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Sue Mayer

From: Brian Ray [brianray@brianray.plus.com]**Sent:** 19 May 2016 17:11**To:** suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk**Subject:** Stoke Lodge

I have lived in my current house since 1984 and during that time residents have made extensive use of the open space for many purposes. (Until the 50 and 60s there was a further open space on which a local Festival of Britain was held in 1951 which I attended). In my opinion it has always had the status of a village green

To whom it may concern

Brian Ray
30 Old Sneed Avenue
BS9 1SE

Virus-free. www.avast.com

Sue Mayer

From: James [jimray1974@googlemail.com]
Sent: 19 May 2016 18:38
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge

Dear Sue

I wish to add my details in support of the application regarding Stoke Lodge. I can describe my use of the location as follows:

I grew up at 29 Stoke Grove, Westbury on Trym, Bristol, BS9 3SD. Between around 1976 and 1998 I used Stoke Lodge many times independently of any sort of organisation. These activities ranged from simply playing outdoor games with friends to running as I grew older.

Since 2002 I have returned to the area and live at 32 Druid Hill, Bristol, BS9 1EN. I have continued to use Stoke Lodge from then until now to play with my family, practicing cricket, playing frisbee and walking our dog. Again this is independent of any sort of organisation.

I hope this information is of use. Good luck!

Yours sincerely

James Ray =

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Sue Mayer

From: Lois Ray [loisray@live.co.uk]**Sent:** 19 May 2016 18:51**To:** suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk**Subject:** Stoke Lodge

Sue, apologies. Here is my letter. I have now included my address and dates of use.

I am writing in support of the application for village green for Stoke Lodge. I first visited the fields in 2000 as my dog was a puppy and my then fiancé lived around the corner so he was a regular user of the field at that time.

We have since greatly enjoyed using Stoke Lodge over the years as we moved to the area in 2007. As a dog owner we would frequently go for long walks with friends who greatly enjoyed the green oasis so close to the city centre.

My son and his cousins regularly used the field and football goals to practise football skills as it has always been a safe area for children to go up to on their own. We often went up to play frisbee or for my son to train for athletics. We used the main area and also the long jump.

It remains to this day a great, safe area for children and youngsters to exercise and socialise. It is so well looked after there is very rarely issue with litter or loutish behaviour.

It is a great resource that would be a real shame if it were not accessible for the general public and for generations to come.

Thank you for considering this.

Best wishes

Lois Ray

32 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 1EN

TEL 0782 885 9677

Sue Mayer

From: Luke Ray [lukeray@live.com]
Sent: 19 May 2016 18:47
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge

I think this is absolutely absurd and crazy idea to put houses on Stoke lodge, I am 11 years old I use stoke lodge so much with my friends. I am just about to go up there with my family and I will have plenty of fun while we throw a ball about a frisbee as well and practice athletics although I will never be able to do this again if you put housing there. Stoke Lodge is so much more than just a field. I would also be sad if you were to close the playground(s) as I designed some of the first one that was there. I am looking forward to the tree that they're carving shapes into up there. I do not want you to put houses on Stoke lodge as everybody in our area uses it and I'm sure they would all agree with me. Since 2007 when I was only two and a half my mum would push me up there on my pram.

My address is,

32 Druid Hill
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 1EN

Sent from my iPhone=

Sue Mayer

From: david mayer [dnmayer@msn.com]
Sent: 18 May 2016 16:44
To: Susan Mayer
Subject: FW: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Neil & Lorraine Redman

-----Original Message-----

From: Neil & Lorraine Redman [mailto:n.r.redman@btinternet.com]
Sent: 18 May 2016 09:23
To: stokelodgetvg@yahoo.com
Subject: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Neil & Lorraine Redman

Name: Neil & Lorraine Redman

Email Address: n.r.redman@btinternet.com

Message:

We would like to add our voices to the campaign to make Stoke Lodge a Village Green. We have walked our dog on the lodge for 4 years or more and regularly take our grand children to the new swing park. We are always carefull to ensure all dog waste is bagged and put into the bins provided. The lodge is a great place for meeting people and we have a whole group of friends who are "lodge" walkers. We do accasionally play ball games there with the grandchildren as well.

PLEASE MAKE IT A VILLAGE GREEN AND KEEP ONE OF THE FEW SAFE GRASSY AREAS IN BRISTOL OPEN TO ALL.

