STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

Ground Floor, Block 9
Staffordshire Police HQ
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0YY

Planning Department
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Moorlands House
Stockwell Street
Leek
Staffs
ST13 6HQ

Contact: David Elkington
Direct No.:
Email:

Date: 29th April 2019

**Application** **SMD/2019/0154**
**Location** **199 High Lane (Keith's Supermarket), Brown Edge**
**Proposal** **Retrospective application for ATM installation through the glass to the left side of the shop**

The following comments should be considered in the light of the following:

- The National Planning Policy Framework states "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments ... create places that are safe ... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience";
- National Planning Practice Guidance which states that "Designing out crime and designing in community safety should be central to the planning and delivery of new development";
- The statutory obligation placed on local authorities to do all they can to prevent crime and disorder in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998;
- The 2006 CABE document entitled 'Design and Access Statements: How to Write, Read and Use Them', which states "Statements should demonstrate how development can create accessible and safe environments, including addressing crime and disorder and fear of crime."

---

Despite its relatively quiet location, there are some positive attributes of the application site which should help to reduce its attractiveness to offenders when it comes to targeting the recently installed ATM. The forecourt is covered by two CCTV cameras, one column-mounted and the other attached to the neighbouring building which is under the same ownership. One of these cameras appears to provide coverage of the ATM itself and users which is ideal and will need to remain the case. These cameras should offer some form of deterrent to offending whether it be lower level crime or more high-profile crime targeting the ATM itself.

The area of the forecourt in front of the ATM is enclosed with fixed bollards. This is ideal as it should offer a reasonable level of protection against a violent form of ATM attack involving a JCB digger or similar to try to dig out the ATM, causing a huge amount of damage to a building as a consequence. The bollards should help prevent such a digger from getting close enough to the building for such an attack.

The front of the building possesses a deep covered overhang with a number of solid brick support piers at the outer edge. Set between these brick piers are roller shutters and an end gate which are used out of hours to protect the frontage of the building. The ATM will be hidden and protected behind these shutters/gate, which offers an additional layer of protection. Offenders would first of all need to overcome these before any attempt could be made to target the ATM itself.

No doubt the host premises itself and hopefully the ATM separately are protected by a remotely monitored intruder alarm linked to an alarm receiving centre as well as a range of other measures.

The nature of security measures appertaining to the ATM itself are not disclosed, but there is an expectation that the applicant has sought to comply with the *'Best Practice for Physical ATM Security'* published by the ATM Security Working Group for both the ATM and the premises. The applicant should also be aware that the *'Security of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) effective practice guidelines'* document published by the BSIA is available to members.

One slight query relates to the replenishment of the ATM by Cash-in-Transit personnel. Unfortunately, the ATM is not housed within its own ATM room, which necessitates replenishment within the wider store. Ideally, this should take place under controlled conditions (ie.when customers are not present or coming and going – note the checkout is directly behind the ATM) but whether this is or will be the case is unclear. Presumably the applicant has undertaken a suitable risk assessment prior to installation and has certain protocols in place as part of the operating procedures in relation to replenishment.

ATMs are an accepted part of modern life, but the obvious presence of £000s within can make them attractive targets to determined offenders. Nevertheless, the particular circumstances surrounding this application site go some way to reducing the inherent vulnerability of having an ATM installed on site. Consequently Staffordshire Police have no objection to this application.

Purely observationally, it is noted that this application is retrospective. For whatever reason, this appears to be deliberate and standard practice for the applicant, Notemachine who seemingly without exception have operated this way in North Staffordshire in recent years.

**Crime Prevention advice is given freely without the intention of creating a contract, and all comments and recommendations are site specific. Staffordshire Police and the Home Office do not accept any legal responsibility for the advice given.**

David Elkington
Crime Prevention Design Advisor