

# Green Infrastructure Statement

to support the planning householder application for 148 High St, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8DP. The proposed new shopfront, internal alterations and rear extension

## 1: INTRODUCTION

**1.1** The Welsh Government made changes to Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 to address the nature emergency by publishing a revised Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Placemaking and Well-Being'. The policy changes came into immediate effect and impacts on all planning applications.

**1.2** One key change is the requirement for all planning applications to be submitted with a 'Green Infrastructure Statement' (para 6.2.5). A 'Green Infrastructure Statement' is now required with all new applications and should describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.

**1.3** The statement should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development, for example on householder and minor developments this would normally be a short description.

**1.4** DLP Architecture Ltd have been asked to prepare a Green Infrastructure Statement to accompany a planning application for the proposed new shopfront, internal alterations and rear extension at 148 High St, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8DP.

## 2 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

### What is Green Infrastructure:

**2.1** *'Green infrastructure is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks'* (source: Addressing-the-nature-emergency-through-the-planning-system).

### The requirement for new applications:

**2.2** *'A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the stepwise approach (Paragraph 6.4.21) has been applied'*. (source: Addressing-the-nature-emergency-through-the-planning-system).

## **How has Green Infrastructure (GI) been incorporated into the development proposals:**

**2.3** The proposals are for a proposed new shopfront, internal alterations and rear extension in a commercial streetscape. As such, the scope for Green Infrastructure (GI) is much smaller given the scale of the proposals and that no loss of green space is proposed.

**2.4** The following GI elements will be incorporated into the development proposals:

- Shrub planting to the front and rear yard.
- Swift bird boxes added to the north elevation.

**2.5** Refer to drawings P797\_L\_211\_Elevations 2 of 2 as Proposed and P797\_L\_002\_ Site Plan as Proposed

### **Shrub planting to the rear yard**

**2.11** The species of shrubs can be varied and would be great for wildlife, for looking good, as well as improving the soil, absorbing and reducing rainfall run off and water absorption, providing pollen, food, shelter and shade for wildlife in hot summers.

### **Summary**

**2.12** The site plan shows there is space available for shrub planting within the rear yard and siting of the bird boxes.

**2.13** Green Infrastructure elements such as hedge planting and installation of bird and boxes are proportionate GI features that can realistically be incorporated into the proposals and will provide a range of benefits for both future occupiers, wildlife and the soil environment around the house.

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DLP Architecture Ltd

July 2024