I intend to attend at least one day of the meeting

N Redman, 51 Sandyleaze, Westbury on Trym, BS9 3PZ

-----Original Message-----

> From: Liz rees [mailto:drlizrees@me.com]
> Sent: 12 May 2016 22:36
> To: stokelodgetvg@yahoo.com
> Subject: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Liz
> rees
>
>
> Name: Liz Rees
> 8 coombe bridge avenue bs92lp
>
> Email Address: drlizrees@me.com
>
> Message:
> My husband and I along with our twins (aged 2) and our 5 year old
> daughter regularly use the stoke lodge parklands. It's our local park
> as we live on coombe bridge avenue.
> We chose our house to live in 6 months ago partly because of its
> proximity to stoke lodge parklands.
> We love to live near green spaces and having one that the children can
> run around in and play is very important to us. We are therefore
> wholeheartedly in support of the town or village green application.
> Please preserve this space as it is. Green spaces within cities that
> are used by children and their families from a number of local schools
> are very important to a community.
> Thank you.
>

Reimer Malene

From: Malene Reimer [reimer.backhouse@btinternet.com]

Sent: 11 May 2016 18:26

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: TVG application Stoke Lodge

Hi Sue,

I have been urged to send you an email to express my support of the application for Stoke Lodge to be granted TVG status.

I use Stoke Lodge, almost on a daily basis - walking the dog, going for a run, bringing my children down after school and at weekends to play ball games etc and would be devastated if we were prevented access to this green space. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find accessible outdoor Space in Bristol due to most parks and outdoor spaces being 'hired out' to local sports clubs/universities and therefore preventing us local residents from using them.

Please feel free to add my name to your petition.

Address is:
13 Downs Cote Drive
Bristol
BS9 3RP

Kind regards

Malene Reimer

Sent from my iPhone

Ring Helen

From: Helen Ring [fluffandpete@blueyonder.co.uk]

Sent: 10 May 2016 16:13

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Cc: Helen Ring

Subject: Save Stoke Lodge Parkland

Dear Sue,

I wanted to write a note to you ahead of the public enquiry in June. Thank you so much for your hard work on the Town Green application for preserving the beautiful grounds enjoyed by all. I have a poster up in our Motorhome and on our front window to show our full support.

It would be a travesty if the neighbourhood were to lose the right to access Stoke Lodge. I personally walk all over the grounds with my dog and having just got back from there now, counted over 7 other dog walkers enjoying the parkland in the rain.

I visit SL every morning and some afternoons throughout the week and weekend and it is lovely to see others enjoying the space as freely as we do currently.

We walk around the edges when there are sports activities going on and have a more unstructured amble across the whole park at other times, especially around the lovely old oak trees at the top & bottom of the park.

There really is nowhere else like it in the area within walking distance for young & old, which I believe makes Stoke Lodge's preservation so important with the high population of people that surround it.

One of my favourite times to visit is in the mornings when I remember one time seeing a deer trot across the park. The man who regularly practices sprint exercises also saw it and we marvelled at such a rare & beautiful sight.

I wish you all the best for the forthcoming public enquiry, I will be in attendance as often as I can, which will be at the end of the days mostly due to work commitments.

Kind regards

Helen Ring
69 Woodland Grove
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 2BD

Sent from my iPad

ROBERTS Julie

From: Luliebell [luliebell12000@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 08 May 2016 07:53

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: TVG Stoke Bishop

Dear Sue

I would like to express my support of the TVG for Stoke Bishop Parklands. Together with my family, we relocated to Stoke Bishop early 2015. Choosing a home with access to local parks was a big decider for all of us. We live on Herald Close, walking distance to the parklands.

Our use of the parkland has been almost daily since we moved here. It was a space that provided us with a link to the local community and we have met many local families there during our visits who we can now call friends. As well as using the play area, we use the fields for running, playing football, frisbee, cricket. Our 5 year old learned to ride his bike here. We regularly support the local community football and cricket teams - it is an opportunity for us as a family to watch sport up close but also to come together with other families in the area.

Stoke Bishop Parklands feels like the heart of the community. We have no local pub, no post office, no other place that quite brings us together as the parklands do. It is inconceivable to think that access to the space would ever be restricted, or worse used for development.

Kind regards
Mrs Julie Roberts
9. Herald Close,
Stoke Bishop
BS9 1DF

Sent from my iPhone

Sue Mayer

From: david mayer [dnmayer@msn.com]
Sent: 22 May 2016 08:42
To: Susan Mayer
Subject: FW: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Kathryn Robinson

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathryn Robinson [mailto:holder_kj@hotmail.com]
Sent: 21 May 2016 15:25
To: stokelodgetvg@yahoo.com
Subject: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Kathryn Robinson

Name: Kathryn Robinson

Email Address: holder_kj@hotmail.com

Message:

This Parkland has been used almost daily by us over the last 17years for dogwalking and children's sports activities (football and ruby training). It is a wonderful area to have and it serves so many different people from the surrounding area and from the local school at Cotham. Please do not build on it! I know we have Blaise very close...but this cannot fulfil the sports field role which is so essential in our increasing sedentary and overweight world.

I support the Town or Village Green Application.

