

# **Former Friends School Field Mount Pleasant Road Saffron Walden**

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## **Essex Police Response**

02/06/2025

Strategic Planning Team

Essex Police



**ESSEX  
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

## Essex Police response to Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden

As a key emergency service provider, Essex Police advocates to continuously adapt and reflect its practices to ensure that the service provided is efficient and effective in keeping our communities safe. With the policing landscape continually changing we welcome any opportunities to develop and enhance this provision.

Essex Police are committed to working with our emergency services partners, local authorities, developers, and infrastructure providers to deliver safe, secure, and sustainable developments. This is supported through the Emergency Services Planning Protocol<sup>1</sup>.

We note the scheme proposes, 75no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing fields and associated clubhouse.

This document provides an initial response to this proposal and outlines the Essex Police considerations to development and infrastructure change which forms part of the organisations strategic planning considerations and provides key information on our policing priorities.

**If further information or clarification is required to support this development, please contact the Strategic Planning team at [Strategic.Planning@essex.police.uk](mailto:Strategic.Planning@essex.police.uk)**

## Essex Design Guide

This document supports the content and key objectives outlined in the Essex Design Guide<sup>2</sup> for engaging with the emergency services during the design process for the creation of safe and secure communities and sustainable estate provision.

### Emergency Services engagement

#### Key considerations

- To encourage effective engagement between Essex Police, Local Authorities and Developers at the earliest opportunity.
- To create a proactive, consistent, and informed early response to the new demand placed on emergency services that housing developments and infrastructure change will bring.
- To endeavour to create a collaboration programme with emergency services and other partners that will enhance our ability to achieve service benefits and property performance targets for the efficiency of the estate.
- Support the National Planning Policy Framework to promote healthy and safer communities.

### Community Safety Partnership and Emergency Service Estates Provision

#### Key considerations:

- Encouragement of proactive police service-related communication to new residents and communities that promote public confidence and cohesion.
- To deliver estates provision that responds to the demands of modern policing, embracing the digital and cultural enablers that allow us to reduce our physical footprint.

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<sup>1</sup> Emergency Services Planning Protocol | [Essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Essex Design Guide | [Essexdesignguide.co.uk](https://www.essexdesignguide.co.uk)



- Explore opportunities for a shared, environmentally sustainable co-located community estate that shares facilities in appropriate locations within the community to provide flexible spaces to accommodate the changing needs of policing and create a more local, visible, and accessible policing provision.

## Designing out crime and Secured by design

### Key considerations:

- To work with planners, architects, and developers to ensure that new developments in Essex provide a mix of well-designed homes, open spaces and promote neighbourhoods that consider community safety and wellbeing that provide benefit to all communities.
- That the prevention of crime and disorder is supported through well-designed places that includes the provision of a sense of community and safety.
- Ensuring 'Secured by Design' standards and applicable 'Police Crime Prevention Initiatives' are fully incorporated throughout new development (including associated buildings) as a minimum whilst maximising opportunities against current and future crime pattern changes.
- Implement a 'Crime Impact Statement' within the 'Design and Access Statement.' Such statements are devised to identify specific measures that will be adopted to reduce crime.
- Support developers and planners to provide work, education and public spaces that are sufficiently well designed to promote safe, secure communities and environments.

Constructing well designed places, buildings and communities that promote both sustainable communities and health and wellbeing is an objective that the Essex Police Designing out Crime Office (DOCO) supports; however, it is imperative that they must also be safe, secure, and accessible.

The physical security of a building alone does not necessarily make it 'secure;' instead, it is a by-product of well thought out, inconspicuous crime prevention measures, that are incorporated within the whole design. When considering future developments, it is imperative to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, to help people live and work in a safer society.

The Essex Police DOCO response to this proposal will be provided under separate cover. For any queries relating to secured by design and designing out crime matters relating to new developments please contact: [designingoutcrime@essex.police.uk](mailto:designingoutcrime@essex.police.uk)

## Traffic management Considerations

### Key considerations:

- Ensure an understanding of the key objectives at the forefront of Essex Police strategic road safety campaigns. This includes aspects such as managing road infrastructure, improved vehicle design, redesigning speed limits, and supporting Essex Police enforcement policies.
- Engagement with planning for any transport related aspects of development, collaboratively working with the relevant authorities to ensure that new developments are planned and designed to improve safety on the various road networks. This will include preventing those Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) and Road Traffic Collisions where possible.
- Promote engagement in the Safe System approach 'Vision Zero'<sup>3</sup>, which recognises that human beings' lives and health should never be compromised by their need to travel and any fatal or serious

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<sup>3</sup> Vision Zero ([actionvisionzero.org](http://actionvisionzero.org))

injuries that occur within the road system are unacceptable. This is considered as best practice in road safety according to the World Health Organisation and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

**Road design:** In the interest of road safety and reducing casualties linked to highways usage, Essex Police believe that developers should contribute to designing out the need for enforcement within the construction of newly built roads whilst ensuring speed limits are appropriate and meet the needs of all road users and visitors. This also applies to internal estate roads where the introduction of any desired speed limit is largely self-enforcing through design. This is especially relevant to the strong desire for 20mph limits or zones within new developments where there is an expectation that the restriction will be enforced. Essex Police request the use of creative and self-enforcing road design which can reduce the need for enforcement and limit the impact to local policing resources.

Developers also need to consider how their planning decisions can have a negative long-term impact upon neighbours and communities around simple things such as parking disputes through the lack of available parking, which can be factored into designing out crime.

