

Appendix 3

Date	31/05/07	Item No.	
Safer Lewisham Partnership			
Title	Crime and Safety impact assessment on proposed Traveller sites		
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Summary

This report relates to a request by the local Regeneration Directorate of the London Borough of Lewisham for Lewisham police to undertake a crime and safety assessment on two proposed locations within the London Borough of Lewisham that are being considered as possible sites for relocation of the present Traveller Site at Thurston Road, SE13. This report is to be considered in conjunction with, and as part of a wider initial community consultation that has been undertaken by the Development unit of the Regeneration Directorate.

The consultation information is to be submitted to the Lewisham Mayor and Cabinet on 20 June, when consideration will be given to the sites under review.

Introduction

The following information relates to research carried out with regard to proposed sites for a future Lewisham Traveller site to take the place of the present Site located at THURSTON ROAD, LEWISHAM, SE13.

This report only looks at the proposed sites from a crime and safety view and should only be used as part of a wider assessment of the locations. It does not seek to promote any site, but to give details of recorded crime and basic safety information of the sites as they are at this point of time.

It must be stressed that for a full assessment of the safety of the sites, involvement by the Lewisham Crime Prevention Office at the initial design stage of any eventual proposal is recommended in order to assist with obtaining a secured by design award, to ensure that the most secure site can be achieved.

Information

This report has taken into account information supplied from the Safer Neighbourhood teams (SNT) that cover the proposed and present sites to give a local policing view of the dynamics of the locations.

The locations were then analysed from a crime statistical view in order to give a snap shot of crime in the areas.

General safety input of the proposed sites, without a full proposal with drawings a full safety survey is unable to be considered at this time.

Safer Neighbourhood Team View

Proposed Site: Lorry Park Behind Laurence House, Rushey Green, SE6

- 1) The centre of Rushey Green is extremely busy being a main bus change over point for the borough. Due to this, large groups of school children gather between 1530-1730 hrs on weekdays on their way home from school. This has resulted in numerous complaints from local residents and businesses regarding low level anti social behaviour. This is in extremely close proximity to the proposed site location.
- 2) The new proposed location within Rushey Green is a commonly used cut through for local youths and school children alike. If the site is an open site, there is potential for anti social behaviour and disorder between the school children and site residents.
- 3) There is an approved hostel in very close proximity to the proposed site.
- 4) At a recent public meeting local residents living close to the site were extremely unhappy about the proposal and the perceived lack of consultation by the council.

Proposed Site: The Old Watergate School, Church Grove, Lewisham. SE13.

1. The proposed site has only one entrance to the location due to the geography of the road layout and the backing of the site onto the Quaggy river.
2. The site has not come to notice regarding crime offences although crime offences occur along the main arterial roads, which it has in common with other main thoroughfare areas of Lewisham.
3. It would be fair to say that through general patrol feedback local community public feeling is not positive as far as using the site for such a purpose.

Present Site: Thurston Road, Lewisham, SE13.

1. The present site does not cause the local safer neighbourhood team any community issues
2. The site is not known to generate any crime.
3. The general condition of the site is one of being run down, with a number of pitches being derelict.

Police Research

Crime Analysis

In order to give a view of crime patterns for the proposed sites areas, it was considered that a comparison with the present site area figures would assist with giving a picture of the impact if any, such a site has on the overall crime picture of an area. This would give a benefit of assisting with decision making not only at an executive level within the council, but also to allow local communities to take this into account as part of any future consultation process. See appendix 1

Consultation

This report is submitted as part of the police input to the wider local community consultation process.

Conclusions

Previous experience of proposals to move a traveller site has shown a potential to cause community tensions. An example of this can be seen from the recent Dressington Avenue proposal, which was later abandoned. From a policing experience there is likely to be an increase of tensions within the community surrounding any application.

Historically the local site at Thurston Road has not caused any increase in community tensions for a number of years when considering traveller issues.

Recommendation

1. That any site chosen by the local authority involves the Lewisham Police Crime Prevention officers at the design stage of any plans, so that any development can achieve a secured by design award.

2. That the local Safer Neighbourhood Team on any proposed site be involved within the consultation process.
3. That any issues of racially motivated crime or incidents that occur during the consultation be reported immediately to police.

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