Best wishes

Kathryn Robinson

7 Stoke Paddock Rd BS9 2DJ

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From: Adrian Rogers [ajrogers@hotmail.co.uk]

Sent: 12 May 2016 13:40

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: My use of Stoke Lodge

Dear Sue

I am writing to explain how I have used, and continue to use, the grounds at Stoke Lodge.

I have been a resident of Stoke Bishop for eight years and have throughout that time used the grounds extensively and regularly.

On a daily basis I either jog in the grounds or use them to play 'kick around' sport with my children. My children regular play non-organised football or other ball sport in the grounds and they also cycle, or are learning to cycle, in the grounds.

This weekend I intend to use the grounds to trial putting up my family tent. We have not used the tent for a number of years and as my garden is too small, intend to do a trial run ahead of a camping trip later this month.

In short I have, and continue to do so, regularly used the grounds for a variety of activities.

Kind regards

Adrian Rogers
9 Poplar Avenue
Bristol
BS9 2BE

<<297>>

From: nick rose [nickrose16@hotmail.com]

Sent: 10 May 2016 09:49

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: Stoke Lodge

In the early 90's i would take my 2 children, Edward and Alice, to Stoke Lodge and we would spend hours kicking a football around. It was a safe and secure environment and even though it was "private", we often joined in with other children to play a game.

On a personal level I use the fields to run and I have coached runners, using various parts of the facility, that progressed sufficiently to run for England and Great Britain.

Regards,

Nick Rose

11a Druid Road. BS9 1LJ

<<298>>

From: ben rowsell [nerysllewellyn@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 11 May 2016 07:19

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: SSLP - statement of usage

Dear Sue,

I am writing to express my support for the Town and Village Green application for Stoke Lodge Parkland.

My family are very regular users of this beautiful green space in the heart of our Stoke Bishop community.

In the 10 years we have lived on Druid Hill we have become very regular users of the parkland and especially since we had our two sons in the past 6 years.

We as a family use Stoke Lodge as least 3 times a week. My sons love to fly their kite in the open space, my husband takes them there to practice their golf. They practice football and we enjoy many picnics and meet ups with friends and their children. They love the freedom to run around and enjoy the area. I also use the park for exercise at least twice a week in Spring and Summer.

In my experience whatever time of day you visit Stoke Lodge Park you will see members of the local community enjoying this space which has been at the heart of our community for decades.

I am dismayed by the thought of this lovely space being fenced off to the exclusion of local residents. What a travesty that would be.

Many thanks

Kind regards

Nerys Rowsell
45 Druid Hill, BS9 1EH

<<299>>

Sue Mayer

From: Sheila Sermon [s.sermon@virginmedia.com]**Sent:** 16 May 2016 16:04**To:** Susan Mayer**Subject:** Re Stoke Bishop Playing Fields.

To Whom it May Concern:

I live in Cross Elms Lane just footsteps away from Stoke Lodge Playing Fields and have done so for over six years.

I was horrified to find out that my local park, the only open space in this area, could have large parts fenced off from public access.

This park is used by many local families especially at weekends and in the evenings for picnics, games and get-togethers of all kinds. The use by Cotham School is minimal compared with use by the general public.

Making this area into a Town Green would protect parts from inaccessibility and does NOT mean that no games could be played there.

This local park also provides my access to Adult Education classes that I attend at Stoke Lodge, far more pleasant than having to walk on the pavement to get there. I also walk through this park to access the shops on Shirehampton Road.

Yours faithfully,

Sheila Sermon.
Benton
Cross Elms Lane
Bristol
BS9 2BP.

Sent from Windows

16/05/2016

Sue Mayer

From: david mayer [dnmayer@msn.com]
Sent: 18 May 2016 16:45
To: Susan Mayer
Subject: FW: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Vieda Shelley 8 Stoke Paddock Rd

-----Original Message-----

From: Vieda Shelley 8 Stoke Paddock Rd [mailto:V.Skultans@bristol.ac.uk]
Sent: 18 May 2016 09:57
To: stokelodgetvg@yahoo.com
Subject: Save Stoke Lodge Website: Contact form submission from Vieda Shelley 8 Stoke Paddock Rd

Name: Vieda Shelley 8 Stoke Paddock Rd

Email Address: V.Skultans@bristol.ac.uk

Message:

My husband walks in the playing fields most evenings. I do so whenever it is not raining. I am awaiting a knee replacement and therefore find the level nature of the fields very important. We have a disabled four years old grand-daughter. Again the fact that the green is level is very important as she has severe mobility problems. Blaise woods are beautiful but they are not for adults or children with mobility problems.

The green is also a fantastic space for bringing people together. We moved here a few months ago and have found the green a very friendly place where it is easy to strike up a conversation and not feel isolated.