For distributor roads we identify more and more roads being built by developers which become roads for distributing high volumes of traffic around new estates and towns. These roads have the potential to become roads where young drivers may use them as roads to test their ability for travelling at high speeds or for anti-social driving.

For such examples we would look to ensure:

- Speed limits are appropriate and meet the needs of all road users and residents.
- With an evidenced case, and where possible, a developer is requested to install average speed detections systems to ensure road user compliance, thereby reducing the need for police presence to enforce speed limits on newly built roads.

Considering the prevention of crime and to enhance community safety, Essex Police believe that commercial and residential developers should contribute to the costs of installing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems on newly designed roads where there is a recognised need for ANPR deployment.

**Road safety:** Technology exists for red light enforcement at traffic lights and developers should consider enforcement technology as part of any traffic light systems installed, improving overall safety of the location but also providing an efficient way to enforce the restriction.

In terms of road safety, Developers should make provision for all road users and in particular the most vulnerable road users, cyclists, and pedestrians. Essex Police request the development supports the ethos of the five essential pillars in the Safe System approach, ultimately to reach zero road related deaths, these being:

- **Safe Speeds:** Road users understand the risks and implications of exceeding the speed limit and therefore, travel at appropriate speeds to the conditions and within posted speed limits.
- **Safe Road Use:** Road users who know and comply with the rules of the road and take responsibility for the safety of themselves and others, especially the vulnerable.
- **Safe Roads & Roadsides:** Road design encourages safe travel and one that is predictable and forgiving of mistakes.



- **Safe Vehicles:** That vehicle fleets comprise of well-maintained vehicles that reduce the risk of collisions and, in the event of a collision, reduce the harm to road users, including pedestrians, pedal cyclists, motorcyclists and vehicle occupants.
- **Post Collision Response & Care:** Provision of a more operative response to collisions by working effectively with all emergency services and the National Health Service (NHS). Road victims receive appropriate medical care and rehabilitation to minimise the severity and long-term impact of their injuries. Learnings from collisions are captured and acted upon. Families of those killed or seriously injured are appropriately supported.

**North Essex Parking Partnership:** Essex Police support the guidelines outlined by the North Essex Parking Partnership regarding suitable parking and access control measures for new developments and suggest engagement with the partnership would be beneficial.

## Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy

### Key considerations:

- To include infrastructure considerations to ensure and develop an efficient policing response in the future. This includes such matters as community based Electric Vehicle charging points to support the Essex Police Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy.

As part of Essex Police's comprehensive Zero Emission Fleet and Infrastructure Strategy, we are committed to achieving a fully electrified vehicle fleet by 2035. In pursuit of this objective, we have developed plans to install electric vehicle charging points across all our police premises. The broader strategy also recognises the crucial role of community-based charging infrastructure in supporting extended patrols and recharging vehicles during and after operations.

One of the primary challenges of electric vehicles is their limited range and lengthy charging time and access to external charging facilities is vital for the force to carry out their duties effectively. To ensure that we can recharge our vehicles locally and work in specific areas away from police premises for an extended period, we ask developers to consider the inclusion of charging facilities into their design, with one or two charging points allocated for emergency services use to support our operations.

By providing dedicated charging points for emergency services, we can expand our patrols in the area and increase visible police presence, thereby contributing to a safer environment for local communities and visitors. As well as promoting safer communities, this infrastructure plan aligns with our commitment to promote sustainable practices and support the transition towards a greener future.

## Information on Essex policing priorities and context.

### Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC): Police Fire and Crime plan 2024 – 2028

The Police, Fire and Crime Plan <sup>4</sup> sets out the policing priorities and aims for keeping Essex safe. It brings together police, partners, and the people of Essex to build safe and secure communities, thereby promoting public confidence in the police and ensuring that victims are satisfied with the service and support they receive.

The priorities set out in the plans will inspire and challenge Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and all community safety partners to create a safer county for all. The plans provide strategic

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<sup>4</sup> [Police and Crime Plan | Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex \(pfcc.police.uk\)](https://pfcc.police.uk)

direction for both services that tackle the root causes of crime, improving road safety and protecting the most vulnerable residents. Twelve priorities are included in the plan. These are:

Police and Crime priorities:

- More local, visible, and accessible policing
- Drive down anti-social behaviour and crime
- Beat knife crime and drug gangs and protect young people
- Tackle violence against women and girls and domestic abuse
- Ensure vulnerable people are protected
- Improve road safety and reduce road deaths in Essex to zero

Fire and Rescue priorities:

- Protect vulnerable people
- Improve road safety and reduce road death in Essex to zero
- Make buildings across Essex safer
- Adapt to our changing environment
- Promote a positive culture and develop the workforce
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness

### Essex Police Force Plan<sup>5</sup>

Essex Police force priorities are drawn from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime plan. The plan provides our main effort, which helps us focus our energies on our priorities and think about helping victims, identifying vulnerability, preventing violence, and being visible in everything we do, whatever role we do to ensure we:

- **Help people:** Deliver the best possible service prioritising threat, harm, risk and putting victims at heart of what we do.
- **Keep people safe:** Prevent crime, protect the vulnerable, keep our communities and people safe and work with partners to do this.
- **Catch criminals:** Identify suspects and bring them to justice targeting the most harmful and paying attention to the needs and views of victims.

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Document end

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<sup>5</sup> The Essex Police Force Plan | [essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)