



## Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: DC/25/0151

Our Ref: LM/HOR/25/06A

Date 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Mr Porter,

### **RE: Land To the North and South of Mercer Road Warnham West Sussex**

Thank you for your correspondence of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025, advising me of a planning application for redevelopment of the site to provide 304 residential units, parking, a retail unit, public car park, public open space, attenuation basins and landscaping 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](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

This planning application is seeking permission for the construction of 304 homes, a retail unit and public car park along with some public open space.

Mr Porter  
Planning Officer  
Horsham District Council  
Parkside  
Chart Way  
Horsham  
RH12 1RL

### **Residential:**

I would like to take this opportunity to direct the applicant to the website:

[www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) where the Secured by Design Residential Guide for 2025 (formerly known as the Homes Guide) can be found. The guide incorporates the latest security standards, developed to address emerging criminal methods of attack, and includes references to the Building Regulations and other statutory requirements across the United Kingdom.

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

From a crime prevention perspective with regards to the proposed apartments within the development, it will be imperative that access control is implemented into the design and layout to ensure control of entry is for authorised persons only. Trades person or timed-release mechanisms are not advised as they have proven to be the cause of antisocial behaviour and unlawful access to communal developments.

With regards to postal arrangements within the development - 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).

I recommend the postal arrangements for the apartments is through the wall or externally mounted secure post boxes as the absence of the letter aperture effectively reduces unnecessary access to the block.

With regards to the postal arrangements for the dwellings as with the apartments – ideally provision would be through the wall or an externally mounted secure post box.

Where parking occurs within the development - it is important that parking spaces are 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 any proposed EV charging 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 footpath and bicycle route design - routes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles should be integrated into the development in order to assist easy, intuitive wayfinding through the application of inclusive design by increasing activity and therefore natural surveillance, proven deterrents for crime and anti-social behaviour. As stated in the Department for Transport Local Transport Note 1/20 (July 2020) Cycle Infrastructure Design: "Cycle networks should be planned and designed to allow people to reach their day-to-day destinations easily, along routes that connect, are simple to navigate and are of a consistently high quality."

With regards to proposed cycle parking within 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'.

It is also the developer or developer's agent's responsibility to inform the Responsible Person(s), Fire and Rescue Service and Building Control of any bicycle storage facilities and/or other areas that may require the charging and storage of Lithium-ion powered vehicles or devices, within buildings or the wider site footprint, to ensure that the necessary fire suppression measures for the charging and storage of lithium-ion powered vehicles have been considered and specified.

Areas of play within the development should be situated in an environment that is stimulating and safe for all children, be overlooked with good natural surveillance to ensure the safety of users and the protection of equipment, which can be vulnerable to misuse. They should be designed to allow natural surveillance from nearby dwellings with safe and accessible routes for users to come and go. Boundaries between public and private space should be clearly defined and open spaces must have features which prevent unauthorised vehicular access. To provide a dog free environment I would ask that consideration is given to surrounding any play areas with railings and self-closing gates.

I also recommend that any associated ground planting be no higher than 1 metre with tree canopies no lower than 2 metres. This arrangement provides a window of observation throughout the area by creating as much natural surveillance as possible. This will allow for the interaction of capable guardians across the site to observe and report any incidents and occurrences. 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, identify a route they could take to avoid a potential issue. Recent events that have made national news and 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.

#### **Proposed Retail:**

To protect premises out of hours – thought should be given to the siting of an intruder alarm.

Should CCTV be a consideration - the following documents will be of assistance to the applicant:

CCTV guidance for police requirements: [HO \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cctv-and-public-safety/cctv-for-commercial-businesses)

CCTV at Commercial Business <https://www.gov.uk/can-i-use-cctv-at-my-commercial-premises>

[CCTV | Search | Information Commissioner's Office \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-data-protection/cctv/)

#### **Station Car Parking:**

Once complete - the applicant may wish to consider applying for a Parkmark accreditation for the station car parking area. Parkmark and the Safer Parking Scheme is owned by Police Crime Prevention Initiatives Ltd on behalf of the police service and managed by the British Parking Association. It is aimed at reducing both crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities. Details can be found at [parkmark.co.uk](https://www.parkmark.co.uk)

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](http://www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION SITE SECURITY GUIDE A4 8pp.pdf)

I would also ask you to note that Sussex Police is now exploring the impact of growth on the provision of policing infrastructure over the coming years and further comment on this application may be made by our Joint Commercial Planning Manager.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to offer comments in response.

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  
Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department  
Sussex Police Headquarters**

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