

Designing out crime and anti-social behaviour in pedestrian access ways (PAWs)

Strategies

The following strategies are with reference to the WAPC Planning Guideline 'Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in pedestrian access ways'.

	Strategy	Opportunity
1.0	Designing out crime strategies to clearly define the ownership and use of the pedestrian access way	
1.1	Rapidly remove graffiti to remove the rewards for offenders and send the message that the pedestrian access way is being managed as public space and that such behaviour is not acceptable. This approach may reduce the potential for further graffiti.	Coat fences with anti-graffiti paint or seal. Establish operating procedure for rapid response to reports of graffiti and graffiti removal. Inform local residents of procedure to report incidents of graffiti.
1.2	Clean up and make repairs quickly following vandalism to remove the rewards for offenders and send the message that such behaviour is not acceptable. This approach reduces the potential for more vandalism and removes materials that could potentially be used for crime (eg starting fires or throwing missiles).	Establish operating procedure for rapid response to reports of vandalism and repair damage. Inform local residents of procedure to report incidents of vandalism.
1.3	Ensure walking surfaces are even and well-maintained to signal that the pedestrian access way is managed.	Establish a maintenance schedule. Establish an operating procedure for responding to maintenance requests based on priority, depending on the type of maintenance required.
2.0	Designing out crime strategies to improve surveillance	
2.1	Improve lighting to enhance visibility at both ends and along the length of the pedestrian access way.	Erect shaded lighting (solar-powered) along the length of the PAW, set to turn on and off at scheduled times. Lighting to be screened to that it does shine directly into neighbouring windows.
2.2	Install safety mirrors to improve visibility where pedestrian access ways are not straight or direct.	

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2.3	Clear shrubs to improve sightlines throughout the pedestrian access way.	Trim shrubs as part of a maintenance schedule.
2.4	Install permeable fencing where appropriate (ie where the pedestrian access way abuts public rather than private space) to improve sightlines.	Also check verge gardens are acceptable with appropriate truncation to the PAW exit/egress points. This is necessary for pedestrian and cyclist safety as well as improving surveillance.
2.5	Increase opportunities for passive surveillance through overlooking where possible.	This will depend on town planning zoning.
2.6	Consider using movement-sensored lighting where appropriate.	May be an option with 2.1, if considered appropriate. Ideally, have lights dim after a set time but come to full brightness on movement-sensing.
2.7	Consider deploying mobile CCTV to record incidents at problematic pedestrian access way locations.	WA Police offer a mobile CCTV for temporary use.
2.8	Consider the use of electronic surveillance in high use pedestrian access ways close to commercial areas.	
3.0	Designing out crime strategies to set rules and define activities	
3.1	Install signage that prohibits graffiti, vandalism and the dumping of rubbish.	Consider applicable legislation and local laws and erect signage appropriately. For example, 'pedestrians only' or 'shared path' regulatory signs should be erected. Likely to be targets of vandalism so consider specification.
3.2	Use signage to clearly indicate where the pedestrian access way leads to. Clear way-finding is linked to perceptions of personal safety.	Should first establish wayfinding signage standards and strategic trails.
3.3	Install "positive" signage where appropriate (eg indicating that the pedestrian access way is part of a well-used pedestrian and cycle network).	Consider linking with a community 'adopt a PAW or park' group that monitors for incidents of anti-social behaviour and reports.
4.0	Designing out crime strategies for target hardening properties abutting the pedestrian access way	

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4.1	Consider using density matting, climbing plants on blank walls to reduce opportunities for graffiti and to hinder attempts to illegally access properties.	Consider for places with high levels of vandalism erecting 'Garrison' or 'palisade' style fencing set 100m from boundary to protect boundary fence and allow neighbour to establish a screening hedge (e.g. Bougainvillea)
4.2	Remove physical objects that could potentially assist offenders in gaining illegal access to properties or which could be used to commit criminal damage or vandalism (e.g. posts or palings from poorly maintained or damaged fencing).	
5.0	Designing out crime strategies for access control to laneway pedestrian access ways	
5.1	Consider installing bollards to prevent access to vehicles.	Erect bollards, grab rails or similar to standards, e.g. Austroads.
5.2	Consider installing barriers to manage cycling travel speeds.	Erect bollards, grab rails or similar to standards, e.g. Austroads.
5.3	Consider closing access to the pedestrian access way at vulnerable times (e.g. sunset to sunrise).	Erect lockable gate. Determine time for PAW to be opened and closed. Opening and closing times of local shops would be a good indicator, allowing a 30min buffer. Also, may not be necessary to close every day of the week. Consider automatic and timed gates if PAW to be shut 365-days. Or for a two-week period on the request of WA Police following a serious incident.
6.0	Designing out crime strategies for pedestrian access ways with significant crime problems	
6.1	Consider monitoring the pedestrian access way using mobile CCTV (covert or overt).	Assess in consultation with WA Police.
6.2	Use signage to inform the public that overt CCTV is being used.	Assess in consultation with WA Police.
6.3	Establish police or security patrols to provide routine and regular surveillance of the pedestrian access way at times designated to be the most problematic.	Assess in consultation with WA Police.

Additional strategies

A.1	Report an incident or crime. Establish a management system for reporting and tracking of incidents. Examples of incidents are graffiti, vandalism, littering or untidiness.	Develop a management system for receiving, handling, tracking and providing feedback to reports of an incident or a crime in the PAW. Establish codes for specific places for tracking and analysis of incidents to a place. Prepare a brochure to be distributed to local residents describing how to report an incident or a crime.
A.2	Adopt a PAW. Establish local residents or community groups to take 'ownership' of a PAW to ensure the PAW is well maintained	
A.3	Traffic monitoring and data analysis. Establish methods for capturing and analysing data about the usage of the PAW.	Types of data to record might include, time of use, how used (pedestrian, cyclist, pram, gopher), approximate age, time to pass through the PAW, single or group, extra activity (e.g. littering, loitering). Analyse the data and adjust strategies for the PAW accordingly.
A.4	Adjust path width. Consider minimising the path width (to standards) to give a sense that the PAW is a thoroughfare rather than a place for lingering or loitering	Place blocks or lay concrete kerbing along edge of path to set path width. This will also assist with stopping out of control skateboards from smashing into the boundary fence.
A.5	Consider anti-social behaviour in broader area and mitigate incidence of anti-social behaviour in other places. The PAW may just be on the route to a park or similar place where inappropriate acts are taking place. By dealing with the issues at that place, that may lessen the problems within the PAW.	Assessment of incident or maintenance reports (e.g. graffiti removal) may provide a broader picture. Consultation with residents and WA Police may help.
A.6	Working party to reduce anti-social behaviour. Establish a working party to determine ways to address anti-social behaviour and crime within the broader area as part of a crime prevention and community development and planning initiative.	
A.7	Consider widening the PAW by acquiring land from adjoining property.	

References

- WA State Planning 'Liveable Neighbourhoods', www.planning.wa.gov.au/650.asp.
- WA Planning Commission, Planning Bulletin 57/2009A 'Planning guidelines for pedestrian access ways', October 2009, www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/1092.asp.
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- WA Department of Lands 'Crown Land Administration and Registration Practice Manual', July 2013, www.lands.wa.gov.au/Publications/Pages/Manuals.aspx.
- WA Police 'Designing out crime – Lighting for crime prevention', www.crimeprevention.wa.gov.au/uploads/file/graffiti/lighting_for_crime_prevention.pdf
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