

**The Woodlands Hotel**

**Coupals Road**

**Sturmer**

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**Essex Police Response**

05/09/2023

Strategic Planning Team

Essex Police



**ESSEX  
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

## Essex Police response to The Woodlands Hotel Coupals Road Sturmer

As a key emergency service provider, Essex Police advocates to continuously adapt and reflect its practices to ensure that the service provided is efficient and effective in keeping our communities safe. With the policing landscape continually changing we welcome any opportunities to develop and enhance this provision.

We note the scheme proposes the demolition of the existing buildings on site, and the erection of a 64no. bed care home, together with access, car parking, landscaping and associated works.

This document provides an initial response to this proposal and outlines the Essex Police considerations to development and infrastructure change which forms part of the organisations strategic planning considerations and provides key information on our policing priorities

If further information or clarification is required to support this development, please contact the Strategic Planning team at [Strategic.Planning@essex.police.uk](mailto:Strategic.Planning@essex.police.uk).

## Essex Design Guide

The Essex Design Guide provides high level direction for new developments and infrastructure, and we would like to highlight the following points which acknowledge the strategic principles and Essex Police objectives for the creation of safe and secure communities and sustainable police estate provision:

- To work with planners, architects, and developers to ensure that new developments in Essex provide a mix of well-designed homes, open spaces and promote neighbourhoods that consider community safety and wellbeing that provide benefit to all communities.
- That the prevention of Crime and Disorder is supported through well-designed places that includes the provision of a sense of community and safety.
- Ensuring 'Secured by Design' standards and applicable 'Police Crime Prevention Initiatives' are incorporated and fully exhausted throughout new development (including associated buildings) as a minimum whilst maximising opportunities against current and future technological and crime pattern changes linked to digital/cyber offences
- Encouragement of proactive police service-related communication to new residents and communities that promote public confidence and cohesion.
- Incorporating provision of affordable housing for key worker accommodation.
- Ensuring that all work, education, and public spaces are well designed and promote safe, secure communities and environments.
- To be engaged with master-planning for any transport related developments, collaboratively working with the relevant authorities to ensure that new developments are planned and designed to improve safety on the various road networks. This will include preventing those Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) and Road Traffic Collisions where possible.

- To ensure an understanding of the key objectives for managing road infrastructure, improved vehicle design, redesigning speed limits and renewing Essex Police enforcement policy, all of which will be forefront in Essex Police strategic road safety campaigns.
- To engage in the Safe System approach 'Vision Zero', recognise that human beings' lives and health should never be compromised by their need to travel and any fatal or serious injuries that occur within the road system are unacceptable. This considered as best practice in road safety according to the World Health Organisation and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- To include infrastructure considerations to ensure and develop an efficient policing response in the future. This includes such matters as community based Electric Vehicle charging points to support the Essex Police Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy.
- Explore opportunities for a shared, environmentally sustainable co-located community estate that shares facilities in appropriate locations within the community to provide flexible spaces to accommodate the changing needs of policing and create a more local, visible, and accessible policing provision.
- To encourage effective engagement between Essex Police Designing out Crime and Strategic Planning teams, Local Authorities and Developers at the earliest opportunity.
- Implement a 'Crime Impact Statement' within the 'Design and Access Statement'. Such statements are devised to identify specific measures that will be adopted to reduce crime.
- To endeavour to create a collaboration programme with emergency services and other partners that will enhance our ability to achieve service benefits and stretch our property performance targets for the efficiency of the estate.

## Designing out crime and Secured by design

When considering future developments, it is imperative to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, to help people live and work in a safer society. Designing out Crime Officers, (DOCO's) specialise in the application of designing out crime and provide expert advice on crime prevention through environmental design, (CPTED principles) to a wide range of design and build professionals. Their role is fundamental in the development of safe and secure communities. The DOCO role is underpinned by National Planning Policy and Home Office agendas. DOCO's recommend developers to consider the foreseeability of crime and maximise on the opportunity to design such issues out, as to prevent the need for bespoke situational crime prevention measures in the future.

[Police Crime Prevention Initiatives](#) are a police-owned organisation working on behalf of the Police Service, to deliver a wide range of crime prevention initiatives, of which they promote [Secured by Design](#) (SBD). Supported by the DOCO, SBD provide a series of 'design guides' that enable the DOCO to work closely with architects, developers, and local authority planners throughout the life cycle of the proposed development. This will enable the DOCO to assist the developer to 'design out crime' by improving the layout and physical security of buildings from the initial conception, construction, and occupation.

