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Sent: 30 November 2025 14:37
To: Section 62A Applications Non Major
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Subject: Re: S62A/2025/0133 Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH

Re: S62A/2025/0133 Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH

The last time Cotham School fenced off and used Stoke Lodge for PE between 2019 to 2023, they used mainly the flat top third of the field for about 2.48% of the year. That's about 8 hours a week during term time which is about 217 hours out of a possible 8760 hours in a year. Now they want to have 8 six meter high CCTV towers with 24 cameras recording the public's every move - in and outside the fence. This cannot be right for the thousands of local Bristol residents who are entitled to use Stoke Lodge under the terms of Cotham School's lease with Bristol City Council which states: "Cotham School's lease provides that the school's use is 'subject to all existing rights and use of the Property, including use by the community'. There is also no statutory obligation from Ofsted or the Department for Education mandating CCTV in outdoor areas such as playing fields particularly if the school itself is three miles away.

Cotham School have been using Shine Sports Ground at Golden Hill for their PE since August 2023 which is open to the public and has a single CCTV camera pointing at the car park. As far as I can ascertain none of their pupils has been attacked or molested by the public or dogs in those two years. Shine is also flat which Stoke Lodge isn't and has car/coach parking facilities which Stoke Lodge doesn't. I have also researched other school playing fields in Bristol, and so far haven't found one to have CCTV covering the field of play like Cotham are intending at Stoke Lodge.

Cotham School already have 9 CCTV cameras at Stoke Lodge, so certainly don't need an additional 24 high resolution cameras on eight 6 meter high towers as well. This level of security is for prison yards not public green spaces. There's only one reason: to try and protect Cotham School's new two meter high security fence from angry Bristol citizens. We have also been given no assurance that these cameras will comply with the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Act, ensuring surveillance is proportionate and respects our privacy.

Cotham School started work on this planning application in July/September 2025 (See plans 2025_CCTV_P03-CCTV_Proposed_Site_Plan.pdf and others) which is three months before any damage was done to the new fence, so to say they're applying for these CCTV towers because of damage to the fence is a lie. The first damage to the new fence was recorded on 6 November 2025. Most of the damage they cite in their report was to the previous fence when the public were furious at being locked out of Stoke Lodge during lockdown.

The waste of public money on this extremely expensive foolhardy scheme beggars belief when Bristol City Council is on it's knees financially. I urge the Council to reject this application for the same reasons they did when Cotham applied for a CCTV tower by the Adult Learning Centre at Stoke Lodge in 2021.



I do not wish to make an oral submission if a hearing is arranged.