

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

Full name: Jennifer Parsons

Current address 10, South Dene, Bristol. BS9 2BW (since 1980)

Occupation Retired Teacher

Our use of Stoke Lane Parkland during the time we have lived here:

One of the reasons that persuaded us to buy our house was that fact that it overlooked Stoke Lodge Parkland – it is unusual to find such an unspoiled area of natural beauty within a city. When we first arrived we were both working outside Bristol and it was a joy to us to be able to come home and go for a walk around the field in the evening and at weekends – this helped us to relax.

Initially this was our main use of the Parkland but over the years our use changed and became greater. Whilst still using it on a regular basis for relaxed walking, I have many times watched my husband and his team playing cricket as well as our neighbour's son playing football. In addition to this we look after my sister's children during the school holidays and regularly go over to the parkland to play rounders, tag, hide and seek and football as well as having picnics, going blackberry picking and bird watching.

In retirement we used the parkland as part of our keep fit routine by going jogging around the field regularly. We have also used Stoke Lodge House on a regular basis over many years by attending various adult education classes and also doing a Tai Chi course there.

Stoke Lodge House and Parkland form an intrinsic part of the life of this community which it would be catastrophic to lose. In recent years it has been the meeting place for an afternoon of family fun and games with competitions organised between South Dene and West Dene residents (Sept 2005?) as well as for a Sunday afternoon picnic in support of the Parkland (Sept 2010) The fact that both of these events were very well supported bears witness to the concern of the residents about the future of the Parkland.

As I stated initially the natural beauty of the area with its trees which provide a haven for wild life - something we really appreciate - make it unique in Bristol and we do not want to lose the right of free access to it. From our house it is an easy walk to the gateway at the end of West Dene which we use. Never in the 30 years since we have lived here have we been denied access and we hope that this would continue in the future through the granting of town green status.

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

Signature



Date:



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

NAME of Witness Print	JENNIFER PARSONS .
1 Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	10, SOUTH DENE 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?	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 PARKLAND
7 Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	STOKE LODGE .
8 For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	30 yrs
9 Between which years did you us the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1980 - date .
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?	Greater use now by Bristol University sports teams

12 What recognisable facilities are available to the local inhabitants of your locality?

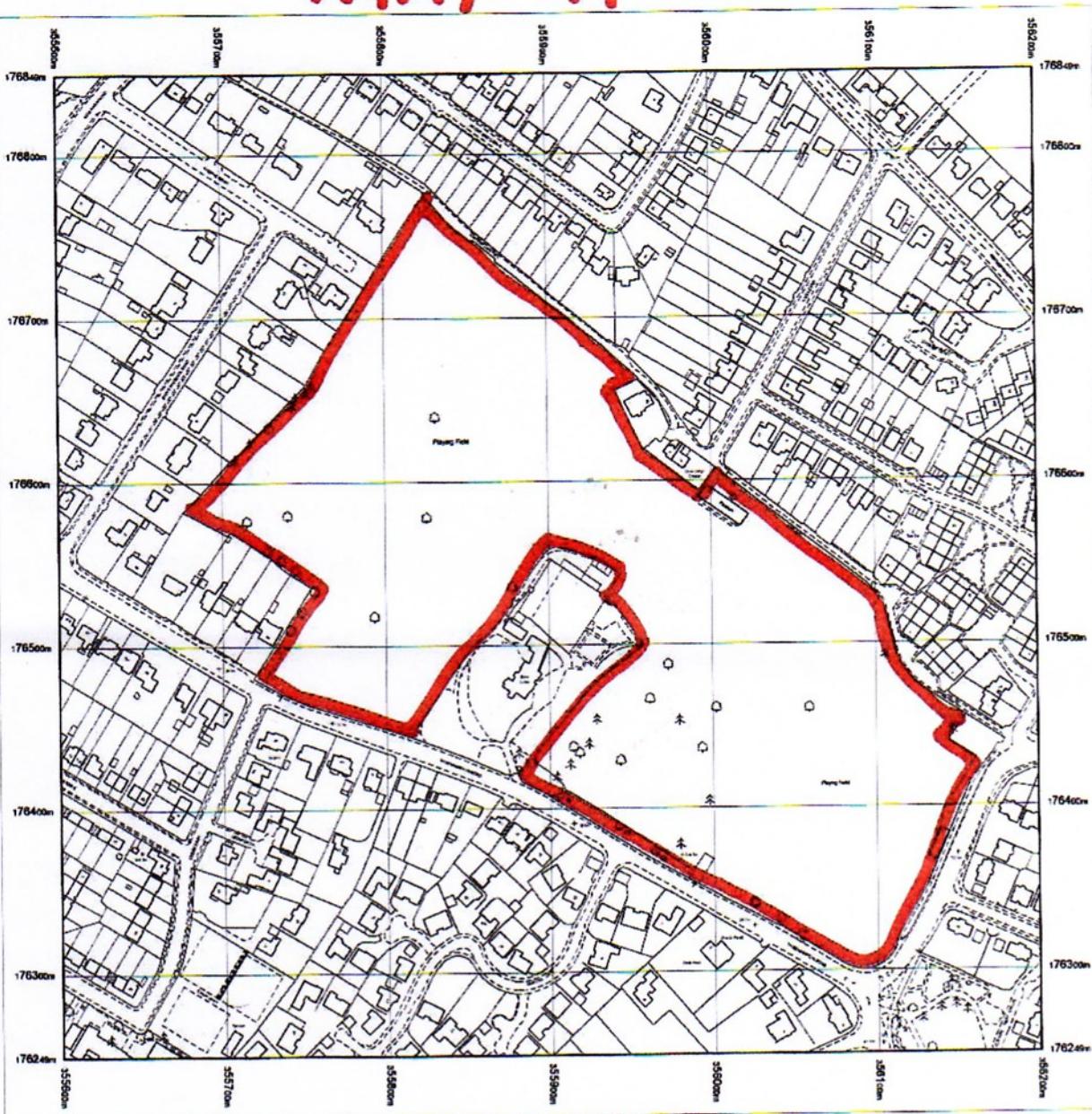
Please tick all boxes that apply and add any other additional matters not covered

