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9th February 2012.

Ms. Gibbons
Principle Planning Officer
Herefordshire Council
Planning Services
PO Box 230
Hereford
HR1 2ZB

Application No: S113513/CD. Waterfields Road, Hereford. HR2 7EL.

Dear Ms. Gibbons

I am the West Mercia Police Crime Risk Manager for the Herefordshire District. I specialise in Crime Prevention, I am also trained to assess the impact the built environment has on the likelihood of crime and disorder occurring. I hold Home Office accreditation for Crime Prevention and Architectural Liaison.

I base my comments on the application drawings and the 'Design & Access Statement'.

I believe that Design & Access Statements (DAS) which are submitted as supporting documents to a planning application should include details of what provision is being made for Crime Prevention in the proposal: CLG 03/2010 Guidance on Information Requirements and Validation (para.132, page 34).

"PPS1 makes clear that a key objective for new developments should be that they create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Design and access statements for outline and detailed applications should therefore demonstrate how crime prevention measures have been considered in the design of the proposal and how the design reflects the attributes of safe, sustainable places set out in Safer Places- the Planning System and Crime Prevention (ODPM/Home Office, 2003)."

Statements should demonstrate how the development will create accessible and safe environments, including addressing crime and disorder and indeed the fear of crime. This seems to have been omitted from the submitted DAS.

I see the submission of DAS as an important part of the application as I would hope they go some way in recognising CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), Secured by Design & Park Mark Safer Parking.

I feel that the DAS for this application fails to address and support crime prevention, Anti-Social Behaviour issues or the fear of crime.

Can I also remind you of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 17 and the obligation it places on Planning Authorities to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all your duties.

It states:

17(1) Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent,

(a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area.

17 (2) This (act) applies to a local authority, a joint authority, a police authority, a National Park authority and the Broads Authority.

I have some concerns on the management of this proposed car parking facility, in particular during late evenings and the hours of darkness when it is suggested the facility will be closed? How is the car parking going to be secured during these times, and are there going to be official seasonal opening times displayed and enforced?

A well used car parking facility can often be 'self policed' by reducing criminal opportunity due to the flow of users and the surveillance this provides. It can also reduce the anonymity that criminal's desire, and reduce the fear of crime of users. However a little used facility does not provide such benefits and crime and anti-social behaviour can flourish.

I consider it vital to the sustainability of this car park and the control of crime and anti-social behaviour that both the management and hours of opening are both clearly displayed and controlled/enforced. Signage should be clearly displayed to inform users of this and should include a telephone number/help point for damage etc to be reported.

Landscaping should be carefully selected and maintained so that areas to hide are reduced as often daylight vehicle crime is committed when the vehicle occupants are observed from close by, parking and leaving their vehicle. As a general guide, shrubs should be minimal and not within parking areas. Shrubs should be maintained at a maximum height of 1 metre and tree canopies at a height of 2.5 metres from the ground to provide a clear through line of sight and good natural surveillance.

CCTV is omitted from the DAS. Is CCTV a consideration to be installed at this development?

Please contact me should you have any issues with this report that you may wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Ian White
Police Constable 1547
Force Crime Risk Manager.