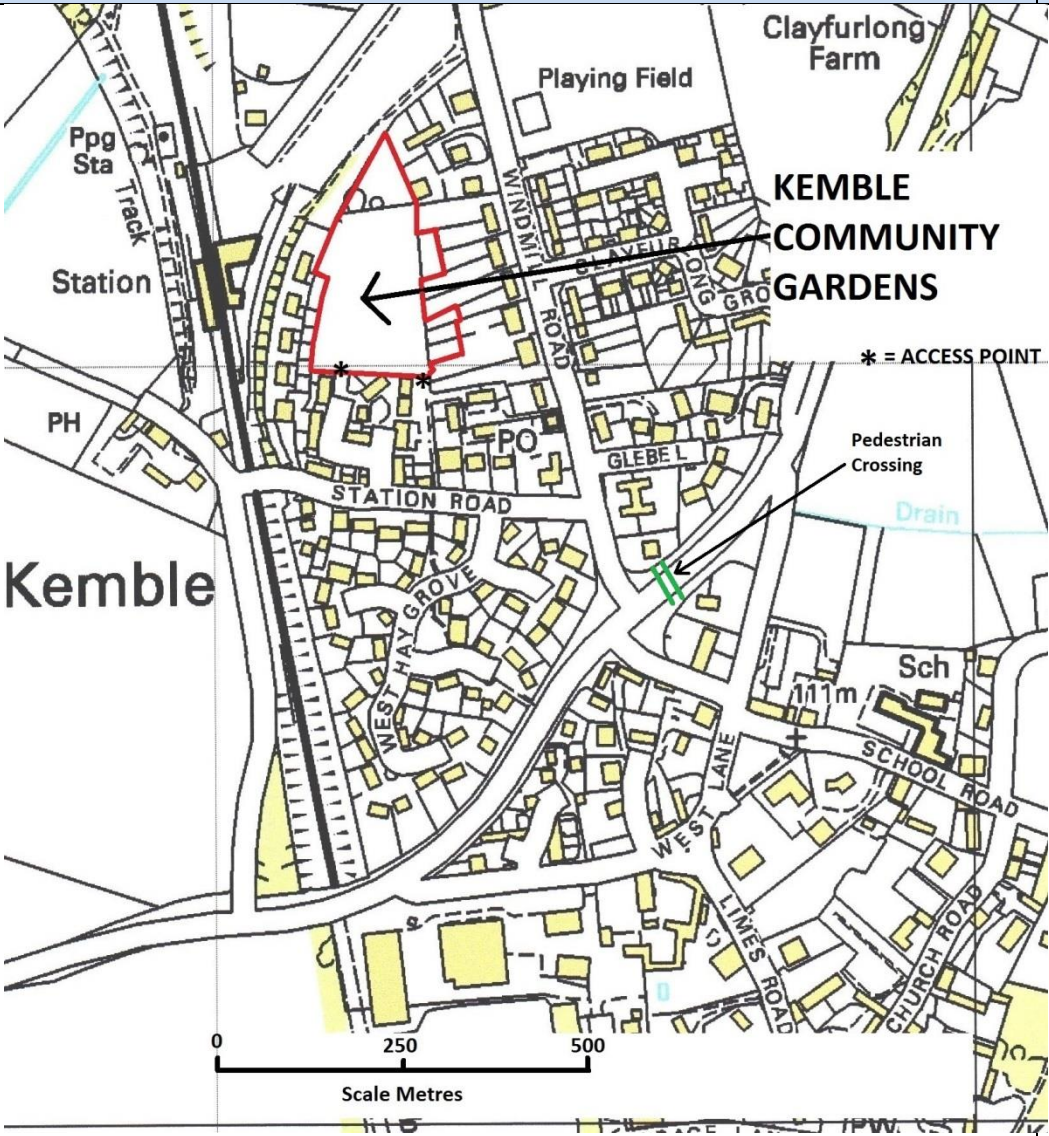




COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**APPLICATION BY KEMBLE AND EWEN
PARISH COUNCIL
TO DESIGNATE LAND
AT STATION ROAD KEMBLE KNOWN
AS KEMBLE COMMUNITY GARDENS
AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE**

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Kemble Community Gardens, Old Manor Gardens, Kemble, Glos NGRRef ST 986975	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site.</i> <i>Please indicate the scale.</i>	
		
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	


	Kemble and Ewen Parish Council and Kemble Community Gardens group	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	Cotswold District Council	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	Site leased from CDC by parish council and then sublet to Kemble Community Gardens group. The CDC will be aware of the potential designation because they have been informally approached with regard to this application	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	<i>Insert here or attach separately</i> 	
	Figure 1: Site before Community clearance by hand	



