

Press Release 27 March 2007

TOWN GREEN APPLICATION EVIDENCE SUBMITTED TODAY

Save Radley Lakes members have collated over twenty detailed witness statements and other evidence, including many maps and photographs spanning over 20 years, for submission to the forthcoming Radley Lakes Town Green public enquiry. The evidence has been collected together into large lever arch files (bundles) for distribution to the enquiry participants. The results make interesting reading. Grandparents, Parents, children and grandchildren featured in the many statements given by local people who had used the Radley Lakes for many more years than the period that is being examined by the enquiry.

The over-riding theme of the evidence became clear as the individual's letters were punched and filed in their respective sections. They had used Radley Lakes for recreational purposes of all sorts. One witness did her swimming training in the Lakes for which she earned a medal and others who were birdwatchers provided detailed information of their visits with the birds they had spotted.

After many hours of collating the paperwork, the bundles are finally ready to be delivered.

One bundle will be delivered this morning, to Oxfordshire County Council who are responsible for the Town Green Enquiry, by Mrs Jo Cartmell who is person making the application for registration.

One bundle will be delivered to RWE HQ in Swindon by Dr David Guyoncourt.

Two bundles will be delivered to London. Michael Bloom is delivering a bundle to the Barrister who is leading the Town Green Enquiry, Mr Vivian Chapman QC, and the last bundle will be delivered to Save Radley Lakes' Barrister, Mr Philip Petchey QC.

An exhausted and bleary-eyed Jo Cartmell said this morning "It is so obvious that the community love their lakes. These lakes are a local treasure which people have enjoyed for over 20 years. People have swum, paddled, pond-dipped, enjoyed watching wildlife, laughed at the antics of their dogs enjoying a swim or just enjoyed being there. The Lakes are already the community's village green."

Notes for editors

An application to register the Thrupp and Bullfield Lakes at Radley, "The Radley Lakes", as a Town Green under the Commons Registration Act 1965 was made by Mrs Jo Cartmell of Abingdon in December 2006.

If it can be shown that people from the local community have used this land for lawful recreational purposes, unhindered and without seeking or obtaining permission, for a period of 20 years or more, then the land, comprising the Lakes and their surroundings, will be registered as a Town or Village Green. This will secure the rights of the community to continue to use the land as they have done and will prohibit any development that will interfere with those rights. In particular, it will prevent RWE npower turning Thrupp Lake into a waste dump for fuel ash from Didcot A power station.

The matter will be examined by a Public Enquiry, to be chaired by government appointed inspector, Mr Vivian Chapman QC, which is due to be held at the New Pavilion, Radley College, Radley next week. The enquiry will commence at 11.00am on Monday 2nd April, and continue until 5th April if so required. The inspectors report and recommendations will then go to Oxfordshire County Council whose Planning and Regulation Committee will give a final determination at their meeting on 21st May.

This is unlikely to end the matter, as either side can appeal to the High Court.

For further information contact: Marjorie White on 01235 216428 or 01235 530174, or visit www.saveradleylakes.org.uk or the news pages at www.radleyvillage.org.uk .