



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Prevention First

Naomi Reynard
North Herts Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
Gernon Road
LETCHWORTH
SG6 3JF

Date: 30th January 2025

Our Ref: CPD 10062025

Your Ref: 24/02889/FP

Direct Line: 07590 461376

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

Re: Land at Roundwood, Back Lane, Graveley

Dear Naomi,

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the proposal to develop the above site, I have studied the amended documents on the Council's planning portal and have the following comments to make.

- As this is currently a bare field there is no crime data available on www.police.uk. So, to judge the potential data, I looked at both Hitchin Rural & Stevenage North and used a circle of two hundred metre radius, centered on the site. This is the nearest residential area to the proposed development. Unfortunately, it covers two different Police wards and so I had to combine both sets of data. The period I chose ran from the first of December 2023 to the

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thirtieth of November 2024. During this time there were one hundred and twenty-nine crimes recorded. Sixty one of these were assaults, thirty-one were due to antisocial behavior, eight were criminal damages/arsons, two were drug related, and there was one burglary. Given this data I would strongly recommend that the applicant engages with the Police to seek to achieve the Police preferred minimum security standard that is Secured by Design (SBD). SBD is a proven means of reducing the opportunity to commit crime and by achieving accreditation the applicant can show that they have addressed issues around crime, disorder, and the fear of crime – as per both local and national planning policies.

- I am pleased that the applicant has shown that there are plenty of windows from 'active' rooms within the flats to provide a satisfactory level of natural surveillance from the building. For policing purposes 'active rooms' are lounges, dining rooms, kitchens, and studies. Bedrooms and bathrooms and toilets are not regarded as 'Active' as they frequently have obscured glazing or closed curtains.
- Another aspect of achieving SBD accreditation is that it can help reduce the carbon footprint of the development over its lifetime. (See 'The Carbon Cost of Crime and its Implications' 2009 by Professor Ken Pease – this can be found on the attached link [Research, Case Studies& Guidance](#)). He showed that, at that time, a burglary can produce two point five metric tons of carbon. This includes the investigation, replacement of stolen goods etc. As SBD has been shown to reduce the risk of burglary by greater than eighty percent this, in turn, can have a massive impact on the potential carbon footprint. Therefore, accreditation to SBD should be encouraged.

Given the comment above the Police support this application.

Yours faithfully,

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Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery

Crime Prevention Design Advisor

Hertfordshire Constabulary



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