

**From:** M Farrel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 December 2025 17:42  
**To:** Section 62A Applications Non Major <section62anonmajor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: S62A/2025/0133 - Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH.

## **Introduction**

I am writing in response to the submissions made by Rapleys LLP, namely that of Charlotte Thompson of the Crime reduction Unit (CRU) of Avon & Somerset Police and PC James Allford, the Neighbourhood Constable for Stoke Bishop regarding the necessity for CCTV cameras at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields.

By way of background:

For the past 10 years I have been Chairman of a Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association which covers an area adjacent to Stoke Lodge Playing Fields

For over 8 years, I have been a member of the Committee of the Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills Ward Forum, which covers the local council ward of Stoke Bishop and Sea Mills and coincides with the police area of Stoke Bishop. The Ward Forum continues the work of the former Bristol City Council NP3 Neighbourhood Partnership and holds 3 or 4 meetings each year open to all residents in the Ward. Speakers at these meetings include our local MP, Darren Jones, our local Councillors, representatives of the police including, on occasions, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset as well as local organisations. If invitees are unable to attend, they are invited to submit a report to be read out and included in the Minutes of the meeting. My particular role on the Committee is liaison with the police with whom we have had a cordial relationship for many years.

## **Rapleys LLP**

The statistics contained in Section 6.6 of the Rapleys' report state that they were compiled by Cotham School. All these statistics relate purely to 2019-2020 mostly at the time of Covid restrictions when residents were being encouraged to exercise safely outdoors but, in the case of Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, were prevented from doing so by the siting of the fence around the fields. None of the incidents concerned could be regarded as serious vandalism.

The statistics contained in the submission by the CRU cover an area way outside the boundary of the playing fields including local shops and residential roads where all the offences actually occurred. Analysis of the statistics provided on the Police UK website for the period shown in the CRU submission show that no criminal activity actually took place in the area of the playing fields. Furthermore, in the submission, reference is made to The National Model Design Code produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government which states that "all schemes should aim to create a safe and secure environment and provide a sense of security for all users" and that, "under the provisions of the Bristol Local Plan, development should create or contribute to a safe, attractive, high quality, inclusive and legible public realm that contributes positively to local character and identity and encourages appropriate levels of activity and social interaction and that development will be expected to reduce crime and fear of crime by creating a well-surveyed

public realm that is well managed and cared for". It is difficult to understand how having an additional 24 CCTV cameras on the site, in addition to the 6 existing cameras and fence, is expected to contribute positively to the local character of the playing fields since the fence itself does nothing to contribute to an attractive, high quality, inclusive and legible **public** realm. The submission also fails to note that the playing fields were in use for decades without any cameras and, to my knowledge, with no issues being reported regarding safety, security etc. It should be noted that, when a previous application was made to install a CCTV camera on one of the sites currently proposed, local residents were vocal in their rejection of the application i.e. the local public felt perfectly safe and secure without any need for CCTVs.

In his submission by PC Allford, which I found surprising, he mentions "incidents of criminal damage" and "repeated acts of vandalism" without providing any evidence to back up these claims. As mentioned above, the police are always asked to attend the Ward Forum meetings or, if unable to do so, submit a written report. However, in no report delivered in person or in writing by PC Allford or his predecessors during at least the past 7 years has any mention ever been made of any criminal damage or repeated acts of vandalism at the playing fields. Moreover, as mentioned above, and in the absence of any others, there are no statistics that bear out his statement. As such, although I respect the work done by PC Allford and the Neighbourhood Police Team, I do take issue with that statement. In that submission, PC Allford goes on to mention that a series of incidents of criminal damage have raised significant concerns regarding security, community safety and the protection of public assets. In the same way, as with the lack of evidence of any serious incidents as mentioned above, no such concerns have ever been mentioned in any report delivered to the Ward Forum nor have any local residents ever expressed any such concerns.

On the subject of the key purposes of CCTV that PC Allford mentions, from past experience of video surveillance in our area, CCTV used in a reactive manner has never been any use in preventing shop-lifting, anti-social behaviour etc. if reports by the local community are anything to go by.

Finally, in his final paragraphs, PC Allford mentions his commitment to working in partnership with community stakeholders. Such a commitment is to be welcomed. However, when it comes to the question of the proposed CCTV cameras, has he held any discussions with local stakeholders such as the Ward Forum, any local neighbourhood watches, the We Love Stoke Lodge group, local Councillors etc.? As for the comment that the installation of these CCTV cameras is proportionate, why is it deemed necessary for these playing fields to have 30 cameras when other playing fields in the area do not have anywhere near as many if any at all?

N.B. Before making this submission, I wrote to both Charlotte Thompson of the CRU and the Neighbourhood Police Team voicing my concerns about their submissions and asking them for further information but have had no reply.

Martin Farrell