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POLICE

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Neighbourhood Plans
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

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BIDDULPH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROPOSAL

The publication of the draft proposals in relation to the above is noted. Ultimately Staffordshire Police will welcome future opportunities to comment on specific development proposals as they will arise over the forthcoming lifespan of the plan through the established planning application consultation process to seek to reduce the opportunity for crime and disorder. One driver behind this is Paragraph 127(f) of the NPPF which states "create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience."

While there is nothing within the plan draft including the suggested policies that gives rise to any notable concern, the following comments are made:

LE1 – The potential use of upper floors for residential uses would generally be welcomed, which can in some circumstances increase opportunities for natural surveillance where currently they may be limited.

CF1 – The proviso of 'no adverse impact' in relation to new community facilities is welcomed, which would of course include such adverse impact in the form of the potential for criminal or anti-social behaviour.

CF2 – The proviso of 'no adverse impact' in relation to existing community facilities is welcomed, which would of course include such adverse impact in the form of the potential for criminal or anti-social behaviour.

NE2 – The reluctance to utilise concrete and timber close board fencing for new sensitive transitional urban edges is understood. Clearly in some contexts this could have implications for the security of individual dwellings for instance. In such locations, opportunities to enhance security in other ways should be sought, with developers etc demonstrating how they have endeavoured to design out criminal opportunity. The use of defensive planting varieties is one obvious option as is enhanced physical security on dwellings.

NE4 – While the provision of natural surveillance as it relates to boundary treatments could be positive, the provision of inadequate boundary treatments adjacent to publically accessible land can undermine dwellings/property security in some circumstances, which should be borne in mind.

POLICY:DESIGN (Page 84) – Towards the bottom of this page, NPPF para 127 is discussed with five requirements (paragraphs a – e) directly quoted that planning polices and decisions for new developments should satisfy. For some reason paragraph f (incidentally quoted towards the top of this response) has been omitted. Its inclusion would be welcomed.

- DES2:** - 'Providing ease of movement for pedestrian routes and footpaths' – the likelihood of providing opportunities for anti-social behaviour, the impact upon user safety and potential to undermine the defensible space of a neighbourhood will all need to be considered by developers rather than adopting a carte blanche approach
- The reference to flanking buildings with active frontages to provide natural surveillance is welcomed.

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