From: [redacted]
To: Section 62A Applications Non Major
Subject: Objection to application S62A/2025/0133 - Stoke Lodge playing fields
Date: 17 November 2025 10:50:46

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To whom it may concern.

Objection to application S62A/2025/0133 - Stoke Lodge playing fields

I am writing as a resident [redacted] directly opposite the Stoke Lodge fields and within clear line of sight of proposed camera locations C1 and C2. I wish to object in the strongest but most respectful terms to the proposed installation of eight CCTV poles around the site.

This proposal will have a serious and harmful impact on my home, my family, my neighbours and our daily lives. It is intrusive, disproportionate and wholly unsuitable for a quiet residential setting.

Summary of Key Objections

1. **Direct surveillance into my home, garden and driveway from multiple elevated camera angles.**
2. **Continuous monitoring of my elderly neighbour's living room, who cannot submit her own objection.**
3. **Three-lens 360-degree cameras (twenty-four lenses total) capture far beyond the school field.**
4. **High-resolution recognition and likely night-vision capabilities enable viewing into windows and private rooms.**
5. **Privacy masking is not a real safeguard and cannot be enforced by residents.**
6. **Tall, industrial poles cause overbearing visual impact on residential boundaries.**
7. **Trees only screen the area for part of the year and cannot prevent overlooking.**
8. **The school has previously installed unlawful CCTV at this location, undermining trust.**
9. **Temporary CCTV now on-site is already distressing residents with alarms and voice warnings.**
10. **The proposal conflicts with planning policy, residential privacy protections and the ICO CCTV Code.**

1. Direct and Continuous Surveillance of My Home

The applicant's own coverage map shows my front garden (circled in red), windows and driveway inside the capture zones of at least two camera poles.

Each pole carries three cameras with full 360-degree coverage, meaning my daily movements, visitors and garden activity would be recorded all day, every day.

The cameras have five-megapixel recognition capability. People, number plates and identifiable features would be clearly visible.

It is not appropriate for a family home to be placed under permanent high-resolution monitoring from school equipment.

2. Impact on a Vulnerable Elderly Neighbour

My elderly neighbour, whose [redacted] sits in her front window for most of the day. One of the camera poles faces directly toward her living room where she sits.

She is unable to submit her own objection. I am raising this on her behalf.

Monitoring the inside of an elderly woman's living room through a powerful, operator-controlled camera system presents a serious safeguarding concern. It removes her sense of safety in her own home and will cause distress.

This must be considered as part of the application.

3. Privacy Masking Is Unreliable and Cannot Be Enforced

The application relies heavily on privacy masking. This is not a fixed or secure protection.

Masking can be:

• adjusted
• removed
• bypassed
• overwritten by software updates
• disabled by authorised users

Residents have **no way to check** if masking is active or compliant. There is **no independent oversight** and no enforcement mechanism.

It is not reasonable to expect residents to trust a system with this level of control over private domestic space.

4. Night-Vision Capability Will Increase Intrusion

The documents acknowledge the possibility of infrared or night-vision features. These systems can:

• see into lit rooms
• reveal the shape and movement of people through windows
• capture activity in bedrooms and living rooms facing the field

This level of intrusion is not acceptable in a residential environment.

5. Overbearing Visual Impact

The proposed poles are tall, industrial structures sited directly against a residential boundary. From upper floors they would look directly into our homes and gardens.

Their scale, height and appearance are out of keeping with the character of a suburban street and create a sense of being watched.

This harms residential amenity and wellbeing.

6. Trees Do Not Provide Effective Screening

Although there are mature trees, they only provide partial cover for part of the year. For at least half the year there is reduced screening.

Even in summer, the poles are tall enough for cameras to see over and through the canopy.

Seasonal foliage cannot be relied upon for privacy.

7. Past Unlawful CCTV Use Undermines Trust

Cotham School previously installed unlawful CCTV equipment at Stoke Lodge. This history makes it extremely difficult for residents to trust that a much more powerful and complex surveillance system will be operated responsibly.

Without binding, enforceable conditions, there is a real risk of misuse.

8. Evidence of Current Intrusive Surveillance (Temporary CCTV Tower)

A portable CCTV tower with loud sirens, motion sensors and voice warnings has been installed on the field without any notice to residents. This equipment is designed for construction sites and industrial estates, not residential greens.

The alarms and verbal warnings are startling and upsetting. The noise carries across the field and into our homes.

A local resident contacted the number on the tower. The operator stated that the equipment was installed because the school "wanted to keep dog walkers off their land." This contradicts the public claim that surveillance is solely for safeguarding.

This demonstrates a pattern of using aggressive, deterrent-style surveillance to restrict community access, rather than for genuine safeguarding purposes.

This behaviour gives residents no confidence that permanent CCTV poles would be operated fairly or proportionately.

