability to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land or inclusion of housing sites in the PSP Plan to address that requirement, it is not possible to be definitive as to the extent of any nominated space that may be needed for housing in the future. A cautious approach to all spaces has therefore been taken whereby an objection citing potential for development, has led to space not being recommended for designation at this time. However, if a space has not been recommended for designation it should not be assumed that it will be subsequently allocated for housing. There has been no detailed housing capacity assessment carried out on those spaces not currently proposed for designation, as local green space, as part of the PSP Plan.

A new South Gloucestershire Local Plan is being prepared and will be completed in 2018, it is intended to detail housing allocations. Housing allocations will no longer be included within the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. The designation of additional Local Green Space, including those spaces not recommended for designation as part of the PSP Plan, may be considered as part of the New Local Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the space relate to a submitted Call for Sites?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In addition to considering how the nominated space related to existing or emerging Local Plan policies, it was necessary to take into account that the council is not currently able to demonstrate the required supply of housing sites over the next 5 years. In order to comply with national policy/guidance any nominated LGS which conflicts with a call for sites submission relating to housing (in part or whole) has not at this time been recommended as a LGS, as it might prejudice the future sustainable development of South Gloucestershire. However, if a space has not been recommended for designation on this basis, it should not be assumed that the space would be subsequently allocated for housing as no assessment has been undertaken.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A new South Gloucestershire Local Plan is being prepared and will be completed in 2018, this is intended to detail housing allocations. Housing allocations will no longer be considered as part of the PSP Plan. The designation of additional Local Green Space, including those spaces not recommended for designation as part of the PSP Plan, may be considered as part of the New Local Plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.10 It should be noted that some spaces which were assessed to be acceptable at previous informal stages, including the summer 2015 consultation, may now be assessed as unacceptable to designate and vice versa. This will be as a result of the
latest assessment of the spaces given the above criteria and a review of the consistency in applying the approach to assessing the justification of each space.

2.11 LGS codes have also changed since the previous consultation in summer 2015 as a result of spaces splitting, merging or being new submissions. A table is offered on the website available at https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/PSP_LGS_Summer2015/viewContent?contentid=289427 to assist in cross checking a previous LGS code with the latest LGS code.

2.12 The original nominated name of spaces were reviewed to ensure they were suitable for inclusion in the PSP Plan as a list of Designated Local Green Spaces. Where amendments were necessary, this was for reasons of clarity; to reduce confusion with other spaces; reduce the length of the name or more accurately reflect the space location.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Assessment of spaces:
   - At the council meeting on 29th June 2016 it was agreed that 233 spaces can be proposed for designation;
   - All 590 nominated spaces have been assessed in accord with national and local guidance;
   - A cautious approach has been taken to spaces promoted for an alternative use;
   - Where objections remain due to the objectors’ promotion of the space for development, in whole or in part, spaces have not been recommended for designation in this Plan.
   - The PSP Plan is not allocating additional housing allocations and as such nominated Local Green Spaces have been assessed in this context.
   - Those spaces not capable of being designated at this time will be reassessed through the new Local Plan.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Formal consultation on the PSP Plan will take place during summer 2016. Landowners and leaseholders will be consulted formally about the recommended LGS’s and given the opportunity to make representation to the Examination in Public on the PSP Plan. Details can be found here: www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication.

4.2 Should you be minded to formally respond during summer 2016 consultation please ensure you refer to the LGS code in your representation.
Appendix 1: Explanation of LGSD Assessment Headings

This appendix provides an explanation of the headings used in the Local Green Space detailed assessment spreadsheets, available to view here: www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication

1a. Green Space Code – This is the individual code allocated to the nominated space when received for consideration.

1b. Parish/Town Council / Unparished Area – This is the parish or town council or unparished area in which the nominated space is located.

1c. Ward – This is the ward in which the space is located.

1d. Name of Nominated Space – This is the name of the space provided when nominated. Where required names have changed, for example to avoid confusion with similarly named spaces in the same parish/town council or unparished area, or to shorten the length of the name for presentational purposes in the PSP Plan. Changes are indicated with the new revised name upfront and in brackets the previous name.

