

10, Gerrard Buildings,  
Pulteney Mews,  
Bath. BA2 4DQ.  
Friday, 11 January 2013

Graeme Stark,  
Senior Rights of Way Officer,  
Bath & N.E Somerset Council,  
Bath.

Dear Mr. Stark,  
**Section 15 (1) of the Commons Act 2006. Application to Register  
Land known as Bath Recreation Ground as Town or Village  
Green.**

Thank you for your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>. January and I wish to record that I am fully in favour of the Application.

In my personal opinion this Application in addition to all the time and cost of the proposed expansion by Bath Rugby Ltd. should never have been necessary if the Trustees of the Rec had carried out their obligations and responsibilities on behalf of ALL the residents of Bath, and opposed it in the first place.

As has been stated by me and hundreds of other residents including some Rugby fans, this is not against rugby or it's present situation, but only to the proposed expansion which will have a major effect on surrounding private residents (and in contravention of protective covenants in our leases) plus an increase in the traffic problem which has been a thorn in our sides for years.

It is inconceivable that the proposed expansion should be approved.

Yours sincerely,



Reg Midwinter

P.S. A RECEIPT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

Thank you.

13 Gerrard Buildings  
Pulteney Mews  
Bath  
BA2 4DQ

Tel: (01225) 426991  
E-Mail: richardsonwande@btinternet.com

21<sup>st</sup> January 2013

Mr G Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
BS31 1LA

Dear Mr Stark

### **Bath Recreation Ground**

I write to say that I am in full agreement with the application to register Bath Recreation Ground as a Town or Village Green. under Section 15 (1) of the Commons Act 2006.

I am keen on this change because I feel the alternative plan, which is being considered by the Charity Commission, to be a very bad and unjust idea. The main outcome if it were to succeed would be to enable a businessman to make money from development of the land to the detriment of the local population.

Yours sincerely



W E Richardson

Feb 12

Howard Seidberg

Putnam Mass

Bath 12-1-13

Dear Mr Smith,

The Recreation Ground

When we first arrived in Bath in 1947 we lived, first of all, in the Wilcombe area.

We were told that the subject ground was a gift to the citizens of Bath for their use or entertainment of amateur sporting activities of all descriptions.

This "purpose" until the annexation (now part of a social) club that then was given its use - first of all on a part time basis.

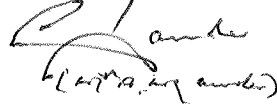
We would most positively object to the present professional Bath Rugby team given any thing that occupation of any part of our Recreation Ground or if anything interfered with our direct access to the River or use of the riverside.

The land should in our opinion most positively be registered as a "Town or Village Green". This is a matter of concern to all Bath citizens who should be consulted.

We also have views on the manner in which the use of the Recreation Ground has been "marginalised" in the last 20 or so years.

Yours sincerely

ARZ Maund  
(ARZ MAUND SR)

  
(ARZ MAUND SR)

Matthew Smith Esq  
Divisional Director  
Environmental Services

Bath

## **GERRARD BUILDINGS (BATH) LTD**

Graeme Stark,  
Senior Rights of Way Officer,  
Bath & N.E Somerset Council,  
Bath.

Dear Mr. Stark,

**Section 15 (1) of the Commons Act 2006. Application to Register  
Land known as Bath Recreation Ground as Town or Village  
Green.**

This company, Gerrard Buildings (Bath) Ltd. is the owner of the freehold of Gerrard Buildings which contains 18 leasehold apartments. It is immediately adjacent to the Bath Recreation Ground and as beneficiaries of the covenants relating to its use, we write to support the above Application by Mr. Jack Sparrow to register this Ground as a "Town or Village Green."

Yours sincerely,



Roy Hatch  
Director.

Cc Jack Sparrow  
PERA

Graeme Stark  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
BA31 1LA

Thomas Burnford  
Flat 1  
6 Lansdown Road  
Bath BA1 5EE

4th February 2013

**RE: Planning Application for registration of land as a Town or Village Green, ref TVG12/1**

Dear Mr Stark

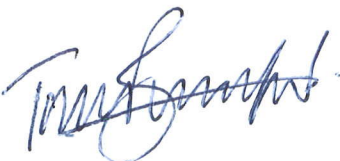
I am writing with reference to the application to convey town or village green status to the Recreation Ground area in the centre of Bath, as instigated by Jack Sparrow or Forrester Road, Bath.

