

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

Mrs Celia Worrall, 47 Coombe Bridge Avenue, Bristol BS9 2LT

Retired

I moved from the north of England to Coombe Bridge Avenue, Stoke Bishop in March 1975 with my family and I am very pleased to say that we were quickly introduced by local residents to the nearby availability of Stoke Lodge Parklands – the access to which was in Cheyne Road via, the gap in the hedging.

My son and his newly made friends enjoyed many happy years playing football there either on summer evenings, week-ends, school holidays and in particular on Boxing Day – the latter, especially when they had progressed to either College or University. My daughter and her friends also enjoyed many games of impromptu tennis and rounders, jogging and also picnics etc. whilst she was growing up. Added to this my husband and I enjoyed many happy hours walking Labrador dogs around the perimeter of the field, picking blackberries and often meeting other local residents for social chats. I can only stress that life would have been very much the poorer without these pleasures.


Yes, there is the proximity of the Dingle, but I do not think that this is a safe place either for children or for the elderly. I can still remember to this day, the trauma of being “flashed” at by a male there and the panic I experienced in trying to escape. I would never go on my own to this area again.

I can also recall in the past taking part in a very successful protest about the threatened closure of Stoke Lodge to the general public, although I am not exactly sure how long ago this took place. A particular danger was the proposed closure of access from Cheyne Road. Fortunately we won the day and I believe that this was due to the fact that there had been access used for many years and that it was now considered a right of way.

Stoke Lodge Parkland is an outstandingly beautiful and safe area for local residents, especially the young and the elderly. Please, please, please may we keep this facility for the use of future families. We need to keep green open spaces available for all to enjoy. Surely, it is possible to keep it as a multi-used facility both for school and club sports and for general public recreation.

Added to this, I have attended several adult educational courses over the years at the house, e.g. Upholstery, German, Sewing and Cookery which I enjoyed very much. I hope that this facility also remains open to the public.

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

Signature:.....

Date:2.2.2011.....