Figure 2: Cleared site viewed from Old Manor Gardens looking over Railway Terrace and Railway Conservation Site



Figure 3: Wildflower meadow looking towards Old Manor Gardens



Figure 4: Site showing active Vegetable Gardens looking North from Old Manor Gardens



Figure 5: Community BBQ & Vegetable Sculpture children's workshop



Figure 6: Gardeners at work with help from Travis Perkins Staff


1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	The Community Gardens are actively enjoyed and maintained by members of the community of Kemble. They are open to the general public, and in particular are regularly enjoyed by families and individuals in the more immediate vicinity for recreational activities such as gardening, picnics and walking – the Community Gardens are seen as a necessary and intrinsic feature of the immediate local community environment.	
2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? <i>Further Information – Cotswold District Council – planning applications</i>	
	There is currently no planning application for the Community Gardens. An area to the south of the Gardens has already been developed. Old Manor Gardens was completed in 2008 and has 22 homes, with affordable homes.	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space? <i>Further Information – Cotswold District Council – planning policy.</i>	
	The Community Gardens is one of three sites which are suggested (not allocated) for potential future residential development for Kemble in the <i>Local Plan: Preferred Development Strategy – Consultation Paper (May 2013)</i> . Should the Community Gardens be allocated for development, this vital community asset would be lost. Due to its modest size and its arrangement even an allocation on part of the Community Gardens would bring an end to its function and benefit to the community.	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
	Approximately 0.8 ha	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	

	The site is not an extensive tract of land. It is only approximately 0.8 ha and is smaller in comparison to other fields and areas of land in the vicinity, and looks and feels local and appropriate in scale	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	<p>The Kemble Community Gardens is very much a part of the local area because;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The site has domestic properties and their gardens enclosing c.90% of the boundary. Therefore there are no roads to sever it, or disrupt its function. The Gardens relate to the gardens of the houses enclosing it, and notwithstanding the property boundaries, this contributes to the feeling that the Gardens are embedded within the community. 2. The gardens fall within that part of the village with the highest population density, and with the greatest number of children living nearby. The local children play safely within this ‘wild’ environment which is important for their physical and emotional development and overall wellbeing. This fully functioning community space is easily accessible via a footpath and a quiet domestic road (see 1.2) 3. The gardens are already functioning as an open space for the entire village community with designated areas being let as allotments for vegetable gardening, a shared orchard with a mixture of hard fruit trees and berries, open areas of grass and a copse with paths running through it. (see Figs: 2 & 4) 4. The garden is a place where people and groups in the local community come and spend time in relaxing or gardening. People walk their dogs in the gardens too. 5. The allotment holders share ideas and practises including sustainable and organic gardening and grow their own vegetables. 6. The Community Gardens is a mini nature Reserve for many wildlife species including birds, bats, amphibians and reptiles (lizards and slow worms) to name a few. 7. The Community Gardens were brought into being by the endeavours of the local community. The Gardens are managed by a committee which meets regularly and which organises events. The plot holders pay a fee for their allotment, which goes into the Community Gardens bank account. The site is covered by a combined liability insurance. (See more details of the committee below). 	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard) Cotswold District Council - Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study</i>	
	Kemble village has grown significantly with 3 new housing developments in the last 20 years. There is a compelling need for a local green space in this particular location, and for the Community Gardens to be recognised as such.. Within the next 2 years a further 50 houses will be added at Top Farm, and the District Council is currently consulting on prospective locations within	

	<p>Kemble for future residential development over the medium-long term. These locations would result in the further loss of open space. The gardens of the new developments are small. The Community Gardens provide a local green space for use by the community. A Parish survey completed in 2006 resulted in a request from Parishioners for allotments or growing space within the village as most of the newer properties have very small gardens, as follows</p> <p><i>Pg:3</i> <i>61% would like more comprehensive tree planning around the parish, 51% would like a new wild area created, 39% would like an area for allotments and 35% would like the spread of street lighting reduced.</i></p> <p>Out of this came the first lease agreement between CDC and KEPC for the Community Gardens. Very quickly a lively community project developed centred on these gardens. Parts of the area were cleared of rubbish and brambles and 30 gardening plots were created along the southern and western edges for the growing of vegetables etc. The group of volunteers established a committee and organised such things as a mosaic workshop, apple pressing in the orchard area, vegetable sculpting competition and workshop and a Community Gardens summer social event for adults and children with competitions for sunflower and vegetable growing (see photographs 5 and 6 above). The committee maintains the site and has created footpaths and open areas which are regularly mowed. Kemble School has a dedicated teaching allotment for the children, who visit as part of the curriculum, to work on and learn about hands-on gardening and wildlife. The site is run on organic principles.</p> <p>In the recent survey conducted by the Kemble Community Gardens committee 77% of the respondents strongly agreed that the Gardens provide a valuable 'green space' for the village and 79% strongly agreed that there was a need for local green space in Kemble. The Gardens go some way to help fulfil that need.</p>	
5	<p>Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></p>	
5.1	<p>How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i></p>	
	<p>Kemble Community Gardens is in close proximity to the community it serves as evidenced by, the map in 1.2. It is enclosed by and nestles into, the community.</p>	
5.2	<p>Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i></p>	
	<p>Kemble is separated by a main road (A429) which divides the village however two thirds of the homes within the village are on the side of the road which contains the KCG site. Moreover There is a pedestrian crossing over the main A429 (see map) which allows pedestrians to cross the road safely, and which is used by school children going to Kemble School. The road is not a barrier to the village using the Community Gardens.</p>	