Hi Sue,

Several of my neighbours have brought to my attention the application for Stoke Lodge to gain town or village green status. I think this would be wonderful. In all the years that I have lived in Shaplands (since 2001) and before then in Redland (since 1993), a Sunday morning walk would often involve navigating the numerous footpaths and then cutting across the park, sometimes sitting beneath a lovely old tree for a rest and to watch children playing ball, often ending in Blaise before looping back. These pathways and greenspaces are invaluable, most especially when they link up to form green 'corridors' for good physical and mental health as well as wildlife. If I'd had children, I know I'd have been there even more often.

I will keep my fingers crossed that the application is successful and that we can stop worrying about losing this valuable asset.

Regards,

Karen Shergold

28 Shaplands,

BS9 1AY

From: Anna Short [<mailto:annashort@live.co.uk>]
Sent: 09 May 2016 14:32
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge Parkland

Dear Ms Mayer

I am writing to inform you that we (myself, my husband, 2 children and a dog) use Stoke Lodge on a daily basis and have done for the past fifteen years. We use it for a variety of recreational activities including dog walking, family ball games, walking, picnics and many many more outdoor activities, where we know our children are safe and free to play outside. As a teacher at a local primary school, I have taken my children on school trips to Stoke Lodge every year for the past 15 years). To loose this green space would be absolutely devastating to us as a family, to my extended family (39 people, including adults and children) and the many many hundreds of families that live in our area.

I am pleading with you to take this into consideration when making a decision on the future usage of this area.

Yours sincerely

Anna Short
95, Abbey Road,
Westbury-on-Trym,
BS9 3QJ

Sue Mayer

From: Jim Simmons [jim.s@cleave.co.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2016 17:29
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge Parkland

Hi Sue Mayer

I've recently seen your message of May 07 relating to a forthcoming Inquiry into the proposal for Stoke Lodge (Parkland/Field?) to be designated as a Town/City Green.

Whilst I am not properly aware of the different consequences of the area being or not being a Town Green, I do have strong views about the future use of the area.

It must continue to be available for informal recreation and relaxation, as well as for organised sport by schools and otherwise. For example, walking, jogging, ball games, children's play, dog walking, having picnics and just sitting around. This must cover all of the area presently within the outer boundary of the green space. It must not be limited to an outer strip as was once, most surprisingly, proposed.

I have lived in Stoke Bishop for some 35 years. Having regularly made use of, and in doing so having enjoyed, the recreational possibilities of the Stoke Lodge grounds I, like many local and not so local people, do find the grounds a much needed facility.

May it remain that way!

Jim Simmons
13 Avon Vale, BS9

Katie Sloggett Stoke lodge

From: Katie sloggett [katiesloggett@icloud.com]

Sent: 10 May 2016 22:25

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Cc: Tim Sloggett

Subject: Stoke lodge

Sue

I use stoke lodge to exercise and have done so for the past 10.5 years since moving back to Bristol several times a week. My son (8) enjoys visiting both the park and playing football on the fields. I strongly contest any suggestion of fencing off of the fields to restrict local access especially for a school which doesn't even serve our area.

If I can offer my support in any other useful way, please let me know

Thanks

Kate

Sent from my iPhone 07870 670 995=

<<305>>

Sue Mayer

From: laurel.smart [laurel.smart@blueyonder.co.uk]
Sent: 17 May 2016 23:06
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge fields

I have worked at Stoke Lodge as an art tutor for 33 years, most of that time based at Stoke Lodge. I have used the fields for sketching and painting groups on a regular basis throughout those years. Some courses have been based on the fact that these grounds are available for use by the community on an informal basis. It would be a great loss to me and the many hundreds of students I have taught if the space was fenced off. Other tutors also use these facilities. It would also be an absolute eye sore.

Laurel Smart
8 Codrington Rd
BS78ET

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

18/05/2016

Statement of Sharon Smithen, 36a Queensgate, Bristol BS9 1TZ

My name is Sharon Smithen and I live around the corner from Stoke Lodge Playing fields with my husband and two children.

I grew up in Bristol but left after all my various exams to work in Birmingham.

I returned to Bristol in 2007. I did not use Stoke Lodge before I left Bristol as I lived nearer to the Downs, I would be taken past it and think what beautiful grounds.

I began using Stoke Lodge in July 2007 when I returned to Bristol. I came back to Bristol because by that stage it was obvious that my mother had intense dementia. She died in 2010. I would look after her one day per week for a couple of years. It was very pleasant to have a walk on Stoke Lodge to clear my head as looking after my mother was quite fraught.

My use was not intense but certainly three or so times per month. It helped me recharge my batteries. I love close by so would also have ample opportunity of observing what happened at Stoke a lodge.

I would notice that people would be in Stoke Lodge every day walking their dogs from one end of the grounds to the other, or around the edge or jogging etc. As there are several access points people walk all over.

There are no perimeter paths or obvious outer edged places to walk indicated by trodden down grass that I have seen. If they are there, I have not noticed them other than by the brakes and overgrowth. People skirt around that.

