

APPLICATION BY MR DAVID MAYER TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS STOKE
LODGE PLAYING FIELD, SHIREHAMPTON ROAD, BRISTOL, AS A NEW TOWN OR
VILLAGE GREEN

FURTHER DIRECTION

In my Further Directions dated 30 January 2014, I indicated that I was minded to defer further consideration of the application until after the Supreme Court had determined the *Newhaven* case – likely to be sometime towards the end of this year.

Such a delay is intrinsically undesirable but the point being decided in the *Newhaven* case, namely the compatibility of registration of land as a town or village green with the statutory purposes for which the land is held is a point of law that is capable of being decisive against the application. All the objectors agreed with my proposal that the matter should be deferred. The Applicant would rather the application were determined sooner rather than later, but recognises that, as matters stand at the moment, local people are freely able to access the land – so no prejudice arises from the prolongation of a period in which access is denied. There will be an issue at any inquiry about a sign or signs and memory will, to the extent that the inquiry be deferred, potentially be worse; but the existence and effect of signs will be a matter for the objectors to prove, and the objectors are of course content for the inquiry to be deferred. In all the circumstances it seems to me that it will be best for the inquiry to be deferred and I so direct.

I will issue further directions once the outcome of the *Newhaven* case is known.

PHILIP PETCHEY
26 March 2014