6	<p>Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
6.1	<p>Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i></p>	
	<p>The Parish Council and the residents of Kemble fully support the Community Gardens project furthermore the Parish Council represent the village in negotiations with the CDC and pays for the lease of the site. Reference can be made to Council minutes which will be found on the website. http://www.kemble.co.uk/images/Uploaded_Files/Parish_Council/Minutes/2007_10_19.pdf Letter of support from the parish council is attached.</p>	
6.2	<p>Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i></p>	
	<p>The Community Gardens recently gave out a questionnaire to Kemble residents asking them for their opinions about the Gardens. Copy and results of the survey, to date, are attached. When asked if they thought the Community Gardens was demonstrably special to the local community, 96% agreed of whom 69% strongly agreed.</p>	
6.3	<p>Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i> <i>Further information on contact details - Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, House of Commons</i></p>	
	<p>Letter of support and patronage from HRH Prince of Wales which included a financial donation, visits and assistance from Highgrove Management and Heritage seeds from the Duchy collection. See enclosed copies of correspondence from: Mr Chris Connors the head teacher of Kemble Primary [ideal if this evidence of support can be not just for it in abstract, but as a designated local space]</p>	
6.4	<p>Evidence of support from other groups <i>e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board; Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust; Gloucestershire Rural Community Council; Cotswold Water Park Trust; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</i></p>	
	<p>The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust is in the process of conducting a survey of the site and their first report is attached. They will continue to monitor the site.</p>	
7	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</p>	
7.1	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site ?</p>	
	<p>YES</p>	
7.2	<p>Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.</p>	
	<p>The Kemble Community Gardens is a haven of tranquillity for many people in Kemble. The site is safe and fully enclosed cut off from roads and traffic</p>	

	<p>making it a secure, private, relaxing getaway where you can be surrounded by nature in a semi – wild environment away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.</p> <p>The mix of copse, orchard, open space and bramble with hidden footpaths and clearings makes it an attractive place to be. This is further enhanced by the great variety of songbirds and insects that are present, and the back drop of the attractive cottages of the Victorian Railway Terrace, part of the Kemble Station conservation area. In the early mornings and evenings this is a very peaceful and relaxing place to walk through.</p>	
7.3	<p>Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i></p>	
	<p>The site is not generally visible except from A433 (Fosse Way) and Tarlton Road, where the greenness of the site creates the backdrop to the Railway Station Conservation Area.</p>	
7.4	<p>Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i> <i>Further information – Cotswold District Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i></p>	
	<p>The Community Gardens site is in a Special Landscape Area and is bounded to the east by the railway station conservation area. The latter can be seen in the first and last photographs as the row of Victorian railway workers cottages.</p>	
7.5	<p>Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? <i>e.g. Cotswolds AONB landscape character assessment. Further information – Cotswold District Council; Natural England; Cotswolds Conservation Board</i></p>	
	<p>Not to our knowledge</p>	
7.6	<p>Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?</p>	
	<p>Yes. It is the backdrop to the Railway Terrace cottages which are in the Kemble Station Conservation Area and the whole is in a SLA.</p>	
7.7	<p>Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i></p>	
	<p>Not to our knowledge</p>	
8	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i></p>	
8.1	<p>Is this criteria relevant to this site?</p>	
	<p>NO</p>	
8.2	<p>Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and</i></p>	

	gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures. Further information – Cotswold District Council ; English Heritage ; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record ; Gloucestershire Archives ; local history society;	
	The site abuts the railway station conservation area.	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i> Further information – Cotswold District Council ; English Heritage ; Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record ; local history society	
	Not to our knowledge	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	
	<p>The site was used as allotments during and after WWII. Evidenced from local memory and the aerial photograph below taken in 1952. The boundary of the original allotment area is marked on the photograph in red. It was the knowledge of this, and the fact that until the end of the 1980's residents of the Railway Terrace cultivated plots on the site, that inspired members of the Kemble community to get together with the help of the parish council to create the Community Gardens.</p> 	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	Not to our knowledge	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
	No	
9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?	
	YES	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport?	

