Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: AWDM/1329/24 Our Ref: LM/WOR/24/06A Date 21st October 2024

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Morin,

RE: Golden Lion 7 The Strand Worthing West Sussex

Thank you for your correspondence of the 21st of October 2024, advising me of a planning application for a proposed detached timber pergola structure, with sheet metal roof, to existing external seating area (fronting The Causeway) 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 Worthing district is above average when compared with the rest of Sussex, so 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.

This planning application is seeking permission for a new, open-sided timber pergola.

Ms Morin
Planning Officer
Planning Services
Adur & Worthing Councils

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

I note the following points as indicated within the accompanying design & access statement:

2.2. Existing Use of External Area
The Golden Lion currently benefits from an external seating area, predominantly used during warmer months. However, due to its exposure to weather conditions, the space remains under-utilised during colder or inclement weather. The proposed development addresses this limitation by providing weather protection without compromising the open, welcoming nature of the space.

5.2. Residential Amenity
• Privacy: The open-sided design ensures that the pergola does not create an enclosed space, avoiding any issues related to privacy for neighbouring properties. The development is set back sufficiently from residential areas to prevent any undue impact.
• Light Pollution: The proposed lighting will be low-level, downward-facing, and designed to minimise light spill, ensuring that it does not disturb neighbouring properties.
• Noise: The development is unlikely to result in any significant increase in noise levels, as the external trade area is already in use. The proposal seeks to improve comfort without increasing capacity or extending operating hours.

My main concern with this planning application is that of the amenity of the surrounding residential community as the proposed pergola will ultimately provide more warmth and comfort during inclement weather which will result in greater use especially late at night.

Despite reassurances with regards to noise management: *'The development is unlikely to result in any significant increase in noise levels, as the external trade area is already in use'* the potential for the amenity of the surrounding neighbours to be impacted cannot be overlooked. It will be a matter for staff to manage this in the most appropriate manner to ensure that the local residential community are not unduly disturbed and sensitivities around this issue must be duly addressed by staff on duty particularly when patrons are drinking outside late into the night.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment.

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
Sussex Police Headquarters