



## Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: DM/25/3021

Our Ref: LM/MID/25/10A

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Fisher,

**RE: Land to the West of Courthouse Farm, Copthorne Common, Copthorne**

Thank you for your correspondence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025, advising me of an outline planning application for the erection of residential dwellings (Use Class C3), including associated parking, outdoor amenity space, landscaping and drainage, with all matters reserved except at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

The National Planning Policy Framework demonstrates the government's aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear, and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

The level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Mid Sussex district is below average when compared with the rest of Sussex, as indicated within Police.uk however, additional measures to mitigate against any identified local crime trends and site-specific requirements should always be considered.

I have had the opportunity to examine the detail within the application and in an attempt to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime I offer the following comments.

As this application is submitted in outline, with only access for determination I have no detailed comments to make at this stage but look forward to offering more detailed comments at the reserved matters stage should this planning application be approved.

Ms Fisher  
Planning Officer  
Planning Services Division  
Mid Sussex District Council

I would however like to take this opportunity to direct the applicant to the website: [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) where the Secured by Design Residential Guide for 2025 (formerly known as the Homes Guide) can be found. The guide incorporates the latest security standards, developed to address emerging criminal methods of attack, and includes references to the Building Regulations and other statutory requirements across the United Kingdom.

I would also ask you to note that Sussex Police is now exploring the impact of growth on the provision of policing infrastructure over the coming years and further comment on this application may be made by our Joint Commercial Planning Manager.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to offer comments in response.

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 heightens the importance of taking crime prevention into account when planning decisions are made. Section 17 of the Act places a clear duty on both police and local authorities to exercise their various functions with due regard to the likely effect on the prevention of crime and disorder. You are asked to accord due weight to the advice offered in this letter which would demonstrate your authority's commitment to work in partnership and comply with the spirit of The Crime & Disorder Act.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Lee A Melbourne  
Designing Out Crime Officer  
Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department  
Sussex Police Headquarters**

---

Sussex Police Headquarters  
Malling House, Malling, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2DZ