

Full Name: Ben James McKenna

Current Address: 47 Druid Hill, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1EH

Occupation: Student

My family and I have been using Stoke Lodge playing fields for as long as I can remember. During this time I have never been denied access. I have used the field for a range of activities – including gatherings of friends and family, to enjoy some parties, and to participate in competitions and various sporting events.

I have always walked to the field and mainly gained access to it by jumping over the low wall at the top of Druid Hill.

I most value Stoke Lodge in that it can bring people together from a range of backgrounds. Its setting allows people to do what they please with the freedom that every person is entitled to. People are able to walk dogs on it, just simply walk on it, run on it, play football on it, play rugby on it, the list is almost endless. To take away this facility from the general public would be have an extremely detrimental effect on the area.

My fondest memories of the playing fields are of the 10 years I played football for Shirehampton Colts Football Club, from the age of 6 to the age of 16. Nearly every week I played my home football matches on the field. From the great feeling of success to the bitter taste of failure, the field bore witness to all of these emotions on a weekly basis, providing a platform on which great memories were made. It allowed a bunch of young boys to grow, learn and mature together. The kind of key learning skills needed for any young person to succeed in life originate in team activities and sports such as football. Friends and family can become involved in supporting you and your team - so this field allows for not only personal and quiet reflection but also for teams and communities to come together.

I am the eldest of three brothers in my family, brothers with whom I have extremely good relationships. We were the most ardent users of the field; not only due to the same football club we were involved in but also because every possible opportunity we were able to take we would go and play until the lack of daylight would stop us. Without the field I am in no doubt that the course of my life would have been substantially altered and I am also in no doubt that I would not have become the same person that I am today. I am extremely grateful for all the experiences I have had on Stoke Lodge, for the relationships I have developed with my brothers, and friendships I have made with team mates and others.

I believe that the facts stated in the witness statement are true,

Signature: 

Date: 30/01/2011

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

	NAME of Witness Print	BEN JAMES WICKENUNIA
1	Your address when you used the land being claimed as "Town Green" and edged in red on Map "A"?	47 DRUID HILL STOKE DISITOP BRISTOL BS9 1GH
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"	I agree
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 PLAYING GROUNDS
7	Has the land, referred to in question 6, ever been known by any other name? If so what?	I AM NOT AWARE
8	For how many years have you known about the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	18 YEARS
9	Between which years did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?	SINCE 1988 1992
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
	Local junior school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sports facility
	Local secondary school	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Swimming pool
	Residents association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Doctors surgery
	To your knowledge are there any public paths crossing the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	How do you gain access to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	How do you travel to and from the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	Why do you go on to the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	How often do/did you use the Land edged in red on Map "A" (apart from use of any public paths on the Land)		
	What activities do/did you take part in on the Land edged red on Map "A"?		
	Does your immediate family use the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	If so, for what?		
	Do you know of any community activities that take place or have taken place on the Land edged in red on Map "A"?		
	If so please list them and state when and for how long they have taken place?		
	Do/did you participate in any of them?		
			THE PUBLIC CROSS IS ALL THE TIME
			VARIOUS ACCESS - MAINLY LOW WALL AT TOP OF PAVED TILES
			WALK
			EXERCISE / WALKING / GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS
			2 TO 3 TIMES A WEEK
			PLAYING FOOTBALL / PLAYING WITH FRIENDS / SOCIALISING
			YES
			SAME AS ME, PLUS WALKING & RUNNING
			VARIOUS SPORTS, & SCHOOL, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
			AS ABOVE - EVER SINCE I HAVE USED THE FIELD, & BEFORE
			YES - MANY

