Dear Sirs

Poringland– Neighbourhood Plan – Response to Regulation 16 Consultation

I refer to the above matter and the consultation.

Norfolk Constabulary has the responsibility for policing making Norfolk a safe place where people want to live, work, travel and invest in.

Central Government place great emphasis on the role of the Police. Furthermore National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives significant weight to promoting safe communities (in section 8 of the NPPF). This is highlighted by the provision of paragraph 91 which states:

Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which......

b) 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 clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; ....

Nationally the Police have sought to provide advice and guidelines to support and create safer communities, most notably reflected in their Secured By Design initiative which seek to improve the security of buildings and their immediate surroundings to provide safe places to live.

In terms of creating and maintaining safer communities, there are a number of measures that should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that it satisfactorily addresses NPPF provisions and the needs of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

1. The Neighbourhood Plan should include the specific objective to ‘create and maintain a safer community and reduce crime and disorder’.

2. The Neighbourhood Plan should clearly support the principles of crime prevention through good design as the design and layout of the built environment plays an important role in designing out crime and reducing the opportunities for anti-social behaviour. The Neighbourhood Plan should include a policy that ‘All new developments should conform to the ‘Secured by Design’ principles and the Neighbourhood Plan will support development proposals aimed at improving community safety’. This would be supported by the objective to ‘create and maintain a safer community and reduce crime and disorder’.
3. The Neighbourhood Plan should include clear reference to the use of developer contributions and / or CIL monies to deliver local initiatives that create safer communities (and reduce crime). This should include measures identified by Norfolk Constabulary, along with County and District Council’s infrastructure studies and infrastructure delivery plans, to contribute to the finance of police / bluelight infrastructure (including premises, vehicles, operational equipment and communication equipment).

I trust that these elements will be incorporated into Neighbourhood Plan objectives and policies to reduce the opportunities for crime and disorder (and also help reduce the fear of crime in the Neighbourhood Plan area) to ensure that the Plan is consistent with the emphasis that Government places on creating safer communities.

Yours faithfully,

Duncan Potter
Head of Estates

Classification: Not Protectively Marked.