2. Is the space consistent with the Local Plan? (Yes/No) Where it is not consistent, is the space compatible with the LGS Policy PSP4? – This information identifies whether any existing or emerging policies overlap with the nominated space, i.e. whether a Local Plan policy applies to the space. Where a policy does apply to the space, a decision was reached as to whether it was compatible with PSP Policy PSP4 on LGS. Where a Local Plan policy is not compatible with a space and covers all or most of a space this would result in the space being incompatible with the Local Plan policies and not recommended for designation. An example of an incompatible Local Plan policy is Core Strategy adopted Policy CS12, Safeguarded Areas for Economic Development. However, if only part of the space was affected by a Local Plan policy and sufficient space remained to be designated, the boundary of the space has been amended to remove the incompatible part. Where the space is compatible with a Local Plan policy no map changes were carried out.

2a. Are there any relevant Planning Permissions on the space which conflict with PSP4? (Yes/No) If yes, is the planning permission compatible with the designation of a LGS and PSP4? This information identifies whether any significant planning permissions approved since 2010 overlap with the nominated space. Where a planning permission does apply to the space, a decision was reached as to whether it was compatible with the PSP Policy PSP4 on LGS. Where the planning permission is not compatible with the space and covers all or most of the space this would result in the space being incompatible with the policy and contrary to national policy, and not recommended for designation. However, if only part of the space was affected by a planning permission and sufficient space remained to be designated, the boundary of the space has been amended to remove the incompatible part. Where the planning permission is compatible with a nominated LGS no map changes were carried out.

3a. Was it possible to map the space using the plan provided when originally submitted for nomination? (Yes/No) This is from the original request for nominated LGS and the original mapping exercise prior to the 2014 consultation. Since 2014 mapping may have been provided, where is has it has been reported in Column AB, Q13. However, where a space has not been provided with a map, it was considered that the identification of the space was unclear and therefore not recommended for designation.
3b. Is the space consistent with national policy in so far as it is not a blanket approach to designation? (Yes/No) A typical example of a blanket approach would be from the original submissions where ‘All green spaces’ in a parish, town or unparished area had been nominated. This was considered a blanket approach and therefore contrary to national policy and not recommended for designation. If further space specific mapping was provided these were assessed on their merits in combination with the justification provided for the space.

3c. Is the space smaller than 19ha in size (therefore not an extensive tract of land)? (Yes/No) If yes, what is the size of the space to the nearest hectare. A size check of all spaces was carried out to check if spaces were 19 hectares or over. The rationale for 19ha is outlined in the LGS guidance note. If 19 hectares or over in size this was considered an extensive tract of land and not appropriate, in accordance with national policy, to be recommended for designation.

4a. Evidence submitted regarding proximity of the space to the community which use it. This was assessed by what response nominators provided.

4b. Why the space is significant: Beauty This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. If a space was being nominated for its beauty, there may simply be a “yes” entered in this column. Further justification in relation to the sites beauty is included where relevant.

4c. Why the space is significant: Historical This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. If a space was being nominated for its historical value, there may simply be a “yes” entered in this column. Further justification in relation to the sites historical value is included where relevant.

4d. Why the space is significant: Recreational This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. If a space was being nominated for its recreational value, there may simply be a “yes” entered in this column. Further justification in relation to the sites recreational value is included where relevant.

4e. Why the space is significant: Tranquillity This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. If a space was being nominated for its tranquillity, there may simply be a “yes” entered in this column. Further justification in relation to the sites tranquillity is included where relevant.

4f. Why the space is significant: Wildlife This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. If a space was being nominated for its wildlife value, there may simply be a “yes” entered in this column. Further justification in relation to the sites wildlife value is included where relevant.

4g. Is there another reason for the space being significant? This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. Nominators may have identified some other reason why they wish to nominate the space, for example allotments or because events are held on the space, these reasons may be listed here or in the other justification.

4h. Other justification This is a record of the evidence submitted to support the designation. This is where the detailed evidence providing the justification to support the designation of the space is reported.