Whenever I walked there I would just walk randomly all over the place. For instance, I would walk towards the rusty goal posts and wonder when they would be replaced.

Recently, I have been hunting to see where the knot weed is.

There is now a dog litter bin so people tend to walk towards that if they have a dog. So they have to walk across the grounds to get to it.

I did not notice much in the way of organised sports other than on Saturdays. The lads who use the pitch on Saturday might equally use the pitch for unauthorised sports on another day. I vaguely know some of the lads and where they live. In Summer you see little gangs of boys whom I vaguely recognise armed with footballs and drinks making their way to Stoke Lodge to kick balls.

I had no idea until 2010/2011 of the legal status of Stoke Lodge as I did not notice any signs. In fact, I was unaware of any signs until reading about the case. The signs are quite old and faded and easily overlooked. If the signs were meant to do their job you would think that they would have installed bigger, more visible signs. They are not exactly 'in your face.'

The signs seem to have been there for years and neither removed nor upgraded. Personally, I don't think Bristol quite knew what they wanted to do with the place so seemingly abandoned it.

If the signs had served their purpose they would have made me curious to find out why we could not use the land.

People tend to be like sheep. If you see hundreds of people during a month using the ground it does not appear to be trespassing but seemingly allowed. I think that I thought it was just a beautiful park. Also I have never seen anyone since notice the signs. People just walked straight

in. Children just wander in with bats and balls. I did the same. Everyone acted as if this was allowed.

From certain angles you can imagine yourself in a National Trust property away from all your cares and worries. Outside, cars whizz by far too fast.

Stoke Lodge certainly looks more like a park than a playing field because of the historical house attached to it. Indeed, whatever way you look at it, the marked out sports grounds seem incidental to the park/ Stoke Lodge rather than the other way around.

Clearly, the house is the defining part of the grounds. It really is quite beautiful and noteworthy. The surroundings do not look like an urban recreational sports field or school grounds, Recreational urban, sports grounds tend to be more soul less and functional. They don't have beautiful trees and a historical listed building.

So, If you think you are at a park you don't look for signs.

I have never looked for signs when going into a park.....perhaps I should.Can you imagine how odd you would look, looking for signs every time you go to a park? Really, it s not something you do. In the back of my head, I thought maybe the land was run by the education centre for the benefit of the community. The elderly ladies who sometimes enter Stoke Lodge have a certain proprietorial air about them.

So unaware of our legal status, my whole family would just wander into Stoke Lodge to fly kites, practice for sports day and kick balls.

At no stage were we confronted or told not to enter.

Quite often, friends and family would visit our house and we would end up walking in Stoke Lodge. We would refer to it as the parkland opposite. To us, this is what it was.

There were several access points to Stoke Lodge. I would mostly enter via the adult learning centre or at the top end near Parrys Lane. The whole perimeter is poorly maintained and just left accessible. There is a sad looking utility installation that is hideously ugly. In fact, all the recent additions (since 1970s) seem to be hideous, almost there to destroy the beauty of the place.

There have never been any attempt as far as I am aware to block off various access points since we have lived here. Surely, Bristol should have done that. However, they neglected the perimeter in the same way as they neglected getting the ugly installation screened. They didn't bother doing anything.

Stoke Lodge almost seemed to be the forgotten property. There is a disused cricket pavilion covered in graffiti that used to be where they served afternoon tea for the Sunday cricketers of the local Stoke Bishop team. (So my brother told me recently.)

The only other blight on the beauty of the place are the vandalised changing rooms that seems to belong to a long ago time. (They just seem neglected since the 1970s as if there was a school using the place but it too has long since disappeared the pupils long since grown up.)

My son has special needs. He spent his early years unable to swallow. He has low muscle tone, language impairment, severe motor coordination difficulties, pragmatic language problems and sensory processing disorder. Most particularly, he has bowel impairment.This meant that at times we could not wander too far from home but felt cooped up inside. As anyone knows, when you

have not defecated for a week, walking is good but you cannot go too far from home. So Stoke Lodge was ideal for a quick walk. We had to be able to get home quick as you get faecal leaks. I can assure you that pads don't work as it's quite watery. So Stoke Lodge was a Godsend.

My son is now managed on Movicol but in the early years we were using Lactulose and even suppositories. His bowel disorder was quite intrusive and we did feel quite house bound. Stoke lodge was my Paradise.

By the age of five, my son would find sports day extremely challenging. We would take him to Stoke Lodge to practice racing. My son was classed as requiring a hearing aid at the time so could not hear the starter whistle. We would practice the start of a race with him in the fields. I remember my daughter also insisting that we practiced for sports day on Stoke Lodge playing fields. We would race her up and down. We even had to practice the egg and spoon race.

My son could not kick a ball so we would practice ball kicking with him as our garden is quite small. My son was quite fearful of the Downs as he has ASD type issues that makes the Downs quite threatening. Also, I was scared of him running away when he had a meltdown or emotional deregulation.

