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Local Policing Branch

Your Ref: WD/3385/CC

Our Ref: PE/ESX/17/05/B

Date: 30th January 2018

Contact Name: Phill Edwards

Tel: [REDACTED]

Direct Dial No: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms K Rayner

Re: Willingdon Community School, Broad Road, Eastbourne.

Thank you for your correspondence of 16th January 2017, advising me of a planning application for the demolition of an accommodation block and erection of new Sports Hall and a single storey ancillary accommodation, new student entrance lobbies, first floor corridor with other internal alterations and site landscaping. Revised car parking layout to include an additional 28 spaces and parking for 72 cycles at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

I have had the opportunity to look through the information you kindly provided and I offer the following comments from a Secured by Design (SBD) perspective. I would also like to point out that further guidance for school security can be obtained from the Department for Children Families and Schools. I direct the applicant or their agent to our website at www.securedbydesign.com where the Secured by Design (SBD) New Schools 2014 document can be found. This document provides design guidance and specification requirements for reducing the risks for crime against people and property in all schools and school grounds such as burglary, theft, arson, vehicle crime and assault. The same advice is also intended to reduce the fear of crime and incidence of anti-social behaviour. Consequently consideration is given to both environmental design and physical security.

I have previously engaged with the applicant in pre-application discussions and commented from a SBD viewpoint. I would like to reiterate those comments for you.

Controlled access to this new build would be advantageous given it would be used externally of the school's normal hours. As a minimum external ground floor doors are to conform to LPS 1175 SR2 along with any easily accessible windows (or its equivalent. See para's 63 & 70 SBD Schools 2014). Easily accessible is defined by SBD as, a window within 2 meters vertically of a flat roof or sloping roof (with a pitch of less than 30) that is within 3.5 metres of ground level. I do not consider the proposed flat roof to be easily accessible. Whilst I accept the roof area not to be easily accessible, where photovoltaic panels are positioned on the roof, consideration should be given to providing secure fixings to ensure their security as these are valuable and attractive items.

I was pleased to note that the new 28 car parking facility would be locked during the day. However, I recommend that this facility has controlled access & egress not just a lock in facility. I have no concerns with respect to the proposed secure cycle arrangements.

Ms K Rayner
Senior Planner
Development Control
Communities, Economy and Transport
East Sussex County Council

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The application form indicates that the facility would be used from 06:30 – 22:00. I recommend that consideration is given to the security of the remainder of the school grounds and buildings whilst there are members of the public utilising the new facilities. The vulnerability of the remaining not in use areas of the school when the facility is operating will be increased by providing a legitimate reason for a would-be offender to be present at the location. Additional security measures to compensate this should be considered and introduced where necessary.

Further internal security may be required to protect valuable items of equipment. Consideration should be given to transferring the existing Intruder Alarm into the new building.

Lightning around the vehicle and cycle parking and building entrances are to conform to the recommendations within BS 5498:2013

This letter has been copied to the applicant or their agent who is asked to note that the above comments may be a material consideration in the determination of the application but may not necessarily be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. It is recommended, therefore, that before making any amendments to the application, the applicant or their agent first discuss these comments with the Local Planning Authority.

I thank you for allowing the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely



Phill Edwards
Designing Out Crime Officer
Sussex Police Headquarters