



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

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Your ref:
Our ref:

15th October 2008

Dear Sirs

The Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative

I am writing to highlight the importance of the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative. It follows the Mayor of London's memorandum to the House of Commons in August 2004 and the subsequent Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (July 2005). London has unique needs for policing and the aim of the initiative requires the Metropolitan Police to set up a Safer Neighbourhood Base within each parliamentary ward throughout London as an urgent operational requirement.

The aim of the Safer Neighbourhoods scheme is to make London 'the safest large city in the world' and to introduce a new model of community policing: teams are dedicated to the needs of specific neighbourhoods, with policing priorities for that area decided in partnership with local stakeholders – the public Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), local authorities, and other local organisations.

Safer Neighbourhood Bases are not police stations because they will not be used for charging or holding offenders. Nor will they be a base for police motor vehicles. Rather, they provide accommodation for PCSO's, usually 6 per team, who will be responsible for patrolling the ward. This will provide the police with a greater capacity to work with the local community, providing a high profile presence to deal with day-to-day offences.

The Government has identified the importance of community involvement and the necessity to locate these bases within the ward or wards which they serve. The Mayor's target is to provide Safer Neighbourhood Bases for all 624 wards in London by the end of 2008.

I am sure you are aware of the benefits of the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative. There are already a number of bases operating successfully within your borough which have been welcomed by residents. Many properties are being provided by local authorities and other organisations who have welcomed the opportunity of a partnership with the police. Additionally I have no doubt you would wish to take into account the need for local policing when making a planning decision as required under the Crime and Public Disorder Act 1998.

I would therefore appreciate your assistance in dealing with this planning application within the statutory eight week period.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Croney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Alan Croney Director of Property Services
for the Metropolitan Police Service**