In my capacity as a beneficiary of the land in question, **I would like to state my support for the proposal.**

It has become apparent through the current confusion over the future status of the Recreation Ground that the current management structure and occupiers of the land have deviated from the conditions originally conveyed on to it by law. I also believe these deviations have been detrimental to the land's capacity to be utilised in the way set out by these regulations.

As such, its designation as a town green with its accompanying legal structures and framework would assist in keeping the land in the condition it was always intended to remain, as encapsulated in the 1922 covenants.

Yours sincerely



T Burnford

**Graeme Stark**

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**From:** Sally Roche <sallyjarman@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 10 February 2013 21:40  
**To:** Graeme Stark  
**Subject:** Bath Recreation Ground - support Town Green Application

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN**

**Please register my support for the above application to register the Bath Recreation Ground as a town green.**

**Sally Roche  
11 Northampton Street  
Bath BA1 2SN**

sent from my iPad

**Graeme Stark**

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**From:** Sally Roche <sallyjarman@btinternet.com>  
**Sent:** 10 February 2013 21:42  
**To:** Graeme Stark  
**Subject:** Bath Recreation Ground , town green application

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN**

**Please register my support for the above application to register the Bath Recreation Ground as a town green.**

**Stephen Roche  
Flat 2  
Abbey Court  
Edward Street  
Bath BA2 4X**

## Graeme Stark

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**From:** simonrichardjones@gmail.com on behalf of Simon Jones <simon-jones@simon-jones.com>  
**Sent:** 14 February 2013 06:16  
**To:** Graeme Stark; j@gooders.co.uk; osie.carne@yara.com; Penelope Bennet  
**Subject:** APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Dear Mr Stark,

I write as the owner of Flat 7 10 Johnston St Bath BA2 4DH which is a property adjacent to the Rec

I support the move to make the Rec as a village green.

Open spaces matter to communities. The use of the rec for Rugby in the 1950's may have been appropriate in the low-key amateur nature of the game then, I believe in the high-revenue professional mode of the game it is inappropriate for such activities to occur on what is essentially a resource for the community.

There are many places where a high-quality rugby ground can be placed. A historic space in the centre of a UNESCO-listed city is not one of them and it is timely and prudent to once again assert the original and intended purpose for the Rec.

It does not seem to me to be an issue of the majority opinion for the use of the Rec. Democracies are about minority rights just as much as they are about majority rule. Bath is a historic city and the historic nature and the rec and its use needs to reflect that,

Accordingly I endorse and support the register of the Rec as a village green.

Yours sincerely

Simon Jones



1 Gerrard Buildings  
Pulteney Mews  
BATH  
BA2 4DQ

9 February 2013

Mr Graeme Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Floor 2, Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
BRISTOL  
BS31 1LA

Dear Sir

I am writing in reply to your communication with regard to the Application to Register Land Known as Bath Recreation Ground as Town or Village Green.

**As a resident I am totally in agreement with Jack Sparrow of 43, Forester Road, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6QE Application.**

When Bath Rugby hold matches here on a Saturday it is very disruptive with the many people who attend not only with the traffic who take up every space available here but the way they park their cars right in front of all our windows and especially the noise sometimes until late in the evenings. Although we all have double glazing we have to keep the windows shut on warm days because of all the noise from the crowds. What will happen if the capacity is increased substantially?

The children who are here on a Saturday and Sunday to practise rugby, football, lacrosse etc, are lovely to see and are no problem at all. Also some schools who have their sports day activities are a joy to see.

For the Rugby Club to suggest that the families could go to the Lambridge Ground at a weekend is just ridiculous as with all the traffic on the London Road they just won't bother and it would deny them all the opportunity that they now have.