	<p><i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i></p> <p><i>Further information – Sport England</i></p>	
	<p>The Community Gardens are not used for playing sport. However, local children often use the site for informal play, the school has an allotment and adults use the site for walking and gardening.</p>	
9.3	<p>Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i></p> <p><i>Further information – Gloucestershire County Council</i></p>	
	<p>The public are physically able to access the site at two points; see map in 1.2. There are public rights of way adjacent to the site. It is possible for disabled people to access to the site through the main gate in Old Manor Gardens. Public access is convenient, easy and has been free since the site became allotments during the 2nd world war. There are Kemble residents still alive who remember cultivation of this site and the keeping of pigs and poultry. Evidence of this is in the old fruit trees which are still growing and being used by the current occupiers.</p>	
9.4	<p>Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc</i></p>	
	<p>The Community Gardens is used for informal recreation since.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many dog owners, the elderly people who live in Abbots Way and other roads nearby and families with young children will use the site because it is safe and peaceful. There are two dog bins at either entrance. In the survey 28% of the respondents used the Gardens for exercise and 19% for walking their dog. 2. Local children prefer to play on the site in natural surroundings where there are no roads. A network of paths and wooded areas enable children to play in safety and use their imagination in a healthy outdoor environment. As it is overlooked by properties on three sides it is well observed for the security of the children and others. In the survey, 35% said it was a place where their children played. 3. The cultivation of the gardens provides fresh vegetables to the gardeners, gives them exercise, brings people together and educates them on gardening matters. Classes from Kemble School use the school plot in the gardens to learn about growing vegetables. All this is recognised as a way to promote wellbeing. The World Health Organisation defines health as ‘being in a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing.’ It is essential that local authorities carry out this responsibility promoting the wellbeing of their communities. Kemble Community Garden helps fulfil that responsibility. <p>The comments provided in the answers to the survey of Kemble people show that the Gardens are valued for the recreational value and how they are used. Tranquillity, preserving wildlife habitat and recreation are the most important reasons that people have for preserving the site.</p>	
10	<p>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable)</p>	

	Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?	
	YES	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	There are no roads bordering the site and no busy areas. The site is fully enclosed by private gardens. Away from the A429, and with the railway line being beyond and below the Railway Terrace, the main sounds are often that of birdsong and wind in the trees. It is absolutely silent most of the time but especially early in the morning and in the evening. In the survey, when asked how they used the Gardens, 81 of the 119 respondents (68%) said it was a quiet place to visit, while 49% said it was a place where they enhanced their wellbeing.	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
	Not known	
11	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>”; (if applicable) Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i> Further information - Natural England ; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records	
	No formal designation	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site? <i>e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or in the Cotswold Water Park or Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern.</i> Further information - Natural England ; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records ; National Biodiversity Network ; Cotswold Water Park Trust ; RSPB	
	The Community Gardens contains a mix of copse, made up of hawthorn, ash and willow, with old fruit trees from when it was an area of allotments. There are some remaining areas of bramble, the allotment plots, an orchard and open areas of grass. Finally, there are two small but healthy ponds. All of these different small scale habitats including the ivy on many of the hawthorns are ideal for a multiplicity of small birds which both nest and feed here. Combined with the gardens of Railway Terrace and Windmill Road which border the site there is an extensive area of small habitats which allow wild life to survive in an area of intensive modern farming. The Railway Terrace also provides access to the major wildlife corridor along the railway. The bird population is strong on the Community Gardens and includes the	

	House sparrow, Dunnock, starling, swift and House Martin which are all UK Priority Species.	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records; National Biodiversity Network; Cotswold Water Park Trust</i>	
	Substantial healthy colonies of slow worms are to be found all over the site. These have always been there but have been encouraged by the use of carpet to suppress weeds, and the use of compost bins, on the allotments. Numerous sightings of lizards, grass snakes, toads, and hedgehogs. Bats use the open areas for feeding in the summer.	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	
	The local community would like the opportunity to create a long term study of the bird and wildlife population including further encouragement with the addition of nesting and bat boxes in the future. Seven UK priority species have been recorded on the gardens. In June 2014 the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust did an ecological survey and assessment of the site. Report attached. This report included ways in which the habitats could be enhanced and this will continue.	
12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	NO	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	

