Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: DC/25/1199 Our Ref: LM/HOR/25/08B Date 14th August 2025

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Turner,

RE: Jengers Mead Car Park/Parking Bays Billingshurst RH14 9PB

Thank you for your correspondence of the 14th of August 2025, advising me of a planning application for the installation of 2 No. ANPR Cameras 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 refer the applicant to previous correspondence from this office under Your Ref: DC/25/0367 dated the 29th of May 2025 and Our Ref: LM/HOR/25/08A dated the same in relation to this site.

I note as stated within the accompanying planning statement that:

1.1 This Planning Statement is submitted in support of a revised planning application following the refusal of application DC/25/0367. The revised proposal continues to seek permission for two cameras at Jengers Mead Car Park but now incorporates a material change in camera functionality: the previously proposed PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) functionality has been removed in favour of ANPR.

Ms Turner
Planning Officer
Horsham District Council,
Albery House,
Springfield Road,
Horsham,
West Sussex

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.

From a crime prevention perspective when considering any ANPR system, the equipment must be commensurate with the lighting conditions as proper illumination of license plates can greatly increase ANPR accuracy.

Additionally, any trees or hedges adjacent to the proposed ANPR cameras or within the field of view being covered must be regularly pruned especially during summer months in order to ensure that the cameras are not obscured by foliage.

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