



Haringey Planning Control

Your ref: HGY/2019/0424

Our ref: NE 4806

Designing Out Crime Office
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Dated: 15/03/19

Re: Planning Application at: Archway Bridge, Hornsey Lane, N6

Dear Haringey Planning,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this planning application. We have reviewed the documentation provided and have the following points to raise:

We previously submitted a response on 22/05/18 regarding a design for Archway Bridge (reference HGY/2018/1463). Following this response a meeting was held with Haringey and Islington Planning Officers and representatives of the Emergency Services. This was to ensure that a multi-agency approach to the design and management was discussed. From this meeting it was advised that should any changes be made to the design, consultation would be recommended at an early stage to ensure that the proposals would still ensure secure design without creating issues.

We are aware that a new design has been submitted to both Haringey and Islington (reference P2018/4231/LBC). It has been noted that the Emergency Services have not been consulted prior to submission. It would be recommended that a further meeting be held with all Emergency Services to ensure the below comments and any from the London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service can be addressed.

From review of the design and the comments made by English Heritage and the Highgate Society, we are supportive of the use of a glazed or polycarbonate curved-topped structure to make it harder to climb. The use of a glazed or polycarbonate screen on the outside of the bridge at appropriate access points would make it harder to move along the outer lip of the bridge.

It is noted that the proposed height may be climbable if brackets are left exposed creating footholds. If this is the case, then it would be recommended to extend the height of the curved design so that it is much harder to climb.

It is also unclear from the design if a void is created between the low level panels and the curved base of the proposed fencing that a person could get stuck in if they tried climbing (and how they would be removed from this space). If this space is created, it would be recommended that a secure mesh covering protects this space, whilst raising the height so as to not make an easy climbing aid.

The proposals from the Highgate Society (pgs 6-7) recommend the use of the curved panels between the pillars and parapets, but not covering them. Due to the easily climbable nature of the pillars, this may introduce issues of providing easier access to the external side of the bridge. Without accurate measurements of the raised banks on either side of the bridge below the pillars, it is difficult to assess how easy it would be for a person to diagonally jump from a pillar or parapet onto the road below, as the information provided only suggests a person will jump directly below where they are.

There are also recommendations of a mesh, but depending on its robust nature and the spacings between the gaps in the meshing, this could result being easily damaged or acting as a climbing aid. The use of polycarbonate and glazing provides a sheer screen that reduces handholds. Alternatively the use of 358 weld mesh will offer similar security, but may not provide the same level of visibility. It is accepted that the use of such materials could leave them open to criminal damage (e.g. graffiti or arson); but with correct sourced products this can be mitigated against.

It is also important to ensure that the curved design does not create a covering that could result in a rough sleeping point in inclement weather.

As mentioned in the previous response, it would be advisable for the local Council to also consider other means of intervention for a person planning to commit suicide to try and dissuade them before they reach the bridge or get to a point to start climbing (e.g. signage relating to calling the Samaritans or regular attendance of Haringey Street Pastors).

We would ask that my interest in this planning application is noted and that we are kept apprised of developments. Should the Planning Authority require clarification of any of the above comments please do not hesitate to contact us at the above office.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Fletcher 145TP
Designing Out Crime Officer
Metropolitan Police Service

This report gives recommendations. Please note that Crime Prevention Advice and the information in this report does not constitute legal or other professional advice; it is given free and without the intention of creating a contract or without the intention of accepting any legal responsibility. It is based on the information supplied and current crime trends in the area. All other applicable health, safety and fire regulations should be adhered to.