

**From:** [W Batley](#)  
**To:** [Section 62A Applications Non Major](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Planning Application - S62A/2025/0133 Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Shirehampton, Bristol BS9 2BH Proposed erection of 8no. 6 metre poles and CCTV cameras by Cotham School  
**Date:** 04 December 2025 16:33:13

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Dear Sirs,

I write to object to the above application by Cotham School and have the following comments:-

#### THE SITE

An approximately 22 acre grass playing field located in the quiet, pleasant, residential suburb of Stoke Bishop, some 3 miles distant from Cotham School. These are not ordinary, traditional, school playing fields, but a designated Important Open Space within the Local Plan, forming part of the landscaped parkland of the designated heritage asset, the Grade 2 listed Stoke Lodge. It is the largest single area in Stoke Bishop not covered by houses.

#### DESCRIPTION

Stoke Lodge and its historic parkland grounds are enclosed by numerous well established mature trees, including individual and groups of trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders. There is an arboretum immediately adjoining the recently fenced playing fields containing various carefully chosen specimen trees. 2 magnificent large, mature, specimen trees grace the middle of the upper and lower portions of the playing fields. Many of these trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

#### HERITAGE COMMENTS

I have read the Bristol City Council Conservation Consultee's comments dated 28 November 2025 and can't match his expertise or eloquence, but I fully endorse them.

#### SETTING

Stoke Lodge is located centrally within its grounds and the landscaped parkland surrounding it is integral to its setting. The uninterrupted open grassland and mature trees and intended views towards Kingweston woods combine to provide a veritable verdant, country like, idyll, much valued and enjoyed by the community.

#### THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The erection/installation of 8no. 6 metre poles, bases and CCTV cameras

#### OBJECTIONS

##### *Visual Impact*

The visual impact of 8no. 6 metre high industrial grade steel poles in such a verdant parkland setting would destroy the unique character of the parkland and Grade 2 Stoke Lodge. An earlier application by the applicant for a similar, single, pole and camera was refused for reasons that included the impact on the listed building, its setting and the heritage parkland character of the site. If one pole was considered by City Planners and objectors to impact on the visual amenity of Stoke Lodge and its grounds, the impact of 8 CCTV cameras with poles is truly frightening.

### *Community Use*

Stoke Lodge was acquired by Bristol City Council in 1947 and since then the grounds have been accessible to and very much enjoyed by the community. The lease to Cotham School was expressly granted subject to this existing community use. Additionally there are 4 well used public footpaths (ROW/3363939) criss-crossing the playing fields and grounds.

### *Justification for proposed cameras*

The Planning statement accompanying the application states that the proposed camera installation is necessary to meet statutory safeguarding requirements for pupils and staff and to deter vandalism.

There are already no less than 6 CCTV cameras erected on the pavilion and storage shed covering both ends and the middle of the playing fields and pupils are always supervised when visiting. Additional cameras are unnecessary; the playing fields are already adequately surveilled. The safeguarding requirements cited by Cotham School, but not required by Ofsted, as justification for additional cameras are greatly overstated for a neighbourhood in which there is no known history of 'safeguarding' crimes. Indeed the playing fields are situated in what is one of the lowest crime neighbourhoods in Bristol. Children have been safely and happily enjoyed playing there with and without adult supervision, for many decades.

The applicant has submitted a schedule of reported 'crimes', none of which have been safeguarding issues and mostly occurred during the Covid period when the applicant blocked access to the fields. Some were simply members of our community using the field for exercise, or children playing football or other sports. It is by no means a dangerous place where people have been attacked, abducted or assaulted. It is known as a safe place, particularly as it is surrounded, more or less, by houses which gives a sense of security.

It should be stressed that there is absolutely no necessity for either a fence or pervasive CCTV cameras at this location. School pupils are bussed in and out and teacher(s) are always on site to supervise.

### CONCLUSION

I respectfully request that you refuse this application for the harm that would be caused to the heritage asset of Stoke Lodge and its parkland should permission be granted.