



THAME

Town Council

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Graham Hunt, Town Clerk & RFO

Ref: GH/AO

Mr Stansfeld
Police and Crime Commissioner
The Farmhouse
Thames Valley Police Headquarters
Oxford Road, Kidlington
Oxon, OX5 2NX

19 December 2016

Dear Mr Stansfeld

Re: Thame Police Station, Greyhound Lane

You may not be aware of the detail of the proposals for the redevelopment of Thame Police Station on Greyhound Lane, Thame.

A planning application P14/S0880/FUL for 45 sheltered apartments for the elderly was submitted in March 2014 which, after not finding favour with either the Town Council or the Planning Authority, was eventually dismissed at appeal in January 2016. The one positive aspect of that application was a continuation of a counter facility for easy public access to Thames Valley Police.

Thame Town Council was disappointed to learn at its meeting on 1 March 2016 that the counter facility was to be closed from 1 April 2016, with a suggestion that Thame residents travel to Aylesbury.

Thame Town Council was even more disappointed to hear that a revised planning application P16/S3525/FUL for 41 sheltered apartments for the elderly was submitted in October 2016, which is just as dreadful as the prior application, but obviously does not even contain provision for further police usage. The planning application was discussed at the Town Council meeting on 15 November 2016 and the Town Council registered its very strong objection and recommended to the Planning Authority that it be refused.

In addition the Town Council requested that an appeal be made to the Police and Crime Commissioner of Thames Valley Police, as landowner of the site, to consider a better use for this useful town centre site.

We are extremely disappointed that Thames Valley Police, as landowner of the site, does not seem to have considered the needs of the wider community, or consulted Thame Town Council. There is a requirement in Thame's Neighbourhood Plan for additional community and health facilities and this town centre location could have been ideal.

Overall, the approach being taken by Thames Valley Police on the redevelopment of the site, without any discussion, is an affront to the town of Thame.

There is a separate issue in that the full extent of Thames Valley Police's ownership of adjoining land was not made clear in the planning application through the usual blue line method, which may well require its resubmission anyway.

In the meantime, please can you intervene to ensure that a more effective mixed use of the site, or a more sensible scale of development, could be considered?

Yours sincerely

Graham Hunt
Town Clerk