Note: Not all the local criteria have to have been met for a space to be recommended for designation.
5. Has sufficient specific justification been provided to date? (Yes/No) This clarifies if the justification provided is sufficient to draw a conclusion on whether the space has local significance. If ‘no justification’ or ‘insufficient justification’ is recorded here, then the space was not recommended for designation.

6. Was an objection to the designation received through the Summer 2014 Consultation? (Yes/No) Those spaces not endorsed by the Parish/Town Council are set out below. A review of the responses to the 2014 consultation was undertaken and where an objection had been received this was noted here with a Yes. (See 6a below). Where spaces were submitted by an individual or an organisation other than the parish or town council or unparished area they would need to have been endorsed by the appropriate council for the space to be nominated. A space not endorsed by the appropriate parish or town council or unparished area was not recommended for designation.

6a. If applicable, has the objection raised in 2014 been overcome? (Yes/No, if Yes how has the objection been overcome? E.g. remapping or space withdrawn by nominator) Those spaces which were being ruled out only on the basis of a 2014 objection were reviewed to assess whether the 2014 objection had been overcome. This might be the case if further justification was received since the 2014 consultation and assessed to fulfil the necessary criteria or because remapping of the space resolved the objection. Brief details of each are highlighted where necessary.

7. Was the space considered suitable for designation prior to the Summer 2015 informal consultation? (Yes/No) This sets out what the recommendation for the space was when we consulted in 2015. Changes to recommendations have occurred, examples include but are not limited to, further justification being provided as a result of the summer 2015 consultation. A review of all justification for spaces for consistency has been undertaken.

8. Were individual representations received on the space during Summer 2015 informal consultation? (Yes, Support/Object/No) This indicates if an individual (not a landowner) has responded as part of the overall PSP Plan consultation in summer 2015. A brief summary of the comments made along with whether they support or object have been highlighted where necessary.

South Gloucestershire Council are responsible for a considerable number of nominated spaces which are in public ownership, however, where they are not necessarily the landowner (see 9 below) it was considered appropriate for other council departments to be consulted on all the spaces, whether mapped or not mapped. This was considered necessary to ensure that the nominated spaces met with the criteria and future sustainable development of South Gloucestershire. As a result, some spaces have not been recommended due to conflicts with strategic transport infrastructure projects. A brief summary of the comments made have been highlighted where necessary.

9. Was the landowner(s)/Leaseholder(s) contacted during the Summer 2015 informal consultation, where known? (Yes, No, Returned Letter) Where landowners were known they were written to during summer 2015 and later in the autumn and winter 2015 as necessary. Where a returned letter was received an alternative address was sourced and where identified were written to again in the autumn and winter 2015 period. Details of the engagement carried out can be found here: www.southglos.gov.uk/PSPpublication

10. How did the landowner(s)/leaseholder(s) respond to the Summer 2015 informal consultation? (Object, Support, Returned Letter) Where a returned letter was received this is noted. Where a response was received this is noted as either an objection or in support of the space nomination. If it is blank or N/A either a landowner was not known, or...
no response was received. Where a space is unmapped but a landowner responded, this is because they responded as a result of having land interest in the parish or town council area.

10a. If applicable, has the landowner objection been overcome? (Yes/No, if Yes how has the objection been overcome? E.g. remapping or space withdrawn by nominator)
Those spaces which were being ruled out only on the basis of a landowner objection were reviewed to assess whether the objection had been overcome. This might be the case if further justification was received since the 2014 consultation and assessed to fulfil the necessary criteria or because remapping of the space resolved the objection. Brief details of each are highlighted where necessary.

11. Does the space relate to a previously submitted Call for Sites? (i.e. Housing Omission Site?) (Yes/No) All spaces where assessed against the council database of submitted call for sites, sites which have been promoted for another land use. Where a submitted call for sites overlapped with a nominated LGS the space was not recommended for designation.

12. Has the information relating to this space been updated since Summer 2015 consultation? (Yes/No) If further justification was received to the summer 2015 consultation and the details of the space updated this is highlighted here.

13. Has the boundary of the space been updated as a result of the Summer 2015 consultation? (Yes/No) Where it was necessary to remap a space or part of a space this is highlighted here.

