



Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: DC/24/1538

Our Ref: LM/HOR/24/05A

Date 23rd October 2024

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Bryant,

RE: Land to the South of Furners Lane Henfield West Sussex

Thank you for your correspondence of the 22nd of October 2024, advising me of a planning application for the erection of 29 dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, parking, and creation of new vehicular access at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

The National Planning Policy Framework demonstrates the government's aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear, and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

I have had the opportunity to examine the detail within the application and in an attempt to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime I offer the following comments using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and from a Secured by Design (SBD) perspective. SBD is owned by the UK Police service and supported by the Home Office and Building Control Departments in England (Part Q Security – Dwellings), that recommends a minimum standard of security using proven, tested, and accredited products. Further details can be found at www.securedbydesign.com

This application is seeking planning permission for the development of a site off Furners Lane in Henfield for the construction of 29 dwellings.

Ms Bryant
Planning Officer
Horsham District Council
Parkside
Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1RL

Sussex Police Headquarters
Malling House, Malling, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DZ

I would like to take this opportunity to direct the applicant or their agent to our website at www.securedbydesign.com where the SBD Homes 2024 document can be found. The Secured by Design scheme is a Police initiative to guide and encourage those engaged within the specification, design and build of new homes, and those undertaking major or minor property refurbishment, to adopt crime prevention measures. The advice given in this guide has been proven to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating safer, more secure, and sustainable environments.

The orientation of the dwellings will ensure that all publicly accessible areas benefit from overlooking and good natural surveillance.

Parking provision for the development has been provided in the form of driveways, parking to the front of dwellings, garages, and lay-by spaces for visitors. Where communal parking occurs within the development it is important that they must be within view of an active room within the property. An active room is where there is direct and visual connection between the room and the street or the car parking area. Such visual connections can be expected from rooms such as kitchens and living rooms, but not from bedrooms and bathrooms.

With regards to plots 11-12 & 19-20 (flats) from a crime prevention perspective, it will be imperative that access control is implemented into the design and layout to ensure control of entry is for authorised persons only. Tradesperson or timed-release mechanisms are not recommended as they have been proven to be the cause of antisocial behaviour and unlawful access to communal developments.

With regards to postal arrangements - there are increasing crime problems associated with letter plate apertures, such as identity theft, arson, hate crime, lock manipulation and 'fishing' for personal items (which may include post, vehicle and house keys, credit cards, etc). In order to address such problems SBD strongly recommends, where possible, that mail delivery is via a secure external letter box meeting the requirements of the Door and Hardware Federation standard Technical Standard 009 (TS 009) or delivery 'through the wall' into a secure area of the dwellings & flats. These should be easily accessible i.e., at a suitable height for a range of users.

In relation to any proposed EV points - it is important when considering their location that the provisions of any relevant building regulations are complied with and that consultation is undertaken with the relevant fire strategy authority, be this a local authority appointment or a fire and rescue service officer, to ensure that appropriate advice is incorporated into designs and specifications.

With regards to cycle storage throughout the development - research by the 'Design against Crime Centre' suggests that cyclists should be encouraged to lock both wheels and the crossbar to a stand rather than just the crossbar and therefore a design of cycle stand that enables this method of locking to be used is recommended. The minimum requirements for such equipment are as follows: • Galvanised steel bar construction (minimum thickness 3mm), filled with concrete; • Minimum foundation depth of 300mm with welded 'anchor bar'.

Routes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles throughout the development should be integrated in order to assist easy, intuitive wayfinding through the application of inclusive design by increasing activity and therefore natural surveillance which are proven deterrents for crime and anti-social behaviour.

In order to maintain as much natural surveillance as possible – ground planting throughout the development should not be higher than 1 metre with tree canopies no lower than 2 metres. This arrangement provides a window of observation throughout the area. This will enable capable guardians to report incidents to the authorities should they occur. A capable guardian has a 'human element' that is usually a person who, by their mere presence would deter potential offenders from perpetrating a crime.

Lighting is an effective security measure and a useful tool for public reassurance in that it enables people to see at night that they are safe or, to assess a developing threat and if necessary, to identify a route they could take to avoid potential issues. Recent events that have made national news have become the focus of concern over safety in public places means that there is merit in recognising the enormous value people place on being able to move around in public places at night under high quality lighting systems. Where lighting is implemented, it should conform to the recommendations within BS5489-1:2020.

Finally, construction sites often suffer from theft, criminal damage, arson, and anti-social behaviour, all of which can have a major impact on completion dates and overall development costs.

The SBD Construction Site Security Guide 2021 is designed to be risk commensurate and provides advice on how to secure the site from the moment the hoarding goes up until the moment the development is handed over to the client or end user. The advice is based on proven crime prevention principles that are known to reduce criminal opportunity by creating safer, more secure, and sustainable environments. It applies to all construction sites regardless of their size and is intended for all staff including security personnel.

It is also recommended that contact is sought by the developer with local Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) to establish good relations whilst the development is in the construction phase.

Further advice on construction site security can be obtained from the Secured by Design Website:
www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION_SITE_SECURITY_GUIDE_A4_8pp.pdf

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment.

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 heightens the importance of taking crime prevention into account when planning decisions are made. Section 17 of the Act places a clear duty on both police and local authorities to exercise their various functions with due regard to the likely effect on the prevention of crime and disorder. You are asked to accord due weight to the advice offered in this letter which would demonstrate your authority's commitment to work in partnership and comply with the spirit of The Crime & Disorder Act.

Yours sincerely

Miss Lee A Melbourne
Designing Out Crime Officer
Sussex Police Headquarters

Sussex Police Headquarters
Malling House, Malling, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DZ