

Consultation response form PART A

Your details

[For office use only]
ID ref. / comment no.

Consultation response form PART B:

If you have several different comments to make, you may wish to use a separate PART B sheet for each one (although you do not have to). If you use multiple PART B sheets, please make sure you fill in your name on each of them (you only have to fill out PART A once, as long as it is clearly attached to your PART B sheets when you submit the forms to us).

Your name [REDACTED]

Your organisation or company **Allotment Warden Bisley with Lypiatt Parish Council**

Your client's name/organisation
(if applicable)

The consultation is seeking views about whether the big issues identified within this paper are the right things to focus on and what options exist for tackling them. Are there other issues, options or opportunities that have been missed? Please note: there is a separate form for you to fill out if your comment relates specifically to a site submission / proposed alternative site (download a copy of the sites form at www.stroud.gov.uk/localplanreview).

We ask a series of questions (highlighted in pink boxes) throughout the consultation paper. Each of the questions is numbered. Please can you reference the question number(s) and/or the topic here:

Question number: **2.4b Local Green Spaces and Community Facilities**

Please use this box to set out your comments:

(Attach additional sheets of paper or expand this box if you need to)

Allotments are essential as an important part of provision for Health and Well Being for all. This section 2.4 of the Issues and Options Paper has missed/does not identify Allotments. They should be specifically cited in the document. They should be an essential planning condition in new Housing schemes 2.3.. They enable communities to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables and this has many benefits including:

- Reduce food miles
- Reduce for those who grow them the (post Brexit) anticipated increase in the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Increase direct accessibility to “5 A Day”,
- Reduce the need for or interest in today’s processed diet that causes obesity, diabetes and unnecessary stress on the NHS etc;
- Increase physical activity at no cost (unlike commercial gyms)
- Have proven positive benefits to those with mental health issues or bereavement issues (i.e. The Ronan’s Trust Allotments)
- Provide an inexpensive, gentle and family form of recreation, and are known to help relieve stress
- Educationally are a resource for children’s knowledge of food and where food comes from
- Add green space for hedges, biodiversity and wildlife
- Are known to create healthy living soils that are also a carbon sink (compared to some commercial agriculture)
- Are a shared community resource, with access to common practical sharing (such as seed and plant swapping)

There are many research studies that demonstrate the above qualities that Allotments provide. Public Health England encourages ‘growing your own’ as a way of addressing public health issues.

Our allotments in Bisley host a community orchard and edible hedgerow, an award winning Community Composting scheme, and a Ronan’s Trust allotment plot for bereaved families. Our allotment holders donate a weekly box of fresh vegetable and fruit to the Stroud Food Bank. Our community compost scheme provides compost for the Vale (Dursley) Community Hospital Allotments that are the District’s only social prescribing allotments supported by the local Surgeries and NHS Commissioning.

Allotments should be an integral part of health and well being, are an integral part of our communities, and must not be forgotten.