

WITNESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TOWN GREEN
APPLICATION FOR STAKE LODGE PARKLAND.

MR IAN JAMES SINGLETON
119 SYLVAN WAY
SEA MILLS
BRISTOL
BS9 2UX

EMPLOYEE OF REGISTERED CHARITY.

I first used Stake Lodge when I moved to Cosmbe Bridge Avenue with my parents in 1967, when I was 20. It was a convenient and pleasant open space and we used to walk there with our dog most days. My father died in 1969 and I left home soon after but my Mother continued to walk on Stake Lodge with her dog on a regular basis. She would meet up with other dog-walkers for a daily chat and this formed an important part of her social life following my father's death. I would return to see her every week or two and we would often walk the dog together on Stake Lodge.

This continued for many years. However, in 1985 I came back to live with my Mother as I was suffering from involuntary addiction to prescribed tranquillizers. This had made me very ill, both physically and mentally, and I stayed with her for 2 years, during which time I managed to withdraw from the medication and begin my recovery.

I was unable to work at this period and was in a constant state of anxiety and turmoil because of the severe withdrawal symptoms. It was an agonizing time for me, and the ability to walk her dog every day on Stoke Lodge played no small role in my survival and eventual recovery. I would usually find a local resident to talk to on these occasions and they unfailingly gave me good advice and support and made me feel that I was not alone with my problems.

After the worst of the withdrawal symptoms subsided I moved to Sylvan way to live independently again and subsequently returned to work. I visited my Mother regularly and we continued to walk together on Stoke Lodge and talk to the many other dog walkers. My Mother anyway walked here on a daily basis and derived great pleasure and satisfaction from being able to meet up with others. Indeed, this was often the focus of her day, as it must have been for many of the other people she met up with. She continued to visit Stoke Lodge until shortly before her death in 1996.

Since then I have continued to visit Stoke Lodge, as I have friends in Sylvan way who often walk their dog here.

They would also be hugely upset if this recreation were to be denied them. It is not just that it is a place to take healthy exercise but it is a vital place for social interaction which helps people, especially older people, to combat loneliness and isolation. I consider that this function would be entirely lost if the public were to be barred from entering the parkland. I know from my own experience just how therapeutic it is to walk and talk in this marvellous environment.

I have never been barred from entering Stoke Lodge or asked to leave it. Indeed, local residents are encouraged to watch local sports matches, thereby increasing the sense of local community.

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

Signed: J. Simpleton

Date: 3 February 2011

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

NAME of Witness

Print

1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	45 COOMBE BRIDGE AVENUE 1967 - 87 119 SYLVAN WAY 1987 - PRESENT
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
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"?	43 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1967 - PRESENT
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

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			
12	Local infants school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community centre
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility
	Local secondary school		Swimming pool
	Residents association		Library
	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space within easy walking
	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area police
	Local place of worship		Doctors surgery
13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
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)		
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?		
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
20	If so, for what?		
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?		
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?		

YES

THROUGH ENTRY AT END OF CHEYNE RD AND VIA EBENEZER CAME

ON FOOT

WALKING AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

MOST DAYS

WALKING, PICKING BACKSEATERS, TALKING TO FRIENDS, PLAYING BAZZ

YES

WALKING, SOCIAL INTERACTION, PICKING BACKSEATERS

PICNICS, JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS

PICNICS EVERY SUMMER, ANNUAL SCHOOL SPORTS DAYS.

NO

STOKE BRISTOL CRICKET CLUB, LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUBS, SCOUTS & BROWNIES
 COTHAM, CEDAR PARK, CLIFTON HILL SCHOOLS, BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, SEASONAL SPORTS, PICKING BLACKBERRIES, ELDERFLOWERS & ELDERBERRIES

24	Do any organisations use the Land edged in red on Map "A" for sports or pastimes? If so, please specify.			
25	Do any seasonal activities take place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"			
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"/>	Fetes	Bonfire parties
	Rounders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Football	Bicycle riding
	Drawing and painting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rugby	Carol singing
	Dog Walking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cricket	other
	Team Games (Formal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bird watching	other
	Team Games (informal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Picnicking	other
	Picking blackberries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kite flying	other
	Community celebrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People walking	other
27	Do you know the name of the owner of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.			YES. BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
28	Do you know the name of the occupier of the Land edged in red on Map "A"? And if so please state.			NO
29	Has the owner or occupier seen you on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?			
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?			
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?	NOT AWARE OF ANY
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?	NO
41	Are you willing to allow us to copy them for use as part of our application?	
42	If you have additional information please attach a separate statement? (witness statement etc)	ATTACHED
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 43 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	Signed	<i>I. Supton</i>
48	Name	IAN JAMES SINGHSON
49	Date	J.2.11

