

**From:** [Margaret Hiles](#)  
**To:** [Section 62A Applications Non Major](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Application reference S62A/2025/0133  
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**Application reference number: S62A/2025/0133**

**Site Address: Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH**

Regarding the above application:

An installation of eight multi-camera CCTV towers for a site in an industrial zone would perhaps be unremarkable.

But Stoke Lodge Playing Fields are surrounded by a wholly residential area, and as such the unblinking stare of the proposed installation is both wholly inappropriate and unnecessary. Its 24/7 high-resolution and long-distance surveillance is a gross intrusion into the ordinary lives of the local community.

There is no requirement for detached playing fields to be fenced, let alone 100% CCTV coverage. Cotham School pupils are never left unsupervised by staff during their scheduled lesson visits to Stoke Lodge Playing Fields. In other words, the school's need for safeguarding its pupils is already satisfied without fence or CCTV. The surrounding area is recognised as having a low crime rate.

The agreement under which the playing fields are leased to Cotham School specifically provides for shared use by the community. There are Public Rights of Way adjacent to the site. There are also four Public Rights of Way crossing the site itself. These have been formally approved by Bristol City Council as landowner, awaiting confirmation by the Planning Inspectorate. Members of the local community, adults and children, walk all these paths and should be able to do so without observation or recording by unknown persons under the aegis of Cotham School.

Furthermore private houses, gardens, windows, internal rooms, roads and paths around the perimeter of Stoke Lodge are all within the range

of the proposed camera towers, as is the children's playground.  
Surveillance as proposed will continue day and night.

The planning application fails to explain, for example: how the surveillance of private spaces will be mitigated; who will have access to images; under what circumstances images will be shared; how privacy zones, once established, will be maintained through changes and upgrades; how residents' objections to their families being filmed in their law-abiding daily lives will be addressed.

Local residents' experience of Cotham School's conduct regarding the operation of its cameras includes the covert camera installed secretly within the site by Cotham School without prior notification or warning notices. This willingness to subvert rules and to act without common decency gives little confidence that the school will in future behave with appropriate respect for the privacy of its neighbours or their children.

I live [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I respectfully request that the application be refused.

Margaret Hiles  
[REDACTED]