The Essex Police DOCO response to this proposal will be provided under separate cover. For any queries relating to secured by design and designing out crime matters relating to new developments please contact: [designingoutcrime@essex.police.uk](mailto:designingoutcrime@essex.police.uk)

## **Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy**

As part of Essex Police's comprehensive Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy, we are committed to achieving a fully electrified vehicle fleet by 2035. In pursuit of this objective, we have developed plans to install electric vehicle charging points across all our police premises. The broader strategy also recognises the crucial role of community-based charging infrastructure in supporting extended patrols and recharging vehicles during and after operations.

One of the primary challenges of electric vehicles is their limited range and lengthy charging time and access to external charging facilities is vital for the force to carry out their duties effectively. To ensure that we can recharge our vehicles locally and work in specific areas away from police premises for an extended period, we ask developers to consider the inclusion of charging facilities into their design, with one or two charging points allocated for emergency services use to support our operations.

By providing dedicated charging points for emergency services, we can expand our patrols in the area and increase visible police presence, thereby contributing to a safer environment for local communities and visitors. As well as promoting safer communities, this infrastructure plan aligns with our commitment to promote sustainable practices and support the transition towards a greener future.

## **Traffic Management considerations**

In the interest of road safety and reducing casualties linked to highways usage, Essex Police believe that developers should contribute to designing out the need for enforcement within the construction of newly built roads. This would apply to estate roads where the introduction of any desired speed limit is largely self-enforcing through design.

For distributor roads we identify more and more roads being built by developers which become roads for distributing high volumes of traffic around new estates and potentially towns. These new roads have the potential to become roads where young drivers may use them as roads to test their ability for travelling at high speeds. For such examples we would look to ensure:

1. Speed limits are appropriate and meet the needs of all road users and residents.
2. With an evidenced case, and where possible, a developer is instructed to install average speed detections systems to ensure road user compliance, thereby negating / reducing the need for police presence to enforce speed limits on newly built roads.

Technology exists for red light enforcement at Traffic lights and developers should consider enforcement technology as part of any Traffic light systems installed, improving overall safety of the location but also providing an efficient way to enforce the restriction.

Considering the prevention of crime and to enhance community safety, Essex Police believe that commercial and residential developers should contribute to the costs of installing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems on newly designed roads.

Developers also need to consider how their planning decisions can have a negative long-term impact upon neighbours and communities around simple things such as parking disputes through the lack of available parking, which can be factored into Designing Out Crime.

In terms of road safety, Developers should make provision for all road users and in particular the most vulnerable road users, cyclists and pedestrians. Essex Police request developers to engage, educate and enforce on the road network alongside the ethos of the five essential pillars in the Safe System approach, ultimately to reach zero road related deaths, these being:

- **Safe Speeds:** Road users understand the risks and implications of exceeding the speed limit and therefore, travel at appropriate speeds to the conditions and within posted speed limits.
- **Safe Road Use:** Road users who know and comply with the rules of the road and take responsibility for the safety of themselves and others, especially the vulnerable.
- **Safe Roads & Roadsides:** Road design encourages safe travel and one that is predictable and forgiving of mistakes.
- **Safe Vehicles:** That vehicle fleets comprise of well-maintained vehicles that reduce the risk of collisions and, in the event of a collision, reduce the harm to road users, including pedestrians, pedal cyclists, motorcyclists and vehicle occupants
- **Post Collision Response & Care:** Provision of a more operative response to collisions by working effectively with all emergency services and the National Health Service (NHS). Road victims receive appropriate medical care and rehabilitation to minimise the severity and long-term impact of their injuries. Learnings from collisions are captured and acted upon. Families of those killed or seriously injured are appropriately supported.

## **Information on Essex policing priorities and context.**

### **PFCC Police and Crime plan 2021 - 2024**

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the policing priorities and aims for keeping Essex safe. It brings together police, partners, and the people of Essex to build safe and secure communities. The commitments set out in the plan build on existing partnerships and seek to develop them in new and ambitious ways. These include greater collaboration between police and fire and closer working with local councils, community safety partnerships, and the voluntary, community and health sectors.

The Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024 will make a strategic commitment to prevention, a shift in our main effort from rapid response into a model of targeted prevention and early intervention.

The twelve plan priorities:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated areas

- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud, and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

## **Essex Police Force Plan**

Essex Police force priorities are drawn from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime plan. The plan provides our main effort, which helps us focus our energies on our priorities and think about helping victims, identifying vulnerability, preventing violence, and being visible in everything we do, whatever role we do to ensure we:

- **Help people:** Deliver the best possible service prioritising threat, harm, risk and putting victims at heart of what we do.
- **Keep people safe:** Prevent crime, protect the vulnerable, keep our communities and people safe and work with partners to do this.
- **Catch criminals:** Identify suspects and bring them to justice targeting the most harmful and paying attention to the needs and views of victims.

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