Yours faithfully

*S M Withey*

Mrs S M Withey

Peter and Rosalind Prest  
19 High Bannerdown  
BATH  
BA1 7JY  
Tel: 01225 851547

email: [peterhprest@btinternet.com](mailto:peterhprest@btinternet.com)

10<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Graeme Stark  
Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham

Dear Sir,

Re: TVG12/1

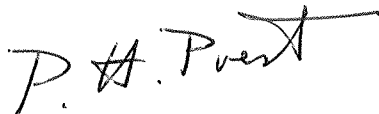
We are writing to support this application to include Bath Recreation Ground in the Register of Town Greens. We have lived in Bath for 40 years and have known the Rec as an open space, with access from both William Street and the river pathway, for use by members of the public for a variety of sports activities.

However, since becoming a professional club in 1996, Bath Rugby has increasingly encroached upon and dominated the Rec, to the detriment of other lawful and legitimate users. It is well-known that the land was to given to all the citizens of Bath. The 1956 conveyance set out that the land was to be used for all types of recreation and not for commercial gain. The terms of this conveyance were upheld by a High Court ruling in 2002, but are flagrantly disregarded by Bath Rugby.

A Premier Rugby Club operation is the antithesis of communal usage of publicly owned space. A large stadium (as intended by the club) holding up to 25,000 would further deny free access to the citizens of Bath. In a game of rugby only 30 people are participating in sporting activity, all the others are mere spectators; since the change to professional status, it has become increasing unlikely that any of the players originate from Bath.

Furthermore, the Trustees of the Rec are failing to uphold the 2002 ruling and Charity Commission rules, allowing amateur activities to be squeezed out, and commercial advertising for the profit of Bath Rugby. Advertising banners around the rugby pitch can be seen from the Grand Parade and on TV broadcasts, advertising like this is not permitted anywhere else in the centre of Bath. The 'land swap' procedures have been desperate and ridiculous, and further illustrate a dereliction of duty on the part of the Trustees. The Rec needs urgent protection in order for local residents to fully enjoy their local space for their own active pastimes. Town Green Status would allow Bath citizens to reclaim full access and usage of their land.

Yours faithfully,



P. H. PREST



R. I. PREST

**9 Abbey Court  
Edward Street  
Bath  
BA2 4DX**

**01225 464091**

10<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Mr Graeme Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
BANES Council  
Floor 2  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
Bristol  
BS31 1LA

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND  
KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN**

Dear Mr Stark,

I have seen details of this planning application attached to the railings around the Rec, and have also read articles and letters in the Bath Chronicle relating to the matter.

As a resident of the Pulteney Estates area of Bath and a near neighbour of the Rec, I wish to register **my support for this application** to register the land as a Town/Village Green. This action will protect the Recreation Ground as an open space in perpetuity and allow its continued use by amateur outdoor sports and charitable events as specified in the 1956 constitution of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust.

Yours sincerely,



Peter AN Carne

Flat 6, Abbey Court,  
Edward Street,  
Bathwick  
Bath BA2 4DX

Mr Graeme Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
BANES Council  
Floor 2  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
Bristol  
BS31 1LA

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER  
LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE  
GREEN**

Dear Mr Stark,

I have seen details of this planning application attached to the railings around the Rec, and have also read articles and letters in the Bath Chronicle relating to the matter.

As a resident of the Pulteney Estates area of Bath and a near neighbour of the Rec, I wish to register **my support for this application** to register the land as a Town/Village Green. This action will protect the Recreation Ground as an open space in perpetuity and allow its continued use by amateur outdoor sports and charitable events as specified in the 1956 constitution of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust.

Yours sincerely,

*Barbara H. Masse*

## Graeme Stark

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**From:** David Greenwood <david.greenwood25@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 21 February 2013 10:01  
**To:** Graeme Stark  
**Subject:** Town/Village Green Application ... The Recreation Ground

Good Morning Mr Stark.

We are residents of Great Pulteney Street but are away in New Zealand until early April. For this reason we are not able to quote any reference number that may have been allocated to the application

We write in to FULLY SUPPORT the application that has been lodged to have the Recreation Ground, which is behind our property declared a Town/Village Green.

Having lived in the city for over 18 years we regularly use the Recreation Ground , WITHOUT RESTRICTION, for the purpose of walking around, playing games with our family's children including cricket, rounders, football , badminton. There is nothing to prevent free access and the road gate is only closed on the 15 or so days of the year when the Rugby Club play on the pitch.

I would happily state that we make use of the Ground at least once per week.

