

Witness statement in support of Town Green Application for Stoke Lodge Parkland

My name is: Alan William Preece

Address: 12 South Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 2BW

My occupation is: part-time Clinical Scientist after retiring as professor of Medical Physics

We moved here with two small children in 1972 after living in the middle of countryside in the Chew valley, seeking an urban environment with attributes of countryside and found that living close to Stoke Lodge a joy and privilege. Access is easy via West Dene, Cheyne Road or off Shirehampton Road and is our regular route to the shops and activities there.

From the beginning the Parkland was a place to wander with the children, to play ball games, fly kites, watch groups enjoying all kinds of sports such as cricket, football, long-jumps, and generally to exercise and chill out. It was also a place to play games in the woodland and building ruins and to observe wild-life in the form of squirrels, foxes, bats and a huge variety of birdlife.

At all times I felt it was a safe, observed environment for small children, and this applied when they were older and wandered over there unsupervised with their friends to play, to collect blackberries, mulberries and to seek birds' nests of the many visitors to our garden. It is also a place we have been able to exercise the dogs of neighbours when too ill to do this themselves.

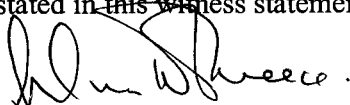
In the middle years I have been able to indulge in exercise myself – just walking, attempting to teach cricket to American visitors, ski practice, photography, and wildlife observation. Now it has come full circle and I have 5 grandchildren, ranging ages from 12 to 4, who love to join me on the Parkland to do all the same things I did with their parents. There used to be a groundsman that we talked to – never once has there been any objection to any activities I or my children have undertaken.

There is nothing more pleasant than to hear the organised and casual sports groups practicing on the weekend and to able to support the school fetes and other events that regularly happen. Community is harmony and apart from the odd golf-ball or football crashing into my garden, such use is a wonderful thing.

I have a first degree in biology and thoroughly appreciate the quality of this environment in the middle of a suburban sprawl of houses. Surely this why it was chosen by the BBC as location for a Springwatch programme? It is a natural reservoir of wildlife and a corridor for foxes and badgers. I also treasure its relative security since I am happy to traverse it in the dark and have been happy to let the older children use it in the late evenings. I also hope, when I have more free time, to take advantage of the adult foreign language courses at Stoke Lodge House.

I believe that facts stated in ~~this witness~~ statement are true:

Signature:



Date: 03/02/20

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

NAME of Witness Print	ALAN PREECE	
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	12, SOUTH DENE STOKE BISHOP BS9. 2BW
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?	
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 PARKLAND
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	NO
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	39 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1972 to 2011
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	<p>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</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Local infants school</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Community centre</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Community activities</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local junior school</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Sports facility</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>A central feature</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local secondary school</td> <td></td> <td>Swimming pool</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Scout hut</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Residents association</td> <td></td> <td>Library</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> <td>SHOPS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhood watch</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Alt green space within easy walking</td> <td>No</td> <td>other</td> <td>BUS SERVICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neighbourhood Partnership</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Area police</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local place of worship</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Doctors surgery</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Local infants school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A central feature		Local secondary school		Swimming pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scout hut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Residents association		Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other	SHOPS	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space within easy walking	No	other	BUS SERVICE	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area police	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other		Local place of worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctors surgery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other					
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13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				YES																																										
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				END OF WESTDENE OR VIA ERBENEZER LANE																																										
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"?				RECREATION, EXERCISE, ACCESS TO STOKE LODGE, SHOPS & BUS ROUTE																																										
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 WITH CHILDREN / GRANDCHILDREN, PHOTOGRAPHY, FRUIT PICKING, WALKING																																										
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				YES																																										
20	If so, for what?				GAMES, ACCESS TO TREES																																										
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				'FUN DAYS', PICNICS, SPORTS TRAINING, BOTANY TOURS / LECTURES																																										
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?				AS ABOVE, ON MOST YEARS AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER																																										
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?				YES																																										

