

Save Stoke Lodge Parkland



News Update on Town or Village Green Registration

We are now deeply involved in the legal process leading to the Court making its first decision i.e. whether or not they are prepared to hold a Judicial Review, to be held at a later date, to consider if the decision of the Public Rights of Way and Green Committee (PRoW&GC) to register the land at Stoke Lodge as a Town or Village Green (TVG) should be overturned.

Cotham Academy (Claimant) are continuing to object to the TVG and have issued their bundle of documents (1165 pages of pleadings etc) to the Court to start the formal Judicial Review process and consequently Bristol City Council (Defendant) and we (Interested Party) are due to issue our responses by 3rd April 2017.

In February we engaged Solicitors DAC Beachcroft LLP to act for us and they have engaged a barister on our behalf.

With regard to these new pleadings by BCC we are still unclear how they will respond. In their Pre Action Protocol response they supported the decision made at their PRoW&GC meeting. However we are aware that the Committee is coming under internal pressure to review their decision.

We are holding a public meeting on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at the Baptist Church in Reedley Road at 7.00 for a 7.30 start to share the various options open to us, as an interested party. Our legal team are preparing our response supporting the PRoW&GC decision to register the land as a TVG. Please pass this information to neighbours and friends as a matter of urgency.

We are continuing to collect funds to cover the cost of legal fees for our response made on 27th February, our response to be submitted on 3rd April and to prepare for the Full Judicial Review to be held in the High Court, should that be deemed necessary by the Court in April.

We reconfirm that any unused funds will be returned on a pro rata basis to all those who have given their contact details to be held on file for this purpose.

If you have any questions please attend the Public meeting on Wednesday 22nd March.

We have also attached a copy of our Letter of Engagement with DAC Beachcroft for your information. To ease any financial concerns we are not yet committed to the full estimate of fees to cover the whole calendar of duties and we will instruct at each stage as necessary, subject to available funding. Importantly, I am the named "interested party" in the Court papers also I am named personally in the Letter of Engagement with Beachcrofts and hence I bear full liability for our legal costs. All contributions are purely voluntary and do not involve the donor in any liability whatsoever.

David Mayer
Chairman
Save Stoke Lodge Parkland
www.stokelodgetvg.co.uk

18th March 2017