

Draft East Devon Local Plan

Consultation – Designing out Crime Officer, Devon & Cornwall Police

p223 62. Policy – Design and Local Distinctiveness

Consider including:

Proposals will only be permitted where they:

- *Have considered designing out crime principles and imbedded them into the design in order to reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.*

p232 68.8 Policy – Parking Standards

Consider including:

Parking provisions within new developments will obviously be provided in a number of different ways. To reduce the potential for crime and ASB, designing out crime principles should be considered when designing such space. For example, large rear parking courts should be avoided as they are generally poorly overlooked, left unlit and provide access to the rear of plots. Whereas on plot parking that is well overlooked from active rooms can reduce the opportunity for crime and ASB.

Consideration for additional Policy:

I note within the Plan it states ‘We would, however, welcome your thoughts on any matters that you think we have failed to address and which are of sufficient importance to need inclusion of a policy in the plan’.

There appears to be very little within the Plan that relates to designing out crime or highlights the importance of designing developments and environments that are safe in which to live, work and play. Crime and anti-social behaviour can have a devastating impact, negatively effecting the well-being of residents, as well as the economic and social cohesion of communities.

Legislation and guidance such as Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (Paragraphs 92 & 130) promote and advocate that planning has a duty to consider crime prevention and to create environments where crime and the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

Given the importance of the above, could I respectfully suggest that a Policy relating to Designing out Crime / Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design is included within the Plan? This will ensure that planning applications consider such principles and have taken opportunities to reduce the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour.

Embedding the principles below into schemes has shown to reduce the opportunity for and fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. They can be applied to any new development be it residential, commercial, retail, industrial, educational etc.

- **Access and Movement:** Places with well-defined and well used routes, with spaces and entrances that provide for convenient movement without compromising security.
- **Structure:** Places that are structured so that different uses do not cause conflict.

- Surveillance: Places where all publicly accessible spaces are overlooked; have a purpose and are well managed to prevent creating areas which could attract criminal activity, the antisocial to gather or for unacceptable behaviour such as dumping and dog fouling etc. to go unnoticed.
- Ownership: Places that promote a sense of ownership, respect, territorial responsibility and community.
- Physical Protection: Places that include necessary, well-designed security features.
- Activity: Places where the level of human activity is appropriate to the location and creates a reduced risk of crime, fear of crime and a sense of safety at all times.
- Management and Maintenance: Places that are designed with management and maintenance in mind to discourage crime, fear of crime and ASB.

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