

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 November 2025 18:45
To: Section 62A Applications Non Major <section62anonmajor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Application S62A/2025/0132 – Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, BS6 6DT

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Application S62A/2025/0132 – Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, BS6 6DT

I am writing as a local resident and a former Cotham School student to support the application for new floodlighting at the school's MUGA and all-weather pitches.

Having grown up in the area and attended the school myself, I still use the facilities whenever they are available. Unfortunately, during the winter months the pitches become unusable because it gets dark so early, making it unsafe for people like me—and for the many people who rely on this space for regular exercise. Floodlighting would make a huge difference to community access, enabling safe, year-round use.

A Well-Designed, Carefully Considered Scheme

I have read through the supporting documents submitted with the application and was impressed by how thorough and responsible the scheme is.

In particular:

- The Lighting Impact Assessment clearly demonstrates that the floodlights are designed to minimise glare and light spill, with predicted light levels well below recognised thresholds and strict automatic switch-off times after curfew.
- The Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA) shows that views of the lighting columns are naturally limited by existing

school buildings and mature landscaping, meaning they will have very little visual impact on the surrounding area.

- The Planting Plan includes new evergreen trees and native hedging, which will provide year-round screening and support local biodiversity.
- The Planning and Heritage Statement explains convincingly that there will be no harm to the Redland & Cotham Conservation Area or nearby heritage assets.

Taken together, these documents show that this is a professionally prepared, well-thought-out scheme that fully considers its setting and the needs of neighbouring properties.

Low Impact on Neighbouring Amenity

The scheme has been carefully designed to avoid causing any nuisance to nearby homes.

The dark-sky-compliant fittings, low lux levels, directional lighting, and curfew controls all demonstrate a clear commitment to protecting residential amenity. The combination of technical lighting design and new planting ensures that the impact on neighbours will be very minor.

These measures align well with NPPF Paragraphs 130 and 185, which require good design and protection from unacceptable levels of light pollution.

Community Value and Policy Alignment

The NPPF (Paragraphs 92, 95 and 98) strongly supports improvements to education and sports infrastructure—particularly projects that encourage community use and promote health and well-being. This proposal does exactly that. As someone who has directly benefited from these pitches,

both during my school years and long afterwards, I know how important they are to local residents.

Efficient and Sustainable Use of Existing Facilities

By providing lighting, the school can make full use of its existing pitches rather than relying on external facilities. This is both economically sensible and consistent with national policy on making efficient use of established community and educational sites.

In summary, this is a well-documented, low-impact, and extremely valuable proposal that will significantly improve access to an important community facility. I fully support the application.

If you need anymore information feel free to reach out.

Yours faithfully,

Conner