

**IN THE MATTER OF APPEALS UNDER S78 AND S174 OF THE TOWN AND
COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**

**IN RELATION TO LAND AT PLOT 1, LAND WEST OF STOVOLDS HILL,
CRANLEIGH GU6 8UX**

**Change of use of land to provide 1 gypsy pitch comprising 1 mobile home and 1
touring caravan; erection of 1 day room with associated parking hardstanding.**

Appeal Refs: APP/R3650/W/25/3367393

LPA Refs: WA/2025/00495

APPENDIX BD3

Mystery surrounds 24-hour 'intimidating' police presence in 'quiet' Leatherhead road

 www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/mystery-surrounds-24-hour-intimidating-21596771

Eleanor Fleming

17 September 2021

Officers appeared in River Lane, Leatherhead, following a stabbing which left a man with potentially life-changing injuries, and have remained there ever since

Police officers are stationed along a Surrey road, 24 hours a day, but the reason is being kept a secret.

Mystery surrounds the police presence in River Lane, [Leatherhead](#), as [Surrey Police](#) cannot disclose details of the force's activity there due to "operational reasons".

The force said officers have been deployed as part of an ongoing operation following [an assault](#) in the area in June, but further details will not be made public.

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A police spokesperson said: "We can confirm the police presence has been agreed at senior level in the force and is in place for a sensitive operational matter. It is not appropriate for us to expand on this publicly."

A River Lane resident, who asked not to be named, said officers have been stationed in the road, 24/7, since Sunday, June 13. The assault took place two days prior on Friday, June 11.

She claims there are typically two police vehicles parked in the road, near the junction with Randalls Road, but officers will not give her "any information" about why they're there.

She said they only occasionally patrol the road.

The 67-year-old told [SurreyLive](#): "There are usually two police cars, and they are sitting there every day, 24 hours a day. We have not been able to get any information at all.

"They have their own [portable toilet] for their convenience. They're just sitting out in the middle of the lane. To me, it's a complete waste of public money and resources."

She added: "The whole thing is completely surreal, and we don't know what's going on."

She said she is aware of the assault, previously described by police as a "pre-planned attack".

It took place at the nearby Tesco in Oxshott Road, where [an 18-year-old man was viciously stabbed](#) and suffered potentially life-changing, but not life-threatening, injuries.

However, the resident feels the police presence is "intimidating", especially given the lack of information being provided. She described the uncertainty as "a horrendous feeling".

SurreyLive contacted Surrey Police about her concerns, and a spokesperson said: "We will reach out to local people to provide further reassurance."

The woman said she has contacted Mole Valley councillors about the "constant" police presence, but they are unable to provide any answers. The issue was even raised during a recent Surrey Police and Crime Panel meeting.

As part of a question to the panel on Wednesday (September 15), asking for more CCTV in Bookham High Street, Councillor Paul Kennedy referenced the mysterious police presence, when pointing out that [Fetcham](#) residents had been told by the PCC that a community based approach was a more appropriate way to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Kennedy said: "We all want to see more community policing. However, residents are perplexed that, for example, two police officers have been sitting in a marked car at a quiet location in Mole Valley, with its engine running for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the summer - the equivalent of over 10 FTEs or 0.5% of Surrey's entire force.

"Do you see a role for CCTV or other surveillance tools in keeping Surrey safe and in freeing up Surrey's police officers to be more productive, and if so, when?"

PCC Lisa Townsend responded, saying she is aware that the police presence in River Lane is part of an ongoing operation, but she is "not in a position to comment further".

She added: "I do know, however, that the local Safer Neighbourhoods Team has engaged with local residents on this issue."

SurreyLive asked Surrey Police how long officers are going to remain in River Lane, and how much money it's costing the taxpayer, however the force did not respond to this.

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