

PLANNING DIVISION INFORMATION SHEET 2.9 CRIME PREVENTION IN PLANNING

The environment influences the likelihood of crime and how safe people feel. This factsheet provides details on how the design and layout of residential development can improve security and reduce the risk of crime and should be read in conjunction with the relevant policies and design guidance from the adopted Unitary Development Plan.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

SURVEILLANCE

Individual dwellings should be positioned to face each other wherever possible so that defensible space is created through natural surveillance. Rear access to dwellings should be limited and only used where the access is restricted, i.e. via a locked gate, as surveillance tends to be limited at the back of a property. Where possible parking areas and children's play areas should be directly overlooked, affording surveillance protection.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping can enhance natural surveillance. Trees and shrubbery are often an essential part of an attractive environment but if too dense or carelessly laid out, they can provide potential hiding places for a thief or attacker. The use of thorny species can deter the opportunities for possible hiding places.

LIGHTING

Communal/public spaces should be adequately lit during all hours of darkness. Lighting should be positioned to ensure that no shadows are cast over footpaths and this should be achieved without causing nuisance to neighbouring houses.

CAR PARKING SECURITY

Parking areas should be located where the vehicles can be kept under general surveillance. If this is not possible the car parks should be secured from general access by the use of entry gates. Communal car parking should be well lit, open to natural surveillance and grouped so that occupiers can become familiar with cars and their owners are able to identify intruders.

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FLATTED DEVELOPMENT

The number of access points should be kept to a minimum. Common entrances should be made safe by being well lit, visible from the public highway, avoiding dark corners and hidden recesses. All internal communal areas should be well lit. Entry phones systems and closed circuit television (CCTV) may be installed to restrict access to non-residents.

GENERAL ADVICE

Developers working on larger schemes are advised to contact the Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Officer based at the Bromley Police Station for advice on layout and design or general information about the crime profile of an area. Developers should be aware of the "Secured by Design" initiative that encourages the building industry to adopt crime prevention guidelines. Up to date information can be obtained at www.securedbydesign.com.

Additional guidance is available in the government publication "Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention" which is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/saferplaces>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Metropolitan Police
Crime Prevention Officer
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0300 123 1212

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This form is available upon request in large-print format and also by email.
Issued by Planning Division July 2004
Updated June 2011

