

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.

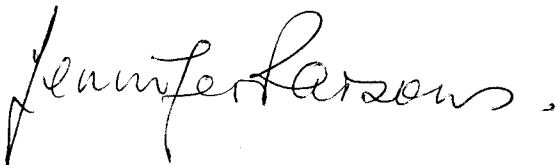
Initially this was our main use of the Parkland but over the years our use changed and became greater. Whilst still using it on a regular basis for relaxed walking, I have many times watched my husband and his team playing cricket as well as our neighbour's son playing football. In addition to this we 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: 25/01/2011.

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 use 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 | some at Coombe Arlife | A central feature ? |
| Local secondary school | | Swimming pool | | Scout hut |
| Residents association | | Library | westbury on thames | other |
| Neighbourhood watch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | All green space with easy walking?? | Downs | other |
| Neighbourhood Partnership | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area police | Southmead? | other |
| Local place of worship | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Doctors surgery | | 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" (apart from use of any public paths on the Land) | | 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. |

