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Police**

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Date: 13th June 2025

Ref: 20250301/AH.1/G-394

Location: Gravesham Community Hospital Bath Street Gravesend Kent DA11 0DG
Proposal: Application for an Existing Lawful Development Certificate in respect of demolition works constituting implementation of Planning Permission Reference number 20190504 for the Conversion of existing building with an 11 storey side extension and a single storey roof extension, the construction of a new residential building ranging from 3-6 storeys to provide 115 residential units consisting of 47 one bed units, 59 two bed units and 9 three bed units, together with associated parking for 69 cars, 6 motorcycles and 212 cycles, amenity space, private gymnasium and waste and a B1, D1 and D2 flexi use space and amendments and substitution to approved plans.

We have reviewed this application in regard to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Applicants/agents should consult us as Designing out Crime Officers (DOCO's) to address CPTED and incorporate Secured By Design (SBD) as appropriate. We use details of the site, relevant crime levels/type and intelligence information to help design out the opportunity for Crime, Fear of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Nuisance and Conflict.

There is a carbon cost for crime and new developments give an opportunity to address it. Using CPTED along with attaining an SBD award using SBD guidance, policies and academic research would be evidence of the applicants' efforts to design out the opportunity for crime.

We recommend SBD guidance is utilised to address designing out crime to show a clear audit trail for Designing Out Crime, Crime Prevention and Community Safety and to meet our Local Authority statutory duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The points below identify my recommendations for the layout and design of this scheme.

1. Perimeter, boundary and divisional treatments must be 1.8m high. Any alleyways must have secure side gates, which are lockable from both sides, located flush to the front building line.
2. Parking - To help address vehicle crime, security should be provided for Motorbikes, Mopeds, Electric bikes and similar. SBD or sold secure ground or wall anchors can help provide this. Where unavoidable, the car parking area must be covered by natural surveillance from an "active" window e.g. lounge or kitchen and sufficient lighting. In addition, we request appropriate signage for visitor bays to avoid conflict and misuse.
3. Any current or new trees should help protect and enhance security without reducing the opportunity for surveillance or the effectiveness of lighting. Tall slender trees with a crown of above 2m rather than low crowned species are more suitable than "round shaped" trees with a low crown. New trees should not be planted within parking areas or too close to street lighting. Any hedges should be no higher than 1m, so that they do not obscure vulnerable areas.

4. Lighting. Please note, whilst we are not qualified lighting engineers, any lighting plan should be approved by a professional lighting engineer (e.g. a Member of the ILP), particularly where a lighting condition is imposed, to help avoid conflict and light pollution. Bollard lighting should be avoided, SBD Residential (Homes) Guide 2025 states:
"19.3 SBD does not advocate the use of bollard lighting to achieve lighting uniformity. Bollard lighting is purely for wayfinding and can be easily obscured or damaged. It should be avoided, as it can increase the fear of crime, because it does not project sufficient light at the right height to recognise facial features." Lighting of all roads including main, side roads, cul de sacs and car parking areas should be to BS5489-1:2020 in accordance with SBD and the British Parking Association (BPA) Park Mark Safer Parking Scheme specifications and standards.
5. All external doorsets (a doorset is the door, fabrication, hinges, frame, installation and locks) including folding, sliding or patio doors and individual flat entrance doors to meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 201 or LPS 2081 Security Rating B+. Please note PAS 24 is a minimum-security standard, and communal doors may require a higher standard, such as STS or LPS.
6. Windows on the ground floor or potentially vulnerable e.g. from flat roofs or balconies to meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 204 Issue 6:2016, LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1/A1, STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1 or LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A. Glazing to be laminated. Toughened glass alone is not suitable for security purposes.
7. Bedroom windows on the ground floor require a defensive treatment to deflect loitering, especially second bedrooms often used by children.
8. Blank Walls. It is important to avoid the creation of windowless elevations and blank walls immediately adjacent to public spaces. This type of elevation tends to attract graffiti, inappropriate loitering, and ball games. The provision of a 1m buffer zone using either a 1.2 – 1.4m railing or a 1m mature height hedge with high thorn content should address those issues.
9. We recommend "A GUIDE FOR SELECTING FLAT ENTRANCE DOORSETS 2019" for buildings featuring multiple units, any covered access must deflect loitering that can stop residents and their visitors from using it without fearing crime. Entrance doors must be lit and designed to provide no hiding place.
10. For the main communal doors audio/visual door entry systems are required. We strongly advise against trade buttons and timed-release mechanisms, as they permit unlawful access and have previously resulted in issues with Crime and ASB.
11. Security Compartmentation is required in larger apartment blocks (over 25 units) or fewer in densely populated buildings or areas of higher crime. It helps reduce the opportunity for crime, the taking over the home of a vulnerable person in order to create a base for criminality and unauthorised free access throughout the building. It can be achieved with formal access control on lifts, staircases and lobby doorsets on all floors.
12. Cycle and Bin Stores must be well lit and lockable, with controlled access for the residents within the flats.
13. Mail delivery to meet SBD TS009 are strongly recommended for buildings with multiple occupants along with a freestanding post box of SBD/Sold Secure approved Gold standard. If mail is to be delivered within the lobby, there must be an access controlled door leading from the lobby to the apartments/ stairs on the ground floor to prevent access to all areas.
14. CCTV is advised for all communal entry points and to cover the mail delivery area.
15. Open space. Open space areas must be well lit and boundaries must be clearly defined to avoid conflict.
16. Community areas/ gardens will also require more natural surveillance, appropriate boundary treatments and access control as they generally attract Crime, ASB and nuisance. It is also advised that tools and equipment that are either of high value, or can be used to commit an offence are either not left overnight or secured in lockable storage areas.
17. Public Footpaths should be at least 3 metres wide to allow people to pass without infringing personal space and to accommodate passing wheelchairs, cycles and mobility vehicles.

Consideration should be given to the provision of informal association spaces for members of the community, particularly young people.

18. Planting. We would recommend dense / prickly planting to ensure individuals stay on pedestrian routes, and do not create desire lines or spaces where potential offenders can hide from view.

Private Gymnasium / B1, D1 and D2 flexi use space

19. CCTV is advised especially at entry points, reception/waiting areas, any till areas or anywhere cash handling might take place and other areas with limited natural surveillance or storage areas containing high-value equipment. Please ensure the CCTV supports the lighting plan.
20. We strongly recommend external doors and windows meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 201 or LPS 2081 Security Rating B+.
21. We strongly recommend alarms, with an auto-dial function, be installed on all external doors, including emergency exits.
22. Access control. Adequate access control is required for entrances used by staff only such as storage rooms and other restricted areas.

If approved, site security is required for the construction phase. There is a duty for the principle contractor "to take reasonable steps to prevent access by unauthorised persons to the construction site" under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The site security should incorporate plant, machinery, supplies, tools and other vehicles and be site specific to geography and site requirements.

We welcome a discussion with the applicant/agent about site specific designing out crime. If the points above are not addressed, they can affect the development and local policing.

This information is provided by Kent Police DOCO's and refers to situational crime prevention. This advice focuses on CPTED and Community Safety with regard to this specific planning application.

Yours sincerely,

DOCO.

Designing Out Crime Officer

Strategic Prevention Command