



☎ Direct Line: 07590 461376

✉ Email: mark.montgomery@herts.police.uk

Our Ref: CPD13242025

Your Ref: 25/02409/FP

Date: 27th October 2025

Melissa Tyler
North Herts Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
Gernon Road
LETCHEWORTH
SG6 3JF

Re: 186 Whitehill Road, Hitchin

Dear Melissa,

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the proposal to use the above address as a Children's Home. I have studied the documentation that has been posted on the Council Planning Portal and have the following comments to make.

- I have studied the crime figures for an area covering a circle approximately one hundred metres diameter centred on the address on www.police.uk. Over the period of the first of September 2024 to the thirty-first of August 2025 there were eight crimes recorded. There were two crime each for assault, anti-social behaviour, and burglary. Given the proposed usage of the site, I would encourage the applicant to seek to achieve accreditation to the minimum Police preferred security standard that is Secured by Design.
- I note that on page seventeen of the Design & Access Statement (DAS) that there is a section on 'Safeguarding & Security' where the applicant claims there are 'enhanced security measures' including perimeter fencing, and secure entry points which "Comply with Secured by Design standards." I have substantive concerns with this

Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters
Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6XF

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statement as there is no indication of any third-party certification to show that these measures are certified to the correct standards. Without such certification then they are just normal nonstandard items.

- I also have substantive concerns regarding the statement on page twenty-three of the DAS which states under 'Community risk Assessment and Safety Measures' "Engage with a Crime Prevention Design Advisor to incorporate recommendations aligning with Secured by Design (SBD) standards". AS yet there has been no approaches made to Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention Design Service to engage with the local CPDA.

Given the concerns raised above the Police are not in a position to support this application. If, however, the applicants engage with Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Prevention Design Service with a view to ensuring that this site has appropriate security measures in place, then our position would change.

Yours faithfully

Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery

Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Hertfordshire Constabulary