14. Has the boundary of the space been updated as a result of the final recommendation? (Yes/No) This sets out if the space has been remapped in order to enable a space to be recommended for designation, examples include planning permission and local plan policy incompatible areas being removed.

15. Is the space suitable for designation, with reason. This sets out the final Council decision based on the criteria above and on planning balance why the space can be designation, for example for its recreational value to the community.
Appendix 2: Criteria for the assessment of nominated Local Green Spaces

The purpose of the document is to provide details of the final criteria used to determine if a space is suitable for designation as part of the Policies, Sites and Places Plan.

Most of the criteria listed were stated in the guidance note published in 2015, available from here: www.southglos.gov.uk/lgd15. Additional assessment criteria (7 and 8 below), in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, have been used to reflect the position in respect of the housing land supply shortfall. Spaces which have been promoted by landowners as having potential for alternative uses including housing land are not capable of being designated within the Policies, Sites and Places Plan. These nominated spaces will be reassessed as part of the new Local Plan.

In accordance with the published guidance spaces which were educational sites, school and college playing fields and grounds have not been recommended as suitable for designation. This is because national guidance states that in order to address future needs for school places there may be a need to reconfigure the arrangement of school buildings and playing fields. Therefore, educational sites (grounds and playing fields) have not been recommended for designation.

Also in accordance with the published guidance highway land/roadside verges have not been recommended for designation and removed from any nominated space. This is because existing highway/roadside verges are subject of ‘Permitted Development’ rights, which could be used to bring forward development that may be contrary to a Local Green Space designation, but would not require planning permission to be granted. Highway land may also be utilised in bringing forward future highway/transport schemes. Therefore, highway land/roadside verges have been removed from those spaces recommended for designation.

Criteria used to determine if a space is suitable for designation:

1. Is the space consistent with the policies and allocations in the Local Plan?
2. Is the designation of a space compatible with relevant planning permission(s)?
3. Has a map been provided by the nominator of the space?
4. Is the space consistent with national policy in so far as it was not a blanket designation?
5. Is the space smaller than 19ha in size (not an extensive tract of land)?
6. Has sufficient justification been provided to determine that the space was of particular significance to the local community?
7. Are there no outstanding objections to the designation (in part or as a whole) which promote the future development potential or alternative use of the space?
8. Are there no outstanding promotions (on part or on the whole of the space) for an alternative use?

If all the criteria have been satisfied then spaces have been assessed as suitable for designation within the 2016 Proposed Submission Policies, Sites and Places Plan.

Those spaces not considered suitable for designation will be reassessed as part of the new Local Plan.
Inappropriate development proposal(s) within a designated Local Green Space, as shown on the Policies Map and listed in Appendix 2, will only be acceptable, in very special circumstances.

Very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the designated space by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

The construction of new buildings on Local Green Spaces is inappropriate.

Exceptions to this are:

- buildings for agriculture and forestry, within Local Green Spaces located outside a settlement boundary; or

- the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and cemeteries, as long as it does not conflict with the purpose of designating the Local Green Space; or

- the extension or alteration of a building, provided that it does not result in a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building, in line with Policy PSP7; or

- the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces.

3.41 Designated Local Green Spaces are spaces which are of particular importance to communities and which they wish to see have special protection that rules out new development other than in very special circumstances or through the exceptions set out above.

3.42 Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to Local Green Spaces and will not be approved except in very special circumstances. In considering a planning application substantial weight will be given to any potential harm to a Designated Local Green Space arising from the proposal(s), and in particular how harm would impact upon the reasons why the local community supported the designation of that space.
3.43 The designation of a Local Green Space does not affect permitted development rights. Permitted development rights are a national grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application.

3.44 Neighbourhood Plans may also identify specific areas for designation as Local Green Space in line with the NPPF. These areas have to be local in character and be demonstrably special to a local community.

3.45 Policy PSP5 will be used, where appropriate, to protect undesignated open space, within settlement boundaries.

Delivery

3.46 The policy will be delivered through development management. Designation of Local Green Spaces can also occur through Neighbourhood Plans.