



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Prevention First

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

Date 13th August 2024

Our Ref: CPD 12242024

Your Ref: 24/01539/FP

Direct Line: 07590 461376

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Re: 44 Sparhawke, Letchworth Garden City

Dear Melissa,

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 have studied the crime figures from www.police.uk between July 2023 to Jun 2024. I used

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the area bounded by Gaunts Way, Burley, Maycroft, and North Field. During this period there were thirty-seven reported crimes. Eighteen related to assaults, four were burglaries, three were due to antisocial behavior, and two involve possession of offensive weapons. As you are aware both national and local planning policy state that applications and decisions should take matters regarding crime, disorder, and the fear of crime into consideration. I have substantive concerns regarding this application as there does not appear to be any mention of crime or how these matters will be addressed.

- I also have substantive concerns regarding the applicant's Planning Statement. On page five section 7.4 the applicant states that no change will be made either inside or outside the property. However, the plans show that the room at the rear of the property, opposite the lounge, will be converted into an office for use by the staff. To adapt this room into an office the door will need to be replaced with one that is third party certified to PAS 24:2022, or equivalent standard, the locking set will need third party certification to BS 3621 or suitable equivalent. The door will also need to be suitably third party certificated to the correct fire rating. The reason for this is to comply with the regulations around the storage of the children's personal data, to comply with the regulations around Data Protection.
- I also have material concerns regarding the applicant. As part of my research into this application I have conducted 'due diligence' by doing some background checks on the company. According to Companies House the company is registered as a property management company, who formally may have had some dealings with the care sector. However, on further searching I can find no trace of either company on both the OFSTED and CQC databases. This does raise the issue of how experienced this company are in dealing with this particular care sector. I have raised this concern with colleagues from Children's Services at County Hall – they are not familiar with this company either.

Given the concerns raised the Police Crime Prevention Design Service are not able to support this application. Should the applicant wish to address these matters then I would recommend that they

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engage with the Police and County Hall to address the issues raised. This may change our position.

Yours faithfully

Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery

Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Hertfordshire Constabulary

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