



Local Policing Service Improvement & Engagement Department

Your Ref: AWDM/1470/25

Our Ref: LM/ADU/26/01A

Date 10th February 2026

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Mr Barnett,

RE: Land South of Test Road Sompting West Sussex

Thank you for your correspondence of the 10th of February 2026, advising me of a hybrid planning application comprising:

- 1) Outline planning permission (all matters reserved) for an animal barn, an additional polytunnel and Nature Trail.
- 2) The permanent retention of the existing temporary structures (shipping containers and compost loo) under AWDM/2022/20.
- 3) Full planning permission for the phased construction of three new buildings to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the community farm, comprising produce storage, cooking and dining facilities, farm office, work room, toilets, plant room and store 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.

Although the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in Adur & Worthing district is average as indicated within Police.uk additional measures to mitigate against any identified local crime trends and site-specific requirements should always be considered.

Mr Barnett
Planning Officer
Adur & Worthing Councils,
Development Management,
Economy Directorate, Portland House,
44 Richmond Road, Worthing,
West Sussex, BN11 1HS

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

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 is a hybrid planning application I will address each part of the planning application separately.

- 1) Outline planning permission (all matters reserved) for an animal barn, an additional polytunnel and Nature Trail.

I have no concerns or comments to make from a crime prevention perspective.

- 2) The permanent retention of the existing temporary structures (shipping containers and compost loo) under AWDM/2022/20.

As the shipping containers house vital equipment if not already in place, then consideration should be given to the siting of intruder alarms in order to offer an audible deterrent against potential theft. Property marking should also be a consideration so that if farm equipment was stolen and subsequently recovered it can be returned to their rightful owner.

- 3) Full planning permission for the phased construction of three new buildings to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the community farm, comprising produce storage, cooking and dining facilities, farm office, work room, toilets, plant room and store.

From a crime prevention perspective consideration should be given to the siting of intruder alarms to protect these buildings when not in use once building works are complete.

Although video surveillance systems (VSS) are not a solution to all security problems it can help deter criminals and assist with the identification of offenders after a crime has been committed.

Should CCTV be a consideration the following documents will be of assistance to the applicant:

CCTV guidance for police requirements: [HO \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614447/Police-Requirements-for-CCTV.pdf)

CCTV at Commercial Business <https://www.gov.uk/can-i-use-cctv-at-my-commercial-premises>

[CCTV | Search | Information Commissioner's Office \(ico.org.uk\)](https://www.ico.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/cctv)

Lighting is an effective security measure and a useful tool for public reassurance in that it enables people to see at night that they are safe or to assess a developing threat and if necessary, identify a route they could take to avoid a potential issue. Recent events that have made national news and become the focus of concern over safety in public places means that there is merit in recognising the enormous value people place on being able to move around in public places at night under high quality lighting systems. Where lighting is implemented, it should conform to the recommendations within BS5489-1:2020 although I am mindful that due to the location that dark sky policies may need to be implemented.

Finally, construction sites often suffer from theft, criminal damage, arson, and anti-social behaviour, all of which can have a major impact on completion dates and overall development costs.

The SBD Construction Site Security Guide 2021 is designed to be risk commensurate and provides advice on how to secure the site from the moment the hoarding goes up until the moment the development is handed over to the client or end user.

The advice is based on proven crime prevention principles that are known to reduce criminal opportunity by creating safer, more secure, and sustainable environments. It applies to all construction sites regardless of their size and is intended for all staff including security personnel.

It is also recommended that contact is sought by the developer with the local Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) to establish good relations whilst the development is in the construction phase.

Further advice on construction site security can be obtained from the Secured by Design Website:
www.securedbydesign.com/images/CONSTRUCTION_SITE_SECURITY_GUIDE_A4_8pp.pdf

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