

Dear Future Merton Team,

This is further to my previous comments regarding Merton's Estate Local Plan, please pass the following onto the inspector.

By the inclusion of Secured by Design principles and standards within the regeneration of the estates the cumulative impact for all three estates would be positive in relation to crime. The design and layout of the estates should provide well-defined routes with spaces and entrances promoting convenient movement without compromising security so improve access and movement. The designs should be structured so that different uses do not cause conflict. All publicly accessible spaces should be overlooked to enhance surveillance. The developments should promote a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community. If necessary physical protection can be included with well-designed security features. Increased activity in appropriate locations can create a reduced risk of crime and increase a sense of safety. The designs should also have future management and maintenance in mind to discourage crime in the present and the future.

In order to achieve a sustainable development the government has defined three fundamental dimensions : economic, social and environmental (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), page 2, paragraph 7). Crime has a direct impact on all three dimensions. NPPF section 7. Requiring good design, paragraph 58 requires local authorities to produce 'Local and neighbourhood plans' with a specific aim to 'create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion'. This message was repeated in paragraph 69 in section 8 Promoting healthy communities with the addition of 'safe and accessible developments, contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas'.

Policy 7.3 Designing Out Crime of the London Plan promotes a city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods with greater security through design. "Boroughs and others should seek to create safe, secured and appropriately accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.....Development should reduce the opportunities for criminal behaviour and contribute to a sense of security without being overbearing or intimidating.....Measures to design out crime should be integral to development proposals and be considered early in the design process, taking into account the principles contained in Government guidance on 'Safer Places' and other guidance such as Secured By Design published by the Police".

In the interest of creating safer, sustainable communities Secured by Design principles and practices should be incorporated within the Estates Local Plan for Eastfields, High Path and Ravensbury and the development carried out in accordance to those details. By working with the local Met Police Designing Out Crime Officers I am sure accreditation could be achieved.

Please note: if you do not receive a reply from me it might mean I have not received your email as some are redirected into a Spam box that I can not access.

Kind regards

*Pat*

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