



Local Policing Support Team

Your Ref: LU/116/21/PL

Our Ref: LM/ARU/21/07A

Date 21st April 2021

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Mrs Gardner,

RE: Land South Of The Littlehampton Academy Fitzalan Road Littlehampton BN17 6ED

Thank you for your correspondence of the 20th of April 2021, advising me of a planning application for Erection of 112 No. residential units with access from Fitzalan Road, open space, hard and soft landscaping works, internal roads/footways, car and cycle parking, substation, bin store and associated engineering and infrastructure works. This site is in CIL Zone 4 & is CIL Liable as new dwellings 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. With the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Arun District being average when compared with the rest of Sussex, I have no major concerns with the proposals, however, 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 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

I direct the applicant or their agent to our website at www.securedbydesign.com where the SBD Homes 2019 Version 2 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

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Planning Control
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has been proven to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime, creating safer, more secure and sustainable environments.

With regards to the layout the development has outward facing dwellings which has created a good active frontage with the streets and the public areas being overlooked.

From a crime prevention perspective to any proposed flats, it will be imperative that access control is implemented into the design and layout to ensure control of entry is for authorised persons only. SBD recommends that all communal door-sets serving 5 or more dwellings or bedrooms should have visitor door entry system or access control system to enable management oversight of the security of the building i.e. to control access to the building via the management of a recognised electronic key system. It should also incorporate a remote release of the primary entrance door set and have audio visual communication (preferably colour) between the occupant and the visitor. I refer the applicant to SBD Homes Version 2 2019 Chapter 27 for further information. Tradesperson or timed release mechanisms are not permitted as they have been proven to be the cause of antisocial behaviour and unlawful access to communal developments.

Additionally, I recommend the postal arrangements for the flats is through the wall or externally mounted secure post boxes. I strongly urge the applicant not to consider letter apertures within the flats' front doors. The absence of the letter aperture removes the opportunity for lock manipulation, fishing and arson attack and has the potential to reduce unnecessary access to the block.

Developments over 25 flats/apartments can suffer adversely from anti-social behaviour due to unrestricted access to all areas and floors of the building. In order to create a safe and secure communal environment for residents occupying blocks of multiple flats, and to reduce the opportunity for antisocial behaviour by restricting access to all areas and floors of the building to all residents SBD seeks to curtail unlawful free movement throughout the building through the use of an access control system (compartmentalisation).

The application of such is a matter for the specifier, but may be achieved by either, or a combination, of the following:

- Controlled lift access – each resident is assigned access to the floor on which their dwelling is located via the use of a proximity reader, swipe card or key. Fire egress stairwells should also be controlled on each floor, from the stairwell into communal corridors, to reduce the risk of them being used for anti-social behaviour or criminal activities.
- Dedicated door-sets on each landing preventing unauthorised access to the corridor from the stairwell and lift; each resident being assigned access to the floor on which their dwelling is located.

Where 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.

Where pedestrian links are being proposed externally linking the development I ask that these conform to the requirements within SBD Homes 2019 para 8.8 - 8.12.

In relation to landscaping I recommend that ground planting 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.

Finally, lighting throughout the development will be an important consideration and where it is implemented it should conform to the recommendations within BS 5489-1:2013.

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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 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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