We first visited the city back in the late 1960s and have always known the Recreation Ground to be an Open Space available to all. We have never sought permission and have never been challenged.

Whilst part of the Ground is available to specific clubs ... tennis, bowls, croquet the vast majority of the land is open and freely available. The only restriction that we know of is that no dog walking is allowed.

I would ask you to put these points to whoever will be considering the application

Yours sincerely David and Caroline Greenwood

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2013,

8, Putney Ness,  
Bath, BA2 4JS.

Mr. Graeme Stark,  
Senior Rights of Way Officer,  
Bath Council, Floor 2,  
Riverside, Temple St,  
Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1LA.

Dear Mr. Stark,

Application to register land known as Bath  
Recreation Ground as Town or Village Green.

As a resident of the Putney Estates area of Bath and, living near the Recreation Ground, I want to register my support for this application for the land as a Town/Village Green. This action will protect the Recreation Ground as an open space in perpetuity and allow its continued use by amateur outdoor sports and charitable events as specified in the 1956 constitution of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust.

Yours sincerely,  
Sylvia Evans (Mrs)

## Graeme Stark

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**From:** Agnes Melling <agnesmelling1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 22 February 2013 16:23  
**To:** Graeme Stark  
**Subject:** APPLICATION TO REGISTER BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN

Dear Graeme,

I am writing in support of this application.

I do so on the grounds that the Recreation Ground was bequeathed to the people of Bath as an area for their recreational use by Captain Forrester almost 100 years ago. I know of no authority that has rescinded this situation.

The present attempt by Bath Rugby plc to acquire a large piece of land for building on is completely contrary to his wishes. It only reflects the greed and arrogance of Bath Rugby. It will necessitate the removal of sporting activities by local people.

The registration of the Rec as a village or town Green would reverse this.

I am disappointed that you did not ask in your letter for people who supported the application to express their opinion.

If this is normal practice, I would ask you to consider "doing it better" by asking for opinion on both sides.

Yours,

Agnes Melling (Mrs)

1 Gerrard Buildings

Bath BA2 4 DQ

22Feb.2013

**The Reverend Neil Cocking**

**Barnard House,  
6 Vane Street,  
Bath BA2 4DZ**

Graeme Stark,  
Senior Rights of Way Officer,  
Bath & North East Somerset Council,  
Environmental Services,  
Floor 2 Riverside,  
Temple Street,  
Keynsham,  
Bristol **BS31 1LA**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013

Dear Mr. Stark,

**RE: SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – BATH RECREATION  
GROUND - APPLICATION REFERENCE TVG12/1**

I write as a beneficiary of the charitable objectives of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust in support of an application made by Mr. Jack Sparrow of 43 Forester Road, Bathwick, BA2 6QE under Section 15 (1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons (Registration of Town or Village Greens) (Interim Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007 for the inclusion in the register of town and village greens of the land as described and commonly known as the Bath Recreation Ground in the City of Bath.

Yours sincerely,

The Rev'd Kermode Neil Cocking.

Telephone 01225-442448 Mobile 07850-790747 email: [neilcocking@waitrose.com](mailto:neilcocking@waitrose.com)  
&  
4 Wilkie House, Cureton Street, London SW1P 4EH  
020-7828 9848



**The Garden Flat  
8 Johnstone Street  
Bath  
BA2 4DH**

Tel: 01225 481515  
Mobile: 07836 584789  
E-mail: [Rosie.Carne@yara.com](mailto:Rosie.Carne@yara.com)

22nd February 2013

Mr Graeme Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
BANES Council  
Floor 2  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
Bristol  
BS31 1LA

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN**

Dear Mr Stark,

Your ref: TVG12/1 Response sent by E mail.

Thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 inviting me to comment on the above application. You only asked for OBJECTIONS TO REGISTRATION, but correspondence in our local newspaper 'The Bath Chronicle' has suggested we should also inform you of **SUPPORT TO THE REGISTRATION**. Hence my letter to you today.

