



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Pre **vention** First

Melissa Taylor
North Herts Council
Planning Department
Council Offices
Gernon Road
LETCHWORTH
SG6 3JF

Date 11th February 2025

Our Ref: CPD 10302025

Your Ref: 25/00012/FP

Direct Line: 07590 461376

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

Re: 25 Milestone Road, Hitchin

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.

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

[herts.police.uk](https://www.herts.police.uk)



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- In my previous letter dated the 25th of June 2024 I reviewed the crime figures for the area around the address on www.police.uk between May 2023 & April 2024. The area surveyed is shown in Appendix 1. During this period there were one hundred and sixty-six reports of crime (See Appendix 2). Of these sixty-eight were recorded as assaults, fifty-two were due to antisocial behavior (ASB), there were eleven incidents of criminal damage/arson, three drug related offences, two burglaries. To assist me with this application I re visited the figure and found that between the first of May 2024 and the thirty-first of December 2024 there were a further one hundred and twenty crimes reported. Of these forty-eight were assaults, thirty-two were ASB, twelve incidents or criminal damage/arson, three vehicle related offences, and two drug related offences. The road is part of the 'Westmill Estate' and regarded as one of the poorer areas of Hitchin and this estate, historically, has always had a higher crime rate. Yet I can find no mention of any measures to address crime, disorder, and fear of crime within this application. This is contrary to both national and local planning policies. Parts of this estate are currently being regenerated to the Police preferred minimum security standard that is Secured by Design (SBD). This should help lower the crime levels.
- I also have substantive concerns with the proposed design of the property, especially the proposal to convert the garage into a bedroom for one of the children. My concern is that the plans show a door that appears to give access to outside the building. This could be used to leave the building undetected or for other potentially criminal means. Should any of the children go missing then this could result in them being classed as 'High Risk' missing persons together with the impact that would have on local day to day Policing.
- I would recommend that the room designated as the Carer's room, on the ground floor. Should be fitted with both doors and windows that are third party certified to PAS 24:2022, or suitable equivalent. The door should also be fitted with a third party certified lock to BS 3621 – or equivalent. This is so that the children's personal information is secured for the purposes of data protection.
- I would strongly recommend that the applicant engages with Hertfordshire Constabulary's

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Crime Prevention Design Service to resolve these issues and get SBD accreditation for the property. Would also suggest that they contact the local Police Neighbourhood Policing Team with a view to engaging with them around personal safety education for both staff and the residents.

Given the comments and issues raised above the local Crime Prevention Design Advisor (CPDA) is not able to fully support this application. However, they are not looking to object to it either. This is a need for this sort of property, and it should be designed and operated for the safety and security of the residents and the public.

Yours faithfully

Mark Montgomery

Mark Montgomery
Crime Prevention Design Advisor
Hertfordshire Constabulary

Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters
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