

**Witness Statement in support of
Town green Application for Stoke Lodge parkland**

From : John Ll Hollyman
51 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 1EH
Occupation : Retired Lecturer

In support of the application to have Stoke Lodge designated as a Town Green, I should like to make the following points.

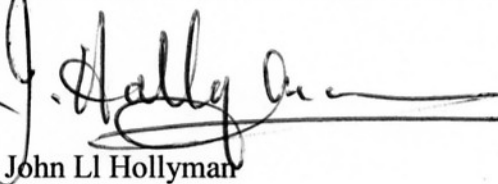
Stoke Lodge has been our local park ever since we came to live at this address 36 years ago. It was part of the reason for choosing to live in this area, because we wanted our young family to have an open space only 100 yards away to which transport was not required. We used it for playing games, flying a kite, watching cricket or football, picking blackberries, having picnics and in my personal case, for twice weekly jogging.

The existence of signs which formally pointed out restrictions on the use of the fields seemed a curious anomaly, since everyone that one came across when using Stoke Lodge was there because it was their unquestioned right, one which they had enjoyed for many years before I arrived here with my family, and which they exercised as naturally as they did when going up to the Downs. No-one ever pointed out the formal legal situation and certainly I used Stoke Lodge as a running area in exactly the same way as I sometimes used the Downs, Coombe Dingle or Blaise Castle.

My wife has used Stoke Lodge House as a centre for evening classes in more recent times, I use the fields as a pleasant and more direct route through to my daughter's house over in Bellbarn Road and I continue to spend time there picking blackberries or watching sports.

Obviously we value Stoke Lodge as a recreation area, a space with beautiful trees that has allowed us to escape streets, cars and concrete and which has provided more formal opportunities for sports. The values that are summed up in such green spaces are often ignored by the powers that be.

I submit these views and facts as a true statement in support of the Application



John Ll Hollyman

6th February 2011

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

	NAME of Witness Print	JOHN HOLLYMAN
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	51 DRUID HILL STOKE BISHOP
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.	CONFIRMED.
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"?	36 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1975 - 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

