

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 27 November 2025 18:17

To: Section 62A Applications Non Major <section62anonmajor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Subject: planning application objection

Dear Sir or Madam,

With reference to application ref. no. S62A/2025/0133 to install 8 CCT towers with three cameras on each pole at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton. BS9 2BH. by Cotham School.

I was quite shocked to hear of this latest proposal from the school to undermine the pleasure the local community has from this lovely local amenity. The school has already fenced the area and has cameras in the grounds.

This I understand is supposed to protect the pupils at the school during sport lessons and protect the fence from damage.

My own objections to this proposal are as follows.

First, quite simply there is no need or requirement for there to be either a fence or cameras for the pupils at the school to play sports on the field. The pupils are supervised during these sessions by school staff. There are plenty of sports venues everywhere where games are played by children of all ages that are not fenced or have cameras. Here in Bristol the Downs being the most obvious example. My husband and I have lived by the Stoke Lodge fields for thirty years and sport has been played safely without a fence or camera in sight until the last few years when Cotham decided it wanted, it doesn't need, these security measures.

One reason Cotham gave for the cameras was to protect the fence, but they don't need a fence. They reported damage to the fence. I think over the years this has been going on a couple of panels were damaged or taken down. This I don't condone but to suggest it being some kind of high crime area in need of constant surveillance is blatantly ridiculous. Stoke Bishop is a very safe area to live. Crime rates are very low.

As already stated the pupils do not need cameras to play safely in the grounds.

The cameras, three on each of eight poles five metres high round the field would be a terrible invasion of privacy. The cameras would be able to see into the gardens and even bedroom windows of those who live next to and overlook the field. They would also be able to see into the young children's playground at Stoke Lodge and observe, unnecessarily, people using the field, quite legally for recreational purposes.

Also worryingly, I have no idea who will monitor these cameras and what use will be made of the footage and who will have access to it. Also, is it planned these cameras would be used at night?

Second, these large structures would be a very unsightly feature and very visible from anywhere in the field. Totally out of keeping in such a landscape of parkland with old, protected trees and historic house. They (the fence already does) would urbanize the feel of a very open, leafy suburban landscape and parkland.

Third. From what I understand of installing these structures there is a fear they could have a detrimental effect on trees, damage roots and have other detrimental effects on the local environment when cables etc. are installed.

For all the above reasons I strongly object to the plan to install these surveillance cameras around Stoke Lodge playing fields. Please consider. Thank you

Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]

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