

**From:** [Sue Elstob](#)  
**To:** [Section 62A Applications Non Major](#)  
**Subject:** Ref No: S62A/2025/0133 Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH  
**Date:** 03 December 2025 20:30:32

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Susan Elstob

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25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

To: The Planning Inspectorate

Re: Application Reference Number: S62A/2025/1033

Site Address: Stoke Lodge Playing Fields

West Dene

Shirehampton

Bristol

BS9 2BH

To Whom It May Concern,

I write regarding the above planning application for 8 CCTV towers on Stoke Lodge Playing Fields.

The submitted plans and documents are not correct. Cotham School's proposed cabling route is contradicted by its own aboricultural report which uses a completely different cabling route.

The site location plan is incorrect. The redline boundary is incorrect. The school boundary as labelled in this application excludes all the trees within the site. It does not show access points. It does not accurately demonstrate the school fence or the correct locations for the proposed towers, each tower contains 3 cameras.

This large, unnecessary array of 8 towers and 24 cameras, would be detrimental to what is heritage parkland. The parkland is an integral part of the historic Stoke Lodge estate, the house which is at the centre of this parkland is a listed building. The house and especially the parkland have been enjoyed by generations of local residents for years and years. Personally, I moved in to the area [REDACTED]. Myself, friends and family have enjoyed this beautiful place for years, until recently.

Cotham School incorrectly states that Public Rights of Way (PROW) are claimed adjacent to the site. There are four Rights of Way (PROW) which exist **ON** the site **NOT** adjacent to it. These Public Rights of Way have been approved by Bristol City Council. At least one of these towers would obstruct Public Rights of Way. These Rights of Way are not

included in Cotham School's submission, therefore the planning decision makers are unable to fulfil their duties. Decision makers MUST take into account 'how the development will impinge on any Rights of Way'

Cotham School is three miles from this location. This land does not adjoin the school. The entirety of the fenced area is NOT used by the school. The only part used is the very top part, where it is level. The total area used by Cotham School is certainly less than a third of the total fenced area, if not a quarter. It does not have pupil, staff, parent/carer, visitor traffic throughout the school day. This land is not used before school, at lunch and break times or after school. It does not have any pupils present who are unsupervised. It is used term time only when pupils attend for some outdoor PE sessions which are weather dependent. Pupils are accompanied by several staff, pupils are under constant supervision, and within sight and earshot of the staff. This situation does not warrant 8 CCTV towers, each with 3 cameras, a total of 24 cameras.

The reported 'crimes' by Cotham School relate to dates from the Covid Lockdown period or close to these dates. The community during this trying time for all, was locked out of a vital open green space at the time of their greatest need. Some of these 'incidents' are listed as 'children playing football' Is this really a crime ?

BS9 has one of the lowest crime rates across the Avon and Somerset Police area. There are no cases of theft, abduction or assault recorded at Stoke Lodge. All pupils are supervised by staff in constant attendance. The school year for pupils is 38 weeks, these playing fields are not used daily for whole days. They are used infrequently, in all likelihood the amount of use would not add up to more than half of the 38 weeks. This level of use in no way justifies intrusive CCTV.

To have these cameras and the towers would be a gross invasion of the privacy and the civil rights of residents, users of Stoke Lodge, children and carers using the playground and the general public outside the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields area.

The proposed 8 towers each with 3 cameras, able to be operated individually, each camera able to zoom, tilt, swivel 360 degrees. The specification of these cameras means that these cameras are able to view into nearby homes and gardens, the specification is such that faces and types and colours of clothing would be clearly visible when a person was inside their home, as well as being able to view way beyond the Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, closely watch carers and very young children in the play area at anytime of the day or night.

There are mention of privacy zones, and that once in place the cameras would be fixed. However, any operator has to voluntarily adhere to these zones and conditions, who and how will ensure they do ? Who will monitor the privacy ? How will they ensure privacy laws are adhered to ? When will it be done ? How often ? Who and how will it be reviewed, updated etc.

Following a previous planning application for camera towers, in which Cotham School were unsuccessful, the school installed covert recording equipment. They had no permission to do so and had to remove the equipment when it was discovered. This proposal is not needed at all.

Cotham School is asking for users of Stoke Lodge to take 'On Trust' that they will do what they say they are going to do. Unfortunately, Cotham School do not deliver on their promises. Previously, Cotham School have installed illegal covert cameras without any consultation with the community, promised very recently to liaise with the community regarding the fence – this has not happened, Cotham School refused all attempts to participate in mediation with the local community.

As I understand it, there is no provision within the planning process for the camera equipment to be 'fixed' in one position. Therefore, Cotham School are asking the community and all users of Stoke Lodge to take an awful lot 'On Trust'. Given the examples listed above, which are just a few examples of Cotham School's broken promises, there is no trust from the community that Cotham School will do as they

state.

I urge the Planning Inspectorate to refuse this application.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Elstob