



## Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: F/14/24/RES

Our Ref: LM/ARU/20/07F

Date 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Riches,

### **RE: Land at Ford Airfield Ford**

Thank you for your correspondence of the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, advising me of a planning application for the approval of reserved matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) following outline consent F/4/20/OUT for the infrastructure reserved matters including the provision of a primary spine road and associated secondary road junctions, pavement, footpaths, cycle infrastructure and bus stops; site wide drainage infrastructure including foul pumping stations, foul sewer infrastructure, SUDS basins, SUDS swales, surface water infrastructure; acoustic fencing; public open space including landscape details, play areas, footpaths & associated works at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

Although the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Arun District is 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.

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 (where appropriate) to the submitted planning application.

Ms Riches  
Planning Officer  
Planning Control  
Arun District Council

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

With regards to the proposed play provision for Ryebank Park, Arun Way & Landings Green - areas of play 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 the play areas with railings and self-closing gates.

In relation to the proposed landscaping - 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.

Finally, 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.

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

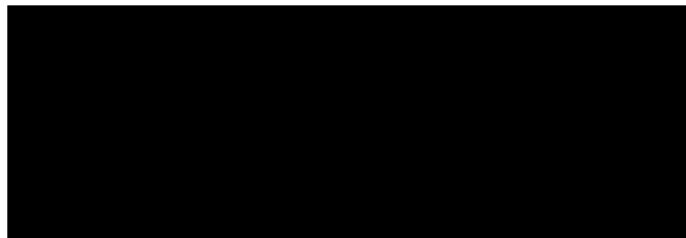
**Miss Lee A Melbourne  
Designing Out Crime Officer  
Sussex Police Headquarters**

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



Sussex Police response



Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd  
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**From:** Melbourne, Lee [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 16 October 2024 13:20

**To:** Planning Responses <[Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk)>; Planning <[Planning@arun.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@arun.gov.uk)>

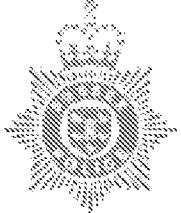
**Subject:** ARU 20 07F - Land at Ford Airfield Ford

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Dear Planning Officer,  
Please find my consultee comments as requested on the above application.  
Kind regards,  
Lee

Miss Lee A Melbourne (Pronouns She/Her/Hers) | Designing Out Crime Officer | Secured by Design | Secured Environments | Accredited Parkmark Assessor |  
Local Policing Service Improvement and Engagement Department  
Sussex Police Headquarters | Amberley Block | Church Lane | Lewes | East Sussex | BN7 2DZ |

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