We would desperately try to get my son interested in sports.

We would give all the other ball users a wide berth as I did not want to get hit by a ball. Also, you don't wreck someone else's game unless you want to get buffed on the nose. I showed as much deference to say, five boys causally kicking a ball around as to any formal sports taking place. I would walk around them.

However, the place is so vast so it is easy to avoid other users. In contrast, the nearest park, Canford can get really crowded in Summer, like ants around a puddle. You struggle to find a place to kick a ball at times.

Equally, we were rarely alone in Stoke Lodge. I would have been scared to be there alone. There would be all sorts of things happening at Stoke Lodge. People would come to practice their cricket shots. Groups of boys would come to play informal games of football. Children would practice running or whacking balls with bats.

I catch the bus a lot and the bus stop is just outside the field. You can easily wait 25 minutes for a buses most days. I would catch the bus there at least once or twice a week to go to town. I would spend my time watching people jogging or dog walking. People would dog walk sometimes in groups of three or four all over the grounds. Recently, I have seen the university use the site on a Wednesday, I think. I think they were doing American football. The university do not use the grounds much.

Part of my enjoyment of the grounds is the visual feast. I love watching people. It's just pleasant to take in the view from the bus stop. It also pleasant to look at trees that are not the usual acceptable boring, non subsidence causing street trees.

I have even more recently seen people doing Tai Chi in the grounds. I found that quite entertaining. My neighbour tells me that she painted in the grounds. It amazing what people do there.

I have also noticed people walking to the grounds from the local old peoples home. I recall one lady walking there quite often but I think she is now dead. I have not seen her for a long time.

It's a very useful site to exercise when you are elderly. I vaguely recall talking to one elderly lady who was sitting enjoying the view. Can 'enjoying the view,' be a qualifying use?

Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills has a high proportion of elderly people.

There would obviously be endless dog walkers. There would be a steady stream from before school drop off onwards.

My son was scared of dogs but he was never attacked by one there. Strangely, he did trip and fall when chased by a dog outside our home. (resulting in a temporary fear of dogs.) However, Stoke Lodge dog walkers are on the whole an excellent bunch. We do not have a dog.

My son was classed by school as high risk for trips but never fell on dog poo. Putting it in context, my son had cellulitis in his face when a toddler (requiring intravenous drip and hospital for a week) so I would be the first one checking for poo. When younger he has a low tolerance of infections. It's quite rare for a toddler to get cellulitis.

He also had prolonged fits when he had any infections/ fever. (Three fits in one dayone prolonged requiring rectal suppositories.) So do you imagine I would let my son who had suffered cellulitis and fits walk somewhere unsafe covered in dog excrement.

I know that it sounds really lame but a walk in fresh air in neighbouring green space after your son has had back to back nebulisers or suffered a fit helps somehow. We all need space.

In essence by aged 7, my son had the physical ability of a toddler so would just trip on a blade of grass. At aged 10 his physical ability was at aged 6. He recently learnt to alternate feet down stairs in Year 6.

However, I would do my own risk assessment and Stoke Lodge was in my opinion really safe. I have never spotted dog poo when we have walked there. The Downs was not safe as it was too open.

I actually feel quite irritated that it is suggested that Stoke Lodge is not safe for secondary school children. That makes me feel like a terrible mother. I allowed my high trip risk son to run freely but teenage rugby playing boys are at risk.

Stoke Lodge is the go to community destination when it snows. It has the best snow ever. Also, there is a very slight slope outside the learning centre that is ideal for a toboggan. (when your kids are small.) When it snows you cannot go as far as Blaise as it is uphill.

The place turns into a beautiful, magical wonderland in the snow. There would be numerous children on Stoke Lodge building snowmen and having snow fights. They would be all over the place because you are looking for virgin snow. It was clear that Stoke Lodge was a popular venue by the heaps of snow balls left lying around. So if Stoke Lodge was policed it was done by invisible people as we all left evidence of our presence dotted across the field. (piles of snowballs, marks of toboggans and snow men.)

The local people are very proud of Stoke Lodge. I have participated in ad hoc litter collection. On a rare occasion, children have left litter following a picnic and this has been cleared by the locals. One might ask 'where, on this occasion, are the so called grounds men?' It is the local people who police the grounds not the school or Coombe Dingle. If you see litter you pick it up and I have done so.

Local people really seem to keep a watchful eye on the place as they regard themselves as part owners. There is a proprietary feel even towards litter. It's our litter and we clean it up.

We have never been impeded by any formal sports as they mostly occurred on Saturday morning when we do not use the site..

I have seen university students using the field on Wednesday (I think) but they take up a tiny bit of what is a very, very large space. Even on Saturdays, the formal sports seem to take place mostly at on one end although I do not use Stoke Lodge on Saturday mornings so cannot be sure.

