



Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: DC/26/1186

Our Ref: LM/HOR/26/10A

Date 25th August 2026

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Mr Whitehouse,

RE: Land North of Rectory Lane Ashington West Sussex

Thank you for your correspondence of the 25th of August 2026, advising me of an outline planning application for redevelopment of the site to provide up to 125 dwellings, access, public open space and associated landscaping, drainage and highways infrastructure with all matters reserved except 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.

Despite the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Horsham district being below average when compared with the rest of Sussex, additional measures to mitigate against any identified local crime trends and site-specific requirements should always be considered.

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.

Given that this outline application is only to determine the means of access and to seek approval in principle, I have no detailed comments to make at this stage. Should this planning application be approved I look forward to being further consulted at the reserved matters stage, when I would hope to respond in more detail.

Mr Whitehouse
Planning Officer
Horsham District Council,
Albery House,
Springfield Road,
Horsham,
West Sussex

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