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Project Ref: 24/083

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Green Infrastructure Statement & Bio-diversity Enhancement

Proposed Rear Balcony 5 Edwardsville. Treharris. CF46 5NR

1.0 Site & Location:

- 1.1 The site is an area of land which forms part of the residential curtilage of 5 Edwardsville. Treharris.
- 1.2 The proposed is construction of rear raised deck and car parking hardstanding area as shown on the attached plans.

2.0 Introduction

Green infrastructure plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. It contributes to biodiversity, climate resilience, and overall well-being. This statement outlines how the proposed change of use aligns with green infrastructure principles.



Photo 1 – Rear Elevation of Property



Photo 2 – Rear Garden from the house

3.0 Existing Green Features

Existing Trees and Vegetation:

- There is very little green infrastructure on the property, a small lawn area and a stump of tree which is sprouting to the rear of the property.

4.0 Proposed scope of works forming this planning application

- There will be little green areas affected by the works on this planning application as the work takes place on area of the previous hardstanding area at the rear of the garden (Refer to Photo 2 above)

5.1 Enhancing Green Infrastructure Biodiversity:

LAWN

- Lay new lawn as shown on drawing 24-083/P/08.
- Grass mixture to be EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture, to following specification

Suggested Sowing Rates

- 40kg/ha 16kg/acre 4g/m²

Description

- Mixture EL1 contains slow growing grasses with a selection of wild flowers that respond well to regular short mowing.

Ground Preparation

- Endeavour to select ground that is not highly fertile and does not have a problem with perennial weeds. Good preparation is essential to success so aim to control weeds and produce a good quality seed bed before sowing.
- To prepare a seed bed first remove weeds using repeated cultivation. Then plough or dig to bury the surface vegetation, harrow or rake to produce a medium tilth, and roll or tread to produce a level firm surface.

Sowing

- Seed is best sown in the autumn or spring but can be sown at other times of the year if there is sufficient warmth and moisture. The seed must be surface sown and can be applied by machine or broadcast by hand. To get an even distribution and avoid running out, divide the seed into