I assume that only older Cotham children used the field as I cannot recall ever seeing younger children. Older school students are usually strapping youngsters who look like university students so it hard to tell.

Has I realised this was Cotham's land in 2007, I would have asked why we were excluded from the catchment area as it is an 'outstanding' school.

It really seems really daft, unfair and incomprehensible having an outstanding school grounds in your area but not being in their catchment area. I am the sort of person who would have taken that up with the council.

I was particularly interested in state schools as it was fairly obvious by aged 5 that my son could not get into private secondary school. At the time, we did not have a Statement. I was having endless nightmares about his secondary school prospects. However, he has had a Statement since aged 7.

It seems strange to have such a huge school site right on your doorstep but not be in their catchment area. Personally, I think that Cotham don't have any permanent intentions to the site otherwise they would have addressed this plain injustice. How can Cotham be serving their local community when they don't let local people into their school.

I also read somewhere that Cotham knocked down listed trees on their own site when building their multi purpose sports hall. These things trouble me. They have not proved themselves to be great caretakers.

I am not aware that Cotham School offer any out of hours disabled sports. In fact, few places do offer disabled sports. I think there is disabled football at UWE, South Gloucester.

I always feel that having a disabled child is like looking through a shop window but not being able to purchase the goods . This is how I feel about all outdoor sports centre . You can see the manicured green grass but have no real justification to go into them other than to pick up your nephew or niece. These places are not accessible because disabled children need dedicated specialist club times that they do not offer.

We tend to go to David Lloyd where they virtually give my son one to one supervision for a gym class. However, even this is proving challenging going for him as it is increasingly too noisy and he needs ear plugs.

Since we have been in our house there has been the constant speculation that Stoke Lodge is wanted for a secondary school. I know that our house would increase in value by at least £50,000 if they plonked a secondary school on our doorstep with a BS9 catchment area. Prices in Westbury Park shot through the roof when RGS was sited close by.

The siting of a secondary school was actively considered in 2002. I read about it from books that were placed in the Redland Green Library. All this literature has been removed. BCC have purged

all information from the WWW relating to Stoke Lodge. It's most odd. Google Stoke Lodge Playing fields are all BCC paperwork is redacted.

A visual impact assessment was done of Stoke Lodge Playing Field and Redland Green in 2002. The LEA chose Redland Green and the people in the catchment area have been absolutely delighted at the enormous profit they have made on their houses.

The most recent speculation was in 2010/2011 when the Free School was proposed.

I discovered that the Highway Authority had met with Parents Voice in 2010 to discuss siting the school on Stoke Lodge Playing Fields. However, the name Stoke Lodge was mysteriously deleted from the text of the minutes but the name of the other proposed site, St Ursula's was not.

This year, a Grade 2 listed nearby old school site (formally St Ursula's) is being re developed as a 600 pupil primary school. The new school will stand in the fields of the old school. I loved the beautiful grounds of that school that will now have a drive running through them to the new school building.

All these beautiful sites are being destroyed. It would be nice for one to be preserved for future generations.

Schools come and go (as we have seen) but historical grounds are lost for ever.

Overall, I think that to intrusively fence or build one of the few remaining beautiful historical Grade 2 listed site whilst selling off other scrappy pieces of land that could be enhanced and landscapes is wrong.

<<312>>

From: Navid Solhjoo [nsolhjoo99@yahoo.com]

Sent: 09 May 2016 12:29

To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

Subject: SSLP - Town Green Statement

Hello Sue,

I use the Stoke Lodge Parkland to jog and exercise on a daily basis. I also take my 1 year old on the pram around the park, and my 4 year old to the playground. As a family we also occasionally use different spots of this parkland for picnic. I would therefore request this entire beautiful area to be available to us - without the need for permission.

Regards

Navid Solhjoo - parent of Bahar (4 yr old) and Vafa (1 yr old)

32 Woodland Grove
Stoke Bishop
Bristol. BS9 2BB

Sue Mayer

From: Penny Spackman [penny@spackman.eu]
Sent: 16 May 2016 19:19
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke lodge Support

Greetings, Sue,

Now I have the right email address.....and can say that I have used the grass at Stoke lodge many times over the years, both when enjoying walking in the open air and when attending Courses. My earliest memories of using Stoke Lodge fields was during the War (2nd) after the GIs had departed. We lived down the road, and I have had life long associations in this Stoke Bishop/Westbury-on-Trym area.

To remove this last bit of public open space from residents of all ages is tantamount to insisting of more crowding, and preventing people from self-help healthy practices. This in turn would help lead to increase demand on the NHS.

