Designing out Crime Report

Ref No: 459-1-2022

For: Hempland Primary School
Whitby Avenue
York

Prepared by: Mr. Richard Ball, MPlan
Designing Out Crime Officer
Richard.Ball@northyorkshire.police.uk
[redacted]

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1. Introduction

1.1. This report is intended to highlight any crime and disorder issues in the vicinity of the proposed development, assess the development in terms of its likely effect on crime and disorder and identify design solutions that will help to reduce vulnerability to crime. The recommendations made have followed the principles of 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' (CPTED).

1.2. The overall design and layout of the proposed scheme is considered good.

2. Proposal

2.1. The proposal concerns the demolition of the existing Hempland Primary School building and construction of a new school building at Whitby Avenue in York.

3. Safety and Security Considerations

3.1. Typical safety and security implications for a development of this nature could include:

Burglary and theft of personal belongings
Trespass on the site and unauthorised access to the building
Damage to the building and parked vehicles
Bicycle theft
Antisocial behaviour
Theft and criminal damage during the construction period

4. Crime Issues at Location

4.1. An analysis of police recorded incidents in the area of the proposed development highlights the presence of crime and antisocial behaviour which could impact upon the security of the scheme. The analysis covers a period from the 1 September 2021 to the 31 August 2022 and is attached at Appendix A for information. In summary, there were 30 crimes and 18 antisocial behaviour incidents recorded during this twelve month period.

4.2. The most significant crime issue that could affect this development is criminal damage. Safeguarding of the school pupils also needs to be taken into consideration. Modus Operandi for crime committed in the area includes:

Unknown offender climbs onto a school roof and causes damage to a roof light
Burglary by forcing entry into a dwelling garage and stealing a cycle from within
Damage to parked unattended vehicles
Large group of youths causing a noise nuisance at night on a playing field

4.3. This analysis gives an indication of the current crime and disorder levels in the area. Any new development has the potential to increase these levels if the designing out of crime is not considered and implemented.

5. Observations, Advice and Recommendations

5.1. Access Control

5.1.1. There is no public access to the site outside of school hours unless it is an organised event.

5.1.2. The area forming the route from the public site entrance on Whitby Avenue to the main school entrance and to the car park and delivery point is considered to be open to view from the reception area and it is noted that it is to be secured from the rest of the site. This will help to deter trespass into other parts of the school grounds and channel all visitors through reception.

5.1.3. It is noted that the main entrance lobby will have appropriate access controls in place. That there will also be progressive security measures to control access into the classroom corridor when there are events held in the school hall out of normal school hours.

5.1.4. There is gated footpath access to the school site from the Hempland allotments and playing field. The gate is controlled by the school to give access at the start and end of the school day.

5.2. Surveillance and Activity Support

5.2.1. It is pleasing to note that the proposed new building does not have recesses because they can present opportunities for antisocial behaviour such as graffiti and inappropriate loitering.

5.2.2. The school's reception entrance should be clearly signposted from the entrance onto the site. People found trespassing and intent on committing crime on school grounds will often use the excuse that they could not find their way to the reception and the presence of clear signs will go some way to dismiss this excuse and help the school staff, police or other authority during their investigations. Likewise, signs that identify areas that are not open to public access can act as a reminder that unauthorised persons could be challenged.

5.2.3. So as not to impede natural surveillance, planting in the car park should either have a maximum growth height of 1m or should be maintained to that height and the lowest branch of any tree should be at least 2.5m from ground level.

5.2.4. A lighting scheme for the school site should be sufficient to cater for lawful after dark. It should evenly distribute the light creating no dark shadows, provide good colour rendition, not cause glare or light pollution and should support both formal and informal surveillance of the site.

5.2.5. External illumination is recommended for the entrance gates, the route to the main entrance, the car park (if occupied by vehicles) and observable building elevations.

5.2.6. Consider installing a CCTV system to cover the main entrance, car park, cycle shelters and fire escape doors. It should be capable of being monitored from the school office/reception. This would enhance the security of the site, and provided clear warning notices were displayed, it can also deter potential offenders.