Local infants school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community activities
Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A central feature
Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swimming pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scout hut
Residents association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space with easy walking ??	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
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
13 To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				Not sure.
14 How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				Via gateway at end of West Dene
15 How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				by foot.
16 Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				leisure, exercise, pleasure.
17 How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				Regularly, 2/3 times per week.
18 What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?				walking, games with children.
19 Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				yes.
20 If so, for what?				as in 18
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
22 If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?				family fun day - 1 day 2008 community picnic - 1 day 2010
23 Do/did you participate in any of them?				yes.

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.	Yes . University of Bristol sports clubs. Cathari School ; youth football clubs.
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	Yes - football + cricket + rugby
26	Please tick all the activities that you have seen taking place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"	
	Children playing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Rounders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drawing and painting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dog Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Team Games (Formal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Team Games (informal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Picking blackberries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Community celebrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	Bristol City Council ? (I think)
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.	Again B.C but managed now by Unit of Bristol Economic Dept
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	Just to my knowledge .
30	What did they say? If anything?	
31	Was permission ever sought by you for activities on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No
32	If so, from whom and when?	No
33	Did anyone ever give you permission to go onto the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No .
34	If yes, when and for what reason?	
35	Have you ever been prevented from using the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	No .

36	If yes, when and for what reason?	
37	Has any attempt been made by any means to prevent or discourage the use being made of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	No
38	If yes, give examples and dates	   
39	Are you aware of any signs or notices restricting access to the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	No.
40	Do you have any photographs or any other evidence of use of the Land edged in red on Map "A" by local inhabitants?	Yes.
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	<i>Yes, but may not show a great deal of the site</i>
42	If you have additional information please attach a separate statement? (witness statement etc)	
43	If you have knowledge of others who may be in a position to complete an evidence form, would you please write their names and addresses upon the reverse of this form.	
44	I have carried on the activities referred to in this questionnaire, on the Land edged in red on Map "A", for 30 years without anybody trying to stop me and I believe the activity should be treated by the law as having a lawful origin.	
45	I understand that the evidence form I have completed in relation to this application may become public knowledge and I authorise the applicant to disclose this form to anyone reasonably requiring access to this application.	
46	I also understand that this evidence may be presented at a non-statutory inquiry and I authorise the applicant to use this form for that purpose.	
47	Jennifer Parsons	Signed
48	JENNIFER PARSONS	Name
49	28/01/2011	Date

## MAP 'A'



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The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

0 20 40 60 80 100  
Metres  
Scale 1:2500

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Centre coordinates: 355899.67 176649.37

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*Jenner Parsons*

