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OUTRAGED: Bryan McKenna and residents from Stoke Bishop

Anger at fencing plans

ONE of Bristol's most picturesque playing fields could be fenced off from the public at a cost of £1 million, to the outrage of people living nearby.

The city council has tabled plans to enclose Stoke Lodge fields in Stoke Bishop to preserve them for use by Cotham School, improve the quality of the football pitches and satisfy health and safety concerns. But neighbours say the fencing would be "a monumental eyesore and a disaster".

Technically, the public have never been allowed access to the fields, which are council-owned. Stoke Lodge was sold to the council in 1947, subject to a condition it was used for

educational purposes. But, unofficially, dog walkers, joggers and sports teams have had the run of the area for generations.

But now a council cabinet briefing note is recommending the use of £1million to fence off the area.