

Chiltern District Draft Open Space Strategy Review Comments

Thank you for the opportunity for Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish Council to comment on the draft Open Space Strategy.

Overall the parish council found the strategy document formulaic, full of jargon or ‘consultant speak’, and giving the appearance that generic stock phrases that could be plugged into a strategy document prepared for many such Districts similar in character to either Chiltern or South Bucks.

The focus seemed to be based on a template that fitted more with an urban or even metropolitan environment. There seemed to be little appreciation of how much residents and visitors appreciate the informality and to some extent unkempt state of the natural environment within which the more remote rural villages in the Chiltern Hills sit. Whereas smart signage, and brightly painted seating and other amenities might fit well or be essential to achieving high scores for a town centre park the same approach to rating open spaces in the rural villages does not seem appropriate. It was noted that there is a recommendation to introduce new signage (S5). In the context of what has been said here this comes across as patronising.

Enabling joint working between Chiltern District with towns and parish councils would be vital to the development and achievement of many of the recommendations. Currently, as far as this parish council is concerned there has not to date been a track record of such close working relationships.

There were three entries in the Annexes for Chiltern District set out below which the parish council suggests need correcting.

| Chiltern District Annexes | Entry | Comments |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Facilities For Children And Young People | missing | St Leonards Parish Hall children’s’ playground omitted |
| Natural And Semi-Natural Greenspace | Little Twye Road, Buckland Common | Should be labelled The Green, Buckland Common, Cholesbury |
| Allotments – Chiltern District | Cholesbury, Buckland Common | Should be Springall Hill Allotments, Buckland Common, Cholesbury |