

4 February 2011

Witness Statement in support of Town Green Application for Stoke Lodge Parkland

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I am writing this statement to show the amount of time my family has enjoyed the use of Stoke Lodge Parkland.

I moved into South Dene in October 1998. My family enjoys the green aspect of the area and the open spaces available to us. My husband went for a long walk most weekends and soon found the walk through the Stoke Lodge Parkland from the West Dene entrance down to Cheyne Road a part of our regular walk to Blaise. This enabled us to be to Blaise by crossing only two minor roads and enjoy as much green as possible.

I originally helped at the 43rd Cub Scout group which meets at a hut on Kewstoke Road. As part of the annual summer program we brought the cubs up to the field to play games and do badge work. It was a fantastic safe area for the many activities we took part in.

When I went self-employed and commenced working from home my neighbor and I started going for an early morning jog around the field before she took her girls to school.

I now have two daughters myself and regularly take them to the field, originally in their buggies and later with their scooters. They specifically like a copse of trees in the bottom corner which we fondly call the hidey hole. Here they can enjoy exploring amongst the lower branches and climbing in and out of the copse.

I helped arrange a neighborhood get together in September 2005. South Dene against West Dene friendly cricket match. Many neighbors joined in the fun and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in the sun with a picnic tea and games for the children and adults alike.

I also took my daughter to a fundraiser that was held on the field in 2003 when my daughter enjoyed the bouncy castle.

My family and I have enjoyed jumping in puddles under the changing room awning, watching balloons land in the field, flying kites, throwing balls and Frisbees and many other activities over the years of living here. We watched 'Wild in your Garden'

being filmed with the BBC Bill Oddie and Kate Humble. We watched 'Casualty' filming a summer fair on a particularly cold early spring day.

I have never been denied access to the field by anyone. When taking neighbors dogs for a walk I have always cleaned up behind them.

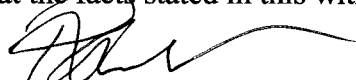
I use the route from West Dene down to Cheyne Road as a regular route to the shops on Shirehampton Road and my dentist on Bell Barn Road. This is a very safe route with my two girls.

I have enjoyed table top sales at Stoke Lodge as well as taking French classes and voting. Cutting across from West Dene to Stoke Lodge is immensely quicker than walking all around the road from Parry's Lane to Shirehampton Road.

For many years my family and I would go across the field to get to Stoke Bishop C of E School on Cedar Park as again this shortened the journey by a long way.

The trees and space is an amazingly pleasant area to spend time. All the people I meet when I am there are friendly and stop to say hello or chat. It is a very sociable area. It is safe for my children to play on. The fact that they can get close to nature here is delightful.

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

Signature: 

Date: 4 February 2011

