

## Parkland.

Julie Grace Wright 24, West Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2BQ

Occupation-Clerical

I moved to Briercliffe Road in 1984, myself, husband and Simon, aged 5 and Sarah, aged 3. Simon attended Cedar Park C of E school and walking to this was our first introduction to Stoke Lodge Playing Fields (SLPF). On a fine day we would walk to school, along Cheyne Road, across SLPF and along Cedar Park. Also after school we would play on these fields, a place where the children could run freely, sometimes enjoying a bun, bought from the cake shop in Shirehampton Road.

In 1994 I moved even closer to SLPF buying the "Old School Kitchens" (which backs on to SLPF) and having a house built there. I have used SLPF extensively ever since and I list below my reasons for using SLPF

1. Short cut to the shops, dentist and doctor's-I leave my house, turn left, walk a short way along Ebenezer Lane, through the gap in the hedging (there are several to choose from) across the field and onto Stoke Paddock Road.
2. Short cut to the bus stop at the mini roundabout.
3. Picking up litter left by others.
4. Cutting the brambles that grow on SLPF against my fence and invade my garden if I don't prune them at least 3 times a year.
5. Birthday parties for the children (photos enclosed of 1997 rounders party)
6. Street parties organised by Woodland Grove residents, in the past it was an annual event, races and rounders matches were organised.
7. South Dene v West Dene cricket matches that were instigated several years ago. Sadly last year's event was rained off! (photos enclosed of 2005 event)
8. Picking fruit, damsons, blackberries, plums and mulberries.
9. Collect holly and ivy at Christmas time, and other greenery for flower arranging at various times throughout the year.
10. To walk to Stoke Lodge to attend day/evening classes.
11. Walking, for exercise, 2-3 times a week with up to 6 other ladies, 4 times around the field.

Stoke Lodge Playing Fields is a wonderful community asset, that I know has been enjoyed by generations in the past and I hope, in the future. Over the years I have had the pleasure of meeting all sorts of people on the field, listening to their tales of joy and woe. Not all is idyllic though : the litter is annoying, some of the language from the sportsmen is ripe, the brambles are challenging, some of the dogs are noisy early in the morning, but I wouldn't want it to change greatly, as I have come to love the fields.

In all the 28 years I have been using it I have never had permission to use it, nor have I ever been asked to leave it.

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

JG Wright

JULIE G. WRIGHT

4/2/11





