

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

13 February 2011

From : Bryan John McKenna

47 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 IEH

Occupation : Chartered Accountant

I moved, with my wife and young family to the above address in June 1992 and made use of the wonderful amenity that is Stoke Lodge almost right away, it being a matter of only 200 yards from our house.

All of our family – comprising my wife, myself and 3 sons now aged 20, 19, and 16 – have been deeply committed users of this local free green space for some 19 years now, for many differing purposes over the entirety of all those years. During all of that time we were never denied access, in any way, to the parkland.

Our numerous activities as a family, and also individually, during those important years as our family developed and progressed, included the children playing, us all walking and picnicking, ad hoc football and cricket games, and most importantly running and other fitness exercises to improve our general health and well being.

The 3 boys were all, for many years, hugely enthusiastic members of Shire Colts Junior Football Club – who made extensive use of the space at Stoke Lodge for regular training, and also playing of games, for all age groups from Under 8's to Under 16's.

We always walk to the site, and gain access mostly from the small opening at the top of Druid Hill, and also over the low (3 foot) wall close to that opening. Like many other users, we also use the variety of alternative access points around the entire perimeter of the parkland.

Stoke Lodge is an intrinsically beautiful parkland, of a very reasonable size and critical mass that allows it to be used by a variety of user groups at the same time, without anyone feeling that they are impacting on the activities of others. It also has great views over the local area, given its situation close to the top of a hill. It has a feel to it, as well as a basic use, that helps it provide for the mental, as well as physical, well being of the many, many users of the parkland, from the very young to the very old.

It's importance to the local, and wider, community in it's current public use format cannot possibly be emphasised enough – to lose it, or any part of it, would be unthinkable.

Signed :



Date :

13/2/11

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

	NAME of Witness Print BRYAN JOHN MCKENNA
1 Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	47 Druid Hill Stoke Bishop Bristol BS9 1EH
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?	Not to my knowledge
8 For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	18 1/2
9 Between which years did you us the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	1992 to 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

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		Community activities
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility		A central feature
	Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swimming pool		Scout hut
	Residents association		Library	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
	Neighbourhood watch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alt green space within easy walking		other
	Neighbourhood Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area police		other
	Local place of worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctors surgery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other
13	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	No-				
14	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	Various access points on the perimeter				
15	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	Walk				
16	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	Walking, jogging, watching some local sports				
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)				
	2 to 3 times a week				
18	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?				
	Walking, jogging plus some team games				
19	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	Yes				
20	If so, for what?				
	All her and organised sports activities				
21	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?				
	Many, similar to my own plus tennis plus dog walking				
22	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?				
	as in 21, these activities have taken place at least since the time I started using Stoke hols				
23	Do/did you participate in any of them?				
	Yes				