9. Conflicts with National and Local Policy

National Planning Policy Framework
The proposal conflicts with requirements to protect privacy, residential amenity, character and wellbeing. It does not meet tests of necessity or proportionality.

Bristol Local Plan
The application conflicts with policies protecting residential privacy, preventing overbearing structures and ensuring development respects local character.

ICO CCTV Code of Practice
The system would capture private domestic areas without lawful necessity. ICO guidance is clear that this must be avoided.

Conclusion and Requested Outcome

For all the reasons above, I respectfully request that this application is refused.

The proposal is intrusive, excessive and harmful to residents, including vulnerable individuals who cannot advocate for themselves. It will damage privacy, wellbeing, amenity and the character of the area.

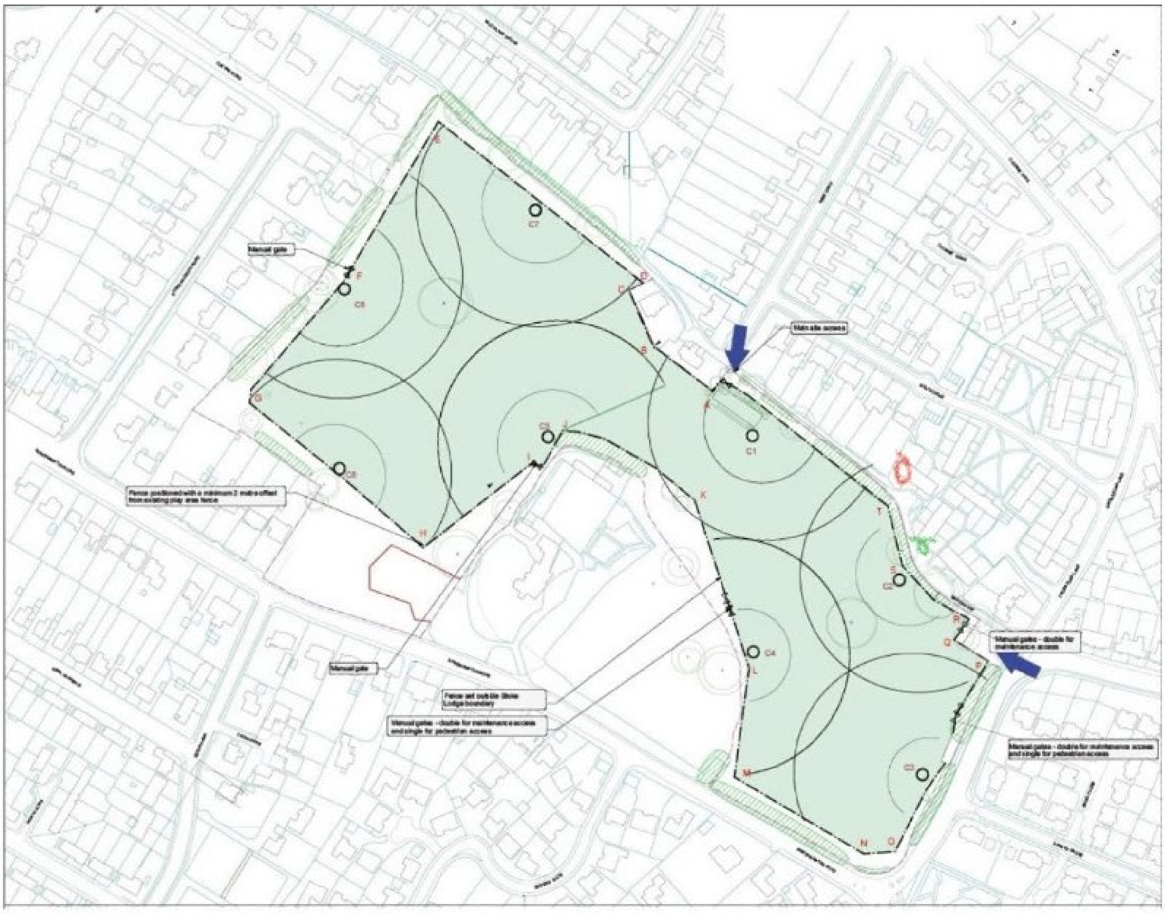
If refusal is not granted, I request strict, binding and independently enforceable conditions, including:

- fixed, non-adjustable field-facing camera angles
- no night-vision or infrared capability
- independent auditing and compliance checks
- binding privacy protections agreed with residents
- no ability to capture or process domestic areas

However, the most appropriate and proportionate outcome is **refusal**.

Yours sincerely

Resident of [redacted]



Manual gate
Main site access
Fence positioned with a minimum 2 metre offset from existing play area fence
Manual gate
Fence set outside Stow Lodge boundary
Manual gates - double for maintenance access and single for pedestrian access
Manual gates - double for maintenance access
Manual gates - double for maintenance access and single for pedestrian access
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5
C6
C7
C8