

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed CCTV poles at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields. We have lived beside this space for many years and know it as a peaceful, beautiful, open green area used daily by families, walkers, dog-owners, and people enjoying the play park and small arboretum.

One pole is proposed very close to the play park and another beside the arboretum where people regularly rest, talk, and enjoy the trees. It also sits extremely close to the beautifully carved tree stump known locally as the “Tree of Life”, which is a valued part of the landscape. Installing tall metal surveillance poles here would be jarringly out of keeping with the character of the area and would be a loss of amenity for everyone who uses these spaces.

The CCTV report shows wide 360-degree coverage, and even with “privacy hatching” there is no guarantee that these cameras won’t record people’s gardens or homes. One camera would look directly into our bathroom window, we have never had to bother with frosted glass because the height and angle but this camera would be unacceptably intrusive. It is well known that systems like this can be reconfigured or altered after software updates, and the public would have no way of knowing what is actually being captured. That makes many of us very uneasy indeed. I cannot imagine how something so invasive can even be suggested.

This space includes four lawful public rights of way and is used by the wider public daily. It has never been a closed school site and should not be treated like one. Installing permanent surveillance infrastructure overlooking public leisure spaces feels entirely inappropriate and out of step with how Stoke Lodge has always been used.

We are deeply concerned about the effect on the character of the area, privacy, and the enjoyment of a valued public green space. We urge that this application be refused.

Stella Creer, [REDACTED]

*Potential view from our bathroom window*