The policy of selling off fields, play-grounds, and sports grounds is a very short-sighted policy in which money is gained once, and the investment is lost for ever

Kind Regards,

Penny Spackman (Mrs)
27 Hazelwood Court,
Hazelwood Road,
Sneyd Park,
Bristol,
BS9 1PU

<<314>>

Sue Mayer

From: Nelia Stagg [nelia.stagg@hotmail.co.uk]**Sent:** 15 May 2016 15:02**To:** suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk**Subject:** Stoke Lodge Parkland

Dear Sue

I am writing to add my support to keeping the use of Stoke Lodge parkland as it is currently and has been since we moved to this area many years ago.

Over the years, myself and my family have use Stoke Lodge innumerable times, as an extension to our very small garden. All of us have used Stoke Lodge as a play area for ball games, a safe spot for our children to meet up with friends, having picnics with family and friends, treasure hunts, building snowmen and the like. In addition, we have used the area for obstacle courses and running. We have also attended a 40th birthday tea party held on the fields.

There has never been any question over "being allowed" to use the whole Stoke Lodge area for recreation and it seems grossly unfair that the right to use the fields will be taken away from ourselves and our families, when we have had unrestricted use and access since time immemorial.

Yours sincerely

Nelia Stagg

2 Lyndale Avenue, BS9 1BS

Virus-free. www.avast.com

15/05/2016

-Original Message-----

> From: Jayne Stickland [mailto:jaynerixon@hotmail.com]

> Sent: 11 May 2016 22:14

> To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk

> Cc: Mark Stickland

> Subject: Stoke Lodge

>

>> Hello Sue,

>>

>> I would like to add my total dismay at the thought of not being able

>> to

> use SL with my family to your very worthwhile campaign.

>>

>> We have lived in Stoke Bishop since 2006.

>>

>> We walk our dog every day, sometimes twice a day on the playing

>> fields and

> we tie this in with a trip to the playground for our son too.

>>

>> Our son Noah was born 11 months ago and this open space has now

>> become

> EVEN more important to us. Tonight for example, our whole family, dog

> too, went for a walk up to SL, my husband took our son and dog for a "

> ball throw" on the fields, whilst I got my bit of exercise in by

> running a few laps. The rain had stopped and there were numerous

> families up there doing the same thing, a really pleasant sight.

>>

>> Having open green space like this for us to use, and particularly for

>> our

> children to walk and play on is essential to community life especially

> in a suburban location like this.

>>

>> We can "pop" upto SL very easily whereas our only other option would

>> be

> the Downs, which is too far for that quick walk/run/play which we

> often need to fit into the busy lives that most of us now lead.

>>

>> It would be an absolute travesty to loose access to the SL playing

>> fields

> for our family and I am sure numerous others too.

>>

>> We are unfortunately away on holiday for the 8 day hearing, otherwise

> would be there but I hope that this email will help this very

> worthwhile cause.

>>

>> Good luck!

>>

>> Jayne and Mark Stickland.

3, Sunnyside,

Stoke Bishop

BS 9 1BQ

<<316>>

Sue Mayer

From: John Stringer [johnstringer101@gmail.com]**Sent:** 17 May 2016 16:03**To:** suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk**Subject:** Stoke Lodge

Dear Sue

This is supporting your opposition to any development at Stoke Lodge.

1) You have requested my full postal address:

16 Little Withey Mead

Westbury on Trym

Bristol

BS9 3SY

2) We have lived in WOT for thirty Seven years and know it well.

3) I use Stoke Lodge every week and need to cross from Cross Elms Lane to the main Lodge. We have brought up 3 children and used it for playing and recreational purposes. We continue to take grandchildren to the play area.

4) As a walker we use the complete field to get around.

Hope this helps

John Stringer

Sue Mayer

From: Pamela stringer [pamstringer101@gmail.com]
Sent: 18 May 2016 12:29
To: suemayer@blueyonder.co.uk
Subject: Stoke Lodge Parkland

Dear Sue

I have lived in Westbury on Trym for 33 years. When our 3 children were growing up in Red House Lane we used the Parkland a lot. The boys, in particular, regularly played football there with a group of friends.

Since then we now visit with our grandchildren when they are with us and I regularly walk around and across the field.

Regards

Pamela Stringer
16 Little Withey Mead
Westbury on Trym
BS9 3SY
Sent from my iPad=

From: Carne Stubbs [mailto:stubbscarole@gmail.com]
Sent: 18 May 2016 16:29
To: Sue Mayer
Subject: Re: Stoke Lodge playing Fields

8 avon vale. Stoke bishop bs91tb

Dear Sue

Just to advise you that we are very concerned as a family that there may be a change of status to the Stoke Lodge green space,

Our family have always used the fields, before & after school - & weekends. All nephews / nieces who live locally also use the fields for 'family time' and we have indeed spend many a fantastic weekend with games in the field.

These would be a huge loss to the whole community. I regularly meet friends whilst walking in the area and know many would not wish to lose the ability to use the field.

Kind regards

Carole Stubbs

M: 07976 325477
E: stubbscarole@gmail.com