

I would like to object to this planning application to install several highly intrusive and unnecessary CCTV cameras for the following reasons.

CCTV of this nature would be a severe attack on the right to privacy for members of the community who use Stoke Lodge as of right, including, but not only, the multiple public footpaths on the site. The CCTV would be a clear attack on the privacy of local residents whose properties are in line of sight of Stoke Lodge. The application raises significant and understandable concerns about privacy and potential misuse of recorded footage. I have concerns about whether such assurances made in the application could be reliably implemented on whether such private areas will be blocked out or not recorded because (i) such controls are set within software, and are likely to be reset on updates, or changed by mistake or design (ii) Previous concerns were raised by the Information Commissioner's Office in 2023 regarding compliance with data protection law. Their earlier CCTV cameras were deemed to be 'in contravention of the principles of data protection law'.

What about the privacy and rights of the students of Cotham School, who are being enclosed within an increasingly harsh and institutional environment?

The proposed CCTV, if installed, will have a significant deleterious effect on the beauty and amenity of Stoke Lodge. It is a beautiful parkland setting with heritage buildings and structures, peaceful and enjoyed not only by the community, but local organised groups (such as sports), members of the general public and, of course, the school and other schools, who are very welcome. Now, unfortunately, it is starting to look like a prison, frankly. The unnecessary proposed CCTV would mean too many poles, poles that are too high and poles that remind one of a '1984-like' oppressive state. The proposed CCTV would be completely unnecessary and not proportionate. Many schools operate on green spaces without any of this security paraphernalia (for example, the Oakfield Lane Playing Field in Dartford Kent, which is completely open and also adjoins a main road. Several schools happily use it in its beautiful setting). The proposed CCTV will harm the setting of the listed building, intrude into key views, erode the open historic character of the site. The majority of the users of Stoke Lodge do so for the beauty and peace, the proposed CCTV scheme will simply destroy that.

As for crime and safety, I have never felt unsafe in that area. Ever. We are fortunate that the area is a low crime area of Bristol. As a professional statistician, I find that the crime statistics given are misleading and not an accurate reflection of the crime on Stoke Lodge.