

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland



Q&A sheet 13th March 2017

Q1. What is the current situation with Stoke Lodge?

A1. Bristol City Council has recommended registration of the Land as a Town or Village Green. Cotham Academy is seeking to overturn that decision by means of a Judicial Review.

Q2. Why are you collecting this money?

A2. We need money to pay for legal fees from our solicitor DAC Beachcroft and our barrister

Q3. I haven't heard about this; what's the story?

A3. To protect the land from development and retain shared use by the school, the sports clubs and the community we applied for Town or Village Green (TVG) status in March 2011. Since then Cotham have objected to the TVG because they want to exclude free and open access by the Community.

Post numerous rounds of submission and rebuttal there was a Public Inquiry in June 2016 held over 9 days

In December 2016 the Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee, who are empowered to make the decision made the recommendation that the Land should be registered as a TVG

Q4. Who are SSLP?

A4. We are a properly constituted Community Group recognised by BCC dedicated to protecting Stoke Lodge. Membership is open to all and our constitution is available on our web site www.stokelodgetvg.co.uk

Q5. Why do we want to keep Cotham School off Stoke Lodge?

A5. We do not and have never wanted to exclude any school or sports club from using the Land on a shared basis with the Community as we have done since 1947. This was an important part of our application submitted in 2011

Q6. Will I get back all or some of my donation if SSLP doesn't need it after all?

A6. We have committed that any money remaining after legal fees have been paid will be returned pro-rata provided that contributors give us their name and address. Contributors also have the option donate anonymously should they wish

Q7. What happens if SSLP wins this round (i.e. no judicial review)?

A7. Should the Judge decide not to grant "Leave" to appeal the decision to recommend registration by means of a Judicial Review (unlikely) then any money remaining will be returned pro-rata. (Cost budget £20k)

Q8. What happens if SSLP loses this round?

A8. Should the Judge decide to grant "Leave" to appeal the decision by means of a Judicial Review the case will be added to the Court List for a full hearing at a date to be announced. (Cost budget £60K including the £20k above i.e. an extra £40k)

Q9. What is the position of Bristol City Council?

A9. Bristol City Council are defending the recommendation of their Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee to register the Land as a TVG

Q10. Will you keep my personal details secure?

A10. Your personal details will be kept secure and we will comply with the Data Protection Act

Q11. What's happening about replacing the old sports pavilion?

A11. Cotham have submitted a planning application (This is a separate and independent matter to the TVG Application) to replace the old and run down pavilion.

As part of our TVG Application we have supported the replacement of the pavilion. However, we have some concerns that this planning application fails to address properly certain matters that will need to be clarified prior to consent e.g. a proper parking plan, environment impact statement (security lights and noise), new pedestrian access through a listed wall etc.

Q12. I've already donated; why are you asking for more?

A12. We apologise if we have caused any offence, but inevitably with the scale of our appeal there may be overlap

Q13. The application for the fence has been withdrawn; why are you asking for money?

A13. The application for the fence has been withdrawn for now but will inevitably be resubmitted if we fail in our bid to protect the land by means of TVG registration because Cotham are determined to exclude free public access to the Land

Q14. How much are you asking each person to donate?

A14. We need to collect a minimum of £60k to cover the potential legal costs.

As an arithmetic mean – if 300 people donate £200 each, we will secure the necessary funds. However it will not happen in that way.

We ask residents to contribute what they feel comfortable with.

Some people will be motivated and able to contribute more

Some people will prefer to donate less

All funds are welcome. We must point out that this is a once and for all situation. If we do not secure adequate funds to defend the BCC decision the Land will not be registered and all community free access will cease. The Land will be fenced and gated and locked for ever.

David Mayer

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www.stokelodgetvg.co.uk