

## Safety and security

- 4.84 Crime and the fear of crime can undermine people's quality of life, health and wellbeing. Planning plays an important role in reducing crime and helping to create safe and secure places. Our challenge is to make the borough a safer place for everyone, while making sure that Camden maintains the vibrancy that contributes so much to its character and success. The following policy will help us make Camden a safer place.

### Policy C5 Safety and security

The Council will aim to make Camden a safer place.

We will:

- a. work with our partners including the Camden Community Safety Partnership to tackle crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour;
- b. require developments to demonstrate that they have incorporated design principles which contribute to community safety and security, particularly in wards with relatively high levels of crime, such as Holborn and Covent Garden, Camden Town with Primrose Hill and Bloomsbury;
- c. require appropriate security and community safety measures in buildings, spaces and the transport system;
- d. promote safer streets and public areas;
- e. address the cumulative impact of food, drink and entertainment uses, particularly in Camden Town, Central London and other centres and ensure Camden's businesses and organisations providing food, drink and entertainment uses take responsibility for reducing the opportunities for crime through effective management and design; and
- f. promote the development of pedestrian friendly spaces.

Where a development has been identified as being potentially vulnerable to terrorism, the Council will expect counter-terrorism measures to be incorporated into the design of buildings and associated public areas to increase security.

### Camden Community Safety Partnership

- 4.85 The Camden Community Safety Partnership is a statutory body established to reduce crime, disorder and nuisance in the borough. The Partnership is a network of organisations involved in community safety including the Council, Metropolitan Police, Transport Police, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Camden Safer Neighbourhood Board. Every year the partnership sets priorities based on safeguarding of risk and harm and mitigating against the impact of crime and antisocial behaviour. Its current priorities include tackling antisocial behaviour and reducing the impact of the night time economy on local communities. Planning policies can assist with these goals.

4.86 The level and type of crime and antisocial behaviour varies across the borough and areas of higher crime have been identified within Holborn and Covent Garden, Camden Town with Primrose Hill and Bloomsbury wards. The borough's central location and thriving night time economy can be linked to a range of problems, including alcohol and drug related criminal and antisocial activity. Development in the borough provides the opportunity to implement measures to improve community safety, in particular where development takes place in areas with relatively high levels of crime and antisocial behaviour.

#### **Design and security**

4.87 Consideration of how crime, disorder and fear of crime can be addressed is an important element in good design. This can create safe and attractive places to live and work, reduce the opportunity for crime and allow for better maintenance and management of buildings and spaces. The Council will require all developments to incorporate appropriate design, layout and access measures to help reduce opportunities for crime, the fear of crime and to create a more safe and secure environment. Crime Impact Assessments will also be sought for major developments.

4.88 We strongly encourage security features to be incorporated into a scheme from the beginning of the design process and complement other key design considerations. Internal security measures are preferred. Further information on designing safer environments is set out in our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design.

4.89 The design of streets, public areas and the spaces between buildings needs to be accessible, safe and uncluttered. Careful consideration needs to be given to the design and location of any street furniture or equipment in order to ensure that they do not obscure public views or create spaces that would encourage antisocial behaviour. The use of the site and layout should also be carefully considered as these can also have a major impact on community safety.

#### **Food, drink and entertainment uses**

4.90 Camden's food, drink and licensed entertainment premises contribute to the attractiveness and vibrancy of the borough but, where there is a concentration of late night activity, there can also be problems such as noise and disturbance, littering, antisocial behaviour, crime and violence. The cumulative impact of these uses will therefore be assessed in line with our town centre policies, particularly "Policy TC4 Town centres uses" and "Policy A1 Managing the impact of development". The Council will also take into consideration any concerns raised from stakeholders within adjoining areas beyond Camden's boundaries.

4.91 Alcohol related crime and late night disorder have been identified as significant issues, particularly within Camden Town and the Seven Dials area of Central London. Camden's Statement of Licensing Policy sets out the Council's approach to licensing and special licensing policies apply to these areas.

4.92 We will also use management and maintenance plans with owners and operators, secured by planning condition and/or legal agreement, to make sure that the areas outside of premises are appropriately managed. Further information regarding food, drink and entertainment uses and where these may be acceptable is set out in our supplementary planning document Camden

Planning Guidance on town centres, retail and employment.

### **Pedestrian use and natural surveillance**

4.93 Encouraging pedestrian use is known to deter crime by natural surveillance (i.e. limiting the opportunity for crime by increasing the likelihood of it being seen). To encourage pedestrian use, the Council aims to ensure spaces are permeable (i.e. easy to walk and cycle through). Gated community developments are therefore unlikely to be acceptable.

4.94 To further encourage pedestrian use, developments should also maximise the use of 'active frontages' designed to give buildings a safer, more welcoming appearance and enable overlooking of public areas. External security features which obscure the front of buildings such as solid roller shutters can make places seem hostile and unsafe which can discourage pedestrian movement, they will therefore be resisted. Further information is available regarding the design of security features is set out within "Policy D1 Design", "Policy D3 Shopfronts" and our supplementary planning document Camden Planning Guidance on design.

### **Counter-terrorism**

4.95 Camden's position in the centre of a major international city, its high profile major transport interchanges and famous buildings and places make resilience to terrorism an important issue in some areas of the borough. If necessary, the Council will therefore work with the Ministry of Defence's Strategic Planning Team and local security advisors and take into account the most up-to-date information provided regarding potential security risks. The design of these buildings, spaces and transport facilities will be expected to include appropriate and proportionate security and community safety measures and follow design principles contained within the government publication Protecting Crowded Places: Design and Technical Issues (2012).