**I am in total support of this application and am sure there are no factual grounds not to register this land as a 'Town Green'. It is actually just formalizing its current status.** I sincerely hope as 'Senior Rights of Way Officer' that you do have the authority to evaluate this application and come to your own conclusion as I AM MOST CONCERNED THAT THE STATED VIEWS OF OBJECTION BY COUNCILLOR DAVID DIXON WILL BE MADE TO INFLUENCE YOUR DECISION. I am sure his stated views have been brought to your attention, but just in case (as you are based in Keynsham) Councillor David Dixon is quoted as saying: " *This is merely a stalling tactic, an application which in my view fails on many accounts as a town green. Not least there is a leisure centre in existence and people are not free to access the land, as all sports and activities are to be booked and paid for through the Trust.*

*Mr Sparrow and his colleagues simply do not want the Trust to resolve the outstanding issues. Do not want more land brought under the Trust's management in order for it to meet its objectives of making space available for sports, recreation and events. How much longer they want the issues the Trust face to go unresolved who knows? This is now 11<sup>th</sup> year and this is the year to resolve issues one way or another".* Reading such disingenuous comment

such as this that from a man as powerful and seemingly biased as Councillor Dixon, I hope underlines my concerns of undue influence on your decision process!

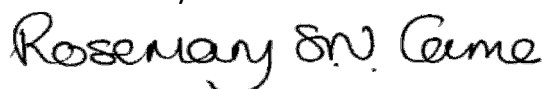
As a resident of the Pulteney Estates area of Bath adjacent to the Rec and with vaults opening on to the Rec to which I have vehicle access - and therefore a beneficiary of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust - I wish to register my strong support for this application as it will protect the Recreation Ground as an unrestricted open space in perpetuity and allow its use by amateur outdoor sports and charitable events as specified in the 1956 constitution of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust. Support further confirmed by the High Court in 2002 which appears to have continued to be abused by the Trustees of the Trust – latterly lead by Councillor Dixon as Chairman of Trustees.

**It is the aims laid out in the 1956 constitution - and confirmed by the High Court in 2002 - and its use at least since 1956 as an unrestricted public open space which should drive all decisions to ensure it is now listed as the 'Town Green' which in essence it always has been.**

Any illegal developments which have been allowed in error (I refer to the issues of the building of the Leisure Centre by Bath City Council in 1975 on Trust land and its subsequent management and the illegal leases granted to the professional sports company Bath Rugby plc in violation of the unrestricted open space qualification laid down in the constitution) which have contributed to the misuse and abuse of the Rec Trust's land as a public open space with unrestrictive public access and **rights of way** must not now be allowed to deter this application. The legal covenants on the **rights of way** for an unrestricted "Open Space" need strengthening. I agree with Councillor Dixon that unresolved issues need resolving and approving this application would enable the process to achieve this to start.

If the presence and problems caused by Leisure Centre and other illegal activities do prove material to you in approving this application I would ask you to note that I would be prepared to contact the applicator Mr Sparrow (who I have not met) to ask him to consider the possibility of amending the area of the 'Town Green' application until such difficult issues can be resolved. Alternatively the illegally built sports centre could be demolished and the Cy Pres (scam to change the charitable objectives to accommodate indoor sport and commercial retail activities in a stadium) nonsense withdrawn as its original purpose for an unrestricted public open space in perpetuity would be restored. I am fearful previous illegal misuses and their management practises could affect this laudable application which should effectively protect the rights of way of the beneficiaries of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust as the 'Town Green' it was intended to be in perpetuity.

Yours sincerely



Rosemary S N Carne

Mr Graeme Stark  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
BANES Council  
Floor 2  
Riverside  
Temple Street  
Keynsham  
Bristol  
BS31 1LA

Flat 4  
28 Great Pulteney St  
Bath  
BA2 4BU

**SECTION 15 (1) of the COMMONS ACT 2006 – APPLICATION TO REGISTER  
LAND KNOWN AS BATH RECREATION GROUND AS TOWN OR VILLAGE  
GREEN**

Dear Mr Stark,

I have seen details of this planning application attached to the railings around the Rec, and have also read articles and letters in the Bath Chronicle relating to the matter.

As a resident of Bath and therefore a beneficiary of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust I wish to register **my support for this application** to register the land as a Town/Village Green. This action will protect the Recreation Ground as an open space in perpetuity and allow its continued use by amateur outdoor sports and charitable events as specified in the 1956 constitution of the Bath Recreation Ground Trust.

Yours sincerely,

*Marion M. Whitaker (Mrs)*