

**7589**

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS, STANBOROUGH  
ALTERATIONS TO SITE ENTRANCE AREA**

**STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY PLANNING APPLICATION**

**13 March 2017** (Rev A)

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This statement relates to a planning application for the following works at the Hertfordshire Constabulary Police Headquarters site, Stanborough Road, Stanborough, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF.

*Alterations to existing highway junction.*

*Alterations to internal access road and car park to the site entrance area.*

*New parking area to replace the spaces lost in by the proposed alterations.*

*New security fencing and gates to the site entrance area.*

1.2 There are three reasons for these proposed alterations:

- To address traffic flow issues with the current arrangements. When the existing vehicle barriers are in operation at peak times, queuing occurs on Stanborough Road because there is just a single entrance barrier through which all vehicles must pass.
- To improve road safety at the highway junction. Notwithstanding significant white line hatching, the open junction allows U turns and does not prevent vehicles which are exiting the site from making right hand turns.
- To improve site security as necessary in view of the heightened security threat.

1.3 The proposals deal with all these points but, in so doing, there is a reduction in the number of parking spaces provided, hence this application includes a new parking area to offset the loss.

## **2.0 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

2.1 No significant planning issues have been identified with the works in the site entrance area.

2.2 The new parking area (which is proposed to make up the parking spaces lost by the alterations) is within the Urban Open Land area. However, due to its small scale and the proposed Grasscrete surface, its impact is considered to be minimal.

## **3.0 USE OF THE SITE / BUILDINGS**

3.1 Currently, the use of the site and buildings is for Police operational and administrative purposes.

3.2 There is no proposed change of use.

#### **4.0 LAYOUT OF HIGHWAY JUNCTION ALTERATIONS**

4.1 The alterations to the highways junction and the internal access road from the junction have been designed Opus and are indicated on their plans. The layout includes bollards to the centre of the junction and road to prevent U turns and to maintain security. It is understood that the works to the public highway will be subject to a Section 278 Agreement or similar.

#### **5.0 LAYOUT OF CAR PARK / INTERNAL SITE ALTERATIONS**

5.1 The alterations to the internal access road / car park have been designed to increase the traffic flow. A dedicated access lane in addition to secondary access routes is to be provided.

5.2 The layout of the new security fence and gates has been designed so as to provide a significant parking area for visitors outside the secure area. Visitors will no longer have to pass through a security point which will further ease the traffic flow at peak times.

5.3 The layout of the proposed extended car park area has been designed to work with the constraints of the existing landscape and contours.

#### **6.0 SCALE**

6.1 The small scale of the proposals is considered to be entirely appropriate to the context.

#### **7.0 APPEARANCE**

7.1 The new fencing and gates are proposed to have a green finish to match the existing fence and to minimise impact.

7.2 The proposed extended car park area is to have a Grasscrete finish to minimise impact.

#### **8.0 ACCESS AND TEMPORARY ACCESS**

8.1 The changes to the site access are as outlined above and on the drawings.

8.2 The site has an alternative emergency exit junction to Stanborough Road to the south-west of the main junction. It is proposed to use this for exiting the site during the duration of the alterations work.

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 This is a simple proposal which has little impact on the site or on the surrounding area.

## LIST OF ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS

- Site Location Plan – A050 A
- Existing Site Entrance Area – A060 A
- Existing Plan - A061A
- Existing Area to South-East of site (area of proposed car park) – A065 A
- Proposed Alterations to Site Entrance Area – A070 A
- Proposed Fence and Gate Elevations – A071A
- Proposed Replacement Parking Area to South-East Corner of Site – A075 A
- Opus General Arrangement Plan of Roadworks – J-M3923.00/0100/002 A
- Opus Vehicle Tracking Plans – J-M3923.00/0100/005 A