



HERTFORDSHIRE

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Steve Fraser-Lim

East Herts District Council

Wallfields

Pegs Lane

HERTFORD

SG13 8EQ

Date 1st June 2024

Our Ref: CPD 11452024

Your Ref: 3/24/0966/OUT

Direct Line:

e-mail: mark.montgomery@herts.police.uk

Re: Land North of A507 & West of A10, Buntingford

Dear Steve,

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the proposal to develop the above site, I have studied the documents on the Council's planning portal and have the following comments to make. I understand that, as this is an Outline application, the details are sparse and only the site access is up for permission. However, given the rest of the proposed project I do have some concerns.

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I have looked on www.police.uk at an area covering the north of Buntingford and the proposed site. Over the period of April 2022 to March 2024 there were seven hundred and forty recorded crimes. Of these one hundred and ninety-four were recorded as antisocial behavior (ASB), two hundred and fifty-five were down as assaults, seventy-three were recorded as shoplifting (the Northern Section of Buntingford also includes a large section of retail units), nineteen were due to vehicle crime, twenty-four were due to criminal damage/arson, and ten were recorded as burglary. I appreciate that there is no crime recorded against the proposed site as this is currently a large area of countryside. However, the reason I chose the area in Buntingford was to demonstrate the possible crimes that could occur on this development.

I also noted that there is a proposed medical facility for this site. NHS England currently host all the guidance on building and operation of NHS facilities in the 'Estates' section of their website, www.england.nhs.uk. In the 'Estates' section there are all the current Health Technical Memoranda (HTM) and Health Building Note (HBN). Of particular interest is HBN 11-01 'Facilities for primary and community care services'. This states on page 5 under 'SECURITY' – "All schemes should be considered against the criteria set down by the Secure by Design initiative (www.securedbydesign.com). An individual should have responsibility for decisions on security matters. On small schemes it may be sufficient to follow the principles of this guidance. For larger schemes a formal application should be made and sign-off achieved. The Secure by Design initiative covers the public realm in and around the building (see www.securedbydesign.com). Advice should also be sought from stakeholders and service providers relating to personal safety and protection of property." Therefore, the project team must consult with the local Designing Out Crime Officer/Crime Prevention Design Advisor (DOCO/CPDA), who is part of Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention Design Service, when designing the medical facilities.

In addition, to address the issues raised by crime, disorder, and the fear of crime I would strongly recommend that the whole development should be built to the Police preferred

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minimum security standard that is Secured by Design (SBD). This is a proven method for addressing crime issues and has been shown to reduce the opportunities to commit crimes, such as burglary, by over seventy-five percent. In addition, it can reduce both vehicle crime and ASB by twenty-five percent. In 2009 Professor Ken Pease authored a paper called 'The Carbon Cost of Crime and Its Implications'. This showed that a dwelling burglary had a carbon footprint of two point five tonnes – this included the investigation, insurance payout, replacement of goods stolen and even the occupant's moving as they no longer felt safe in that house. Now, as SBD has such an impact on burglaries etc., it goes to say that by building to, and achieving SBD accreditation it not only reduces the potential carbon footprint of the development over its lifetime. It also will assist in the discharge of Approved Document 'Q' of Building Regulations and demonstrate that the applicants have taken measures to address the crime issues as required under both national and local planning policy.

At this point, the Police Crime Prevention Design Service are not able to make a judgement on the issue of access, however, should the applicant engage with the local DOCO/CPDA with a view to seeking SBD accreditation of the development then we would fully support the scheme.

Yours faithfully

Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery
Crime Prevention Design Advisor
Hertfordshire Constabulary

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