

dnmayer@msn.com

From: John Goulandris [Cllr.john.goulandris@bristol.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 May 2016 11:59
To: dnmayer@msn.com
Subject: Fwd: Letters Page : Stoke Lodge Parkland - for use by all the community

Electronic copy, as requested.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Goulandris <Cllr.john.goulandris@bristol.gov.uk>
Date: 11 May 2016 at 19:55:32 BST
To: "Epletters@bepp.co.uk" <Epletters@bepp.co.uk>, Ian Onions <ian.onions@localworld.co.uk>
Subject: Letters Page : Stoke Lodge Parkland - for use by all the community

Dear Sir,

I was very surprised by the melodramatic and one sided tone of your article (Post 11th May) suggesting that pupils could be ' forced off' Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, if the current Town and Village Green application is successful. What utter nonsense!

For many decades all members of the community have enjoyed the use as of right of the parkland, which surrounds Stoke Lodge. That includes school use for sport, walkers, families, informal sports use, club football etc. The concern of local people is that in future there might be restrictions or fencing introduced by the Council, which would give exclusive use to just one group and thereby exclude residents, local children and clubs from using this lovely green space.

The TVG application, if successful, far from restricting use of the land, would allow **ALL** members of the community to enjoy it as an open green space in perpetuity. Sports use by Cotham School would continue. Indeed, all current uses would continue. TVG status protects against development; it does not stop the current uses of the parkland.

What was not clear from your article is that Cotham School are seeking is to erect fencing for the school's exclusive use of the site. Rather selfishly in my view they wish to exclude members of the public and prevent them enjoying use of the parkland, which they have done for many decades . That would be a seriously retrograde step. The site has enjoyed shared use for many years. The TVG application, if successful, will guarantee continuation of shared use for everyone. There is no question of Cotham School not being able to continue to use the playing fields, but the school should recognise that, at a time when green space is in short supply, use of the parkland needs to be shared with the wider community.

Hopefully, future articles will present a more balanced assessment of the impact a successful TVG would have on Stoke Lodge Parkland. A successful TVG would result in continued shared use. Failure of the TVG application would exclude many current users from Stoke Lodge Parkland and might even see part or all of the site lost to commercial development in the future. Hence my wholehearted support for the TVG application.

John Goulandris
Bristol City Councillor
Stoke Bishop Ward

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