

Outcome of meeting between Bristol City Council and Cotham School 3 August 2018

Those present:

[redacted] Cotham School (Meeting Chair)

[redacted] Cotham School

[redacted] Cotham School

[redacted] Cotham School

[redacted] Planning

[redacted] Design

[redacted] BCC

[redacted] BCC

[redacted] BCC

1. All agreed that the purpose of the meeting was to enable Cotham School, to get back to using their playing fields as soon as possible.
2. One of the key requests from Cotham School is for all at Bristol City Council understand and reflect in all their actions that Stoke Lodge playing fields are private school playing fields and not parkland.
3. Cotham School noted the process of the Town and Village Green Application and the fact that the City Council as land owner had worked with the School to resist the TVG to the extent that our barristers worked together at the Planning Inquiry
4. The City Council confirmed it has reviewed Cotham's risk assessment of using the playing fields at Stoke Lodge and confirmed that they feel Cotham School undertook a fair and measured approach to the risk assessment and the options /actions for mitigation. The City Council indicated they felt Option 3 of the Risk assessment was most suitable. The meeting noted that this option does not reflect the boundary of the site leased to Cotham School.
5. Cotham's planning consultant provided an outline of why he felt that the matter of the curtilage of Stoke Lodge House was wrongly applied and strongly challenged the Council's assessment that the playing fields are within the curtilage of this Grade II Listed House. It was noted that the former caretakers house is not listed and previous actions indicated that the walls are not listed. It was agreed that a detailed case would be submitted to the City Council.
Action: [redacted] to write to BCC setting out case by mid/late August
6. Cotham outlined that it is keen to find a solution to fencing the playing fields which achieve a secure boundary treatment, that is well designed, affordable and does not invoke a significant planning process. We agreed that a workshop will be held to develop ideas together.

It was noted that the City Council has duty as landlord through the lease to make ensure the playing fields are fit for purpose.

Action: Workshop to be held to explore option in more depth and find an agreed solution. Workshop to be held on Monday 10 September 10.00 – 1.00 venue tbc

7. It was agreed that Cotham School will let BCC planning have information re the size of the new signs at the Stoke Lodge, which BCC indicated they felt required advertisement approval but which Cotham advised have been designed to be permitted development for adverts on a school site. Cotham noted that the school's barrister has advised that the signs and/or fencing should be erected as soon as possible.

Action: [redacted] to write to BCC with details of the signs and the relevant regulations that it is considered indicate that advertisement control approval is not required.

8. The repairs and any other approaches to achieving a new pavilion on site will be picked up as part of the workshop.

Action: Workshop to explore the option for repair or replacement of the pavilion

9. It was noted that there is a grant of [redacted] to the school from the Education Funding Agency specifically to deal fund a new pavilion and fence to ensure safety and security of students whilst attending PE lessons. All agreed that it would not be good news if Cotham should lose this grant.

Action: all to prioritise actions to resolve these issues at Cotham school.

10. Public Space Protection Order 2017, Dog Control, Cotham noted that that this order applies to 'all land with the city and county of Bristol which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled and permitted to have access' And it is the schools opinion that this order should not apply to the playing fields for which the public are not entitled and permitted to have access. It was noted that under no circumstances are dogs allowed on the school playing fields, and also that no other school playing fields seem to be subject to this order.

Action: Cotham will write to the City Council's Public Protection Service.

11. It was noted that if Cotham is not able to get back to the playing fields that the lease would be put in jeopardy.

Action: all to work to avoid this unacceptable outcome

12. All agreed that the meeting had been useful and provided the basis for working together to get Cotham School back to using its playing fields as soon as possible.

[redacted] 04 08 2018