5.2.7. Any CCTV system installed should:

Provide digital quality colour images
Be maintained, working and recording at all times
Recordings should be of sufficient quality to be produced in court
Copies of recording should be kept available for a minimum of 30 days and available to any responsible authority within a 48hr request
Recording should display the correct time and date of the recording
Comply with the CCTV Code of Practice issued by the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), which can be found at https://ico.org.uk/

5.3. Defensible Space and Territoriality

5.3.1. The site has a clearly defined boundary using a fence which limits trespass onto the site.

5.3.2. It is noted that the area forming the route from the main public entrance to the site and the school reception is to have 2.4m high weldmesh security fencing to channel visitors to the main entrance and prevent unauthorised access to the rest of the school. From a safeguarding perspective, this is to be commended.

5.4. Physical Protection

5.4.1. Preventing easy access to roofs should be considered at the design stage of the building. External rainwater pipes can be used for climbing and should be either square or rectangular in section, flush fitted against the wall or contained within a wall cavity or covered recess. Bends in pipes and horizontal runs should be minimized. They should be of fire resistant material.

5.4.2. Flat roofs, particularly those at a low level, may be more easily accessed and depending on materials may be more vulnerable to intrusion either by cutting through the deck or forcing open roof lights and other openings. Low-level flat roofs may also create a risk of falling by a person who has climbed onto the roof recklessly. The crime analysis shows that the current school building is susceptible to youths climbing onto the roof. Consequently, it is important to ensure that this is not the case for the new building.

5.4.3. Because there is to be an external stairway to the second storey roof from the first storey. Consider caging access to the stairway to prevent unauthorised use.

5.4.4. Doorsets and windows must comply with PAS24:2016, roof lights should also ideally, as a minimum standard, comply with LPS1175 Issue 8 Security Rating 2, or to the same standard of a similar rating scheme. External windows on the ground floor should also be fitted with opening restrictors.

5.4.5. The security of waste storage is an important consideration. Waste containers, particularly those with wheels, can be used for climbing and the contents used to start fires. It is noted that there is to be a secure store located well away from the school building.

5.4.6. External furniture such as benches and planters, together with sports and play equipment and structures, should be of robust vandal and graffiti resistant design. Furniture should be fixed into the ground in order to prevent its theft and reduce the possibility of it being used for climbing or as a tool to break through the shell of the building. External furniture should not be located at or close to a building line where it can be used to climb onto roofs and nor should it be located against boundary fences.

5.4.7. Litterbins can also be used to assist climbing and the contents used to start a fire. It is preferable that the bins are of a type that can be locked onto a fixed base and that they are located away from the building. Under no circumstances must litterbins be wall mounted beneath windows or on walls

5.4.8. Theft resistant fastenings should be used to secure the PV panels that are to be fitted on the school roof.

5.4.9. It is noted that there will be external covered cycle racks. The design of the stands should enable the cycle to be secured at two separate parts of the cycle, for example a 'Sheffield Bar'.

5.4.10. A suitably designed, fit for purpose, intruder alarm system should be installed to protect the building out of hours.

5.4.11. Staff rooms should provide each member of staff with secure storage for clothing and personal belongings.

5.4.12. Consider secure storage space for valuable items of school equipment. If possible, select a room with no windows and no external door or roof lights. It is recommended that all internal doorsets to non-student areas and equipment stores should be of robust construction and fitted with locking furniture, or incorporate an electronic access control system, so that they can be secured to prevent unauthorised access.

7. Conclusion

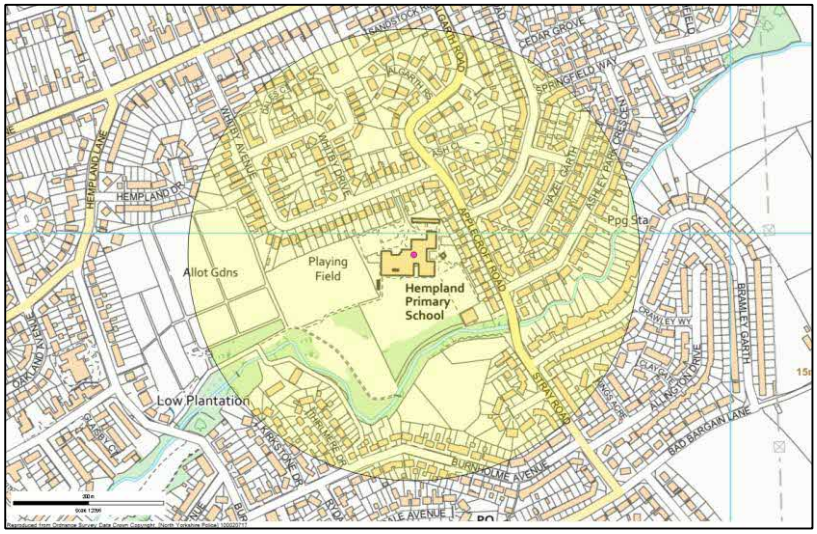
7.1. The above advice and recommendations are intended to ensure that should this site be developed as proposed; it will provide a safe and secure environment by reducing the opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour to occur. This will accord with the core principles and design objectives set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and local policy.

Appendix A

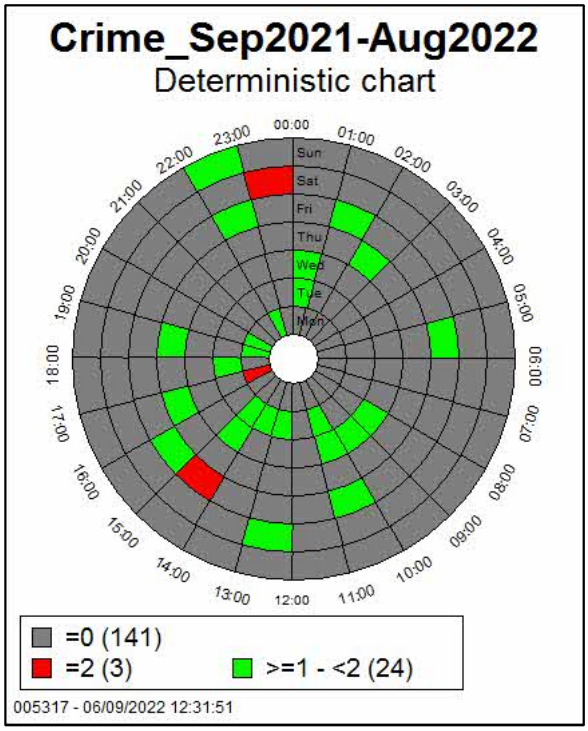
North Yorkshire Police Crime Analysis

The analysis covers a period from the 1 September 2021 to the 31 August 2022 to a radius of 300m of the proposal.

Map of Study Area



Crime Types	Count
ASB Environmental	2
ASB Nuisance	14
ASB Personal	2
Burglary Business and Community	1
Burglary Residential	2
Crime related incident	1
Criminal Damage	4
Drugs	3
Fraud & Forgery	4
Other Offences	1
Stolen Motor Vehicle	2
Theft General	1
Violence	10
Grand Total	47


Crime_Sep2021-Aug2022
Deterministic chart
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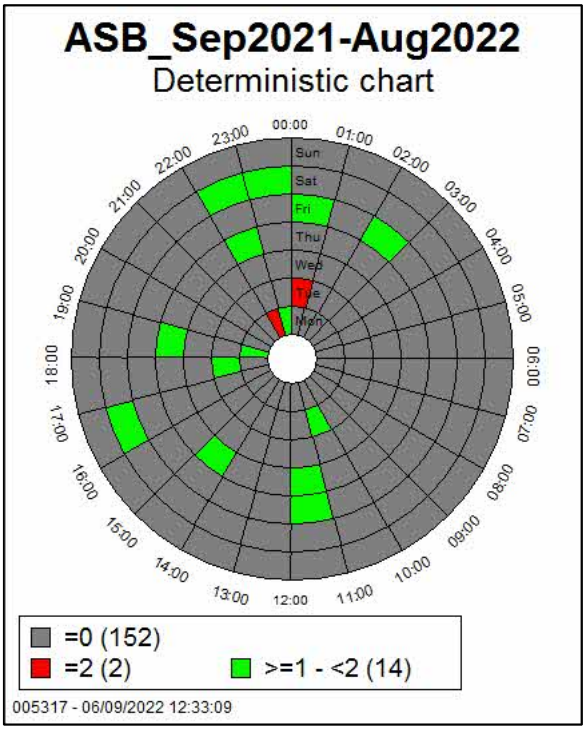
ASB_Sep2021-Aug2022
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