

**WITNESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TOWN GREEN APPLICATION FOR
STOKE LODGE PARKLAND**

1. This statement is made by **Sharon Elizabeth Parsons** of 4 Old Sneed Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1ET.
2. I am a Secretary, currently working with Deaf Students at the University of Bristol.
3. I moved with my family into 2 Druid Stoke Avenue, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, in February 1971 when I was 14 years old. I have two brothers and one sister who were aged 20, 17 and 5 at that time, and we all used Stoke Lodge for many and varied activities.
4. My family sold 2 Druid Stoke Avenue in 1977 and moved to 31 Druid Stoke Avenue where my mother and brother continued to live (after the death of my father and the older children had left home) until June 1987.
5. Stoke Lodge was immediately opposite our house, across Shirehampton Road. My bedroom window looked over Stoke Lodge. We gained access to Stoke Lodge by leaving the driveway, crossing the road, and climbing over the low wall.
6. We have never been denied access to the site at Stoke Lodge.
7. It is interesting to note that all members of my family remember at different times being asked to leave the old Clifton High School playing field site, and the old Imperial Sports Ground by the groundsmen. We were also asked to leave the Coombe Dingle site. Stoke Lodge is the only green space within Stoke Bishop which has always had open and free access to members of the public.
8. I remember playing frisbee and rounders with groups of teenage friends too many times to number, both in summer and winter. I used to walk our dog there on many occasions.
9. My youngest brother, Richard, used Stoke Lodge from the age of 5 until he moved from Stoke Bishop when he was 21. I have asked him for his recollection of Stoke Lodge and he speaks very fondly of spending most of his childhood there playing football, cricket, rugby and in later years, running and training and enjoying the long-jump. He remembers it as a lifeline, as due to the large age gap in our family, he could have been lonely had it not been for the fact that he always found a friend to play with when he went to Stoke Lodge.
10. His most exciting memory was around 1976-1977 when unusually he noticed the football nets were up early on Saturday morning. He went to investigate and found Liverpool Football Club training on the site in preparation for a match against Bristol City Football Club that afternoon. He remembers them being very friendly, and when they were finished, spending time kicking balls with him and his friends. He got autographs from several of the players.
11. My brother also remembers his friends parents holding football birthday parties on Stoke Lodge.
12. My sister and older brother have similar memories to me, of playing games with friends and walking the dog. My older brother remembers it as a place to have a cigarette without my parents seeing.
13. I moved away from Stoke Bishop when I was 23, but returned with my family in 1994. My children were aged 8, 6 and newborn at that time. They have used Stoke Lodge in all the years since that time.
14. My middle son played cricket at Stoke Lodge with Stoke Bishop Cricket Club, and has enjoyed playing football with friends on many occasions. My youngest son walks our dog there every weekend with friends.
15. I still use Stoke Lodge at least once a week, and often walk there with my neighbour who has two children aged 18 months and 3. Once the children are inside the site, it is very safe, away from cars where they can run free.

16. Stoke Lodge is an amenity that must be preserved as green space for future generations to enjoy as much as my family have.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed Sharon Parsons
Sharon Elizabeth Parsons

Dated: 29 January 2011

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland - Application for Town Green Registration - Evidence Questionnaire

NAME of Witness SHARON PARSONS	
Print	
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"? 2 DRUID STOKE AVENUE 31 DRUID STOKE AVENUE 4 OLD SNEED ROAD ALL IN STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL
2	Your address when you knew the land edged in red on Map "A" was being used by the local inhabitants? If different from 1 above? SAME AS ABOVE
3	Did you sign the map "A" attached to confirm your understanding of the extent of The Land being claimed? As "Town Green" edged in Red? And relates to the evidence YES
4	Confirm your agreement that the Locality or Neighbourhood is the Political Ward of Stoke Bishop plus parts of Westbury on Trym, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. Map "B" YES
5	Please confirm that you have marked the location of your house on Map "B" with an X. YES
6	By what name, if any, is The Land edged in red on Map "A" known? STOKE LODGE
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what? NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"? 43 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"? 1971 to present day
10	Do you consider yourself to be a local inhabitant in respect of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? YES
11	During the time you have used the Land edged in red on Map "A", has the general pattern of use remained basically the same? YES

12		What recognisable facilities are available to the local inhabitants of your locality? Please tick all boxes that apply and add any other additional matters not covered	
		Community centre	Community activities
	Local infants school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A central feature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scout hut <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Residents association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Local place of worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
13	NO DESIGNATED PATH, BUT I USE A ROUTE ACROSS THE LAND		
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	USUALLY ACROSS THE WALL AT JUNCTION DRUID HILL / SHIREHAMPTON ROAD	
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	WALK	
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	WALK THE DOG, PICNICS WITH NEIGHBOURS JOINING CHILDREN, ETC	
17	How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A" (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)	SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK	
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?	PLAY GAMES, RUN ON TRACK, ETC.	
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES	
20	If so, for what?	GAMES, SPORT, WALKING DOG, CRICKET	
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	YES, ROCKEAZE RANGERS, STOKE BISHOP CRICKET CLUB, ETC	
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?	AS ABOVE. FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER	
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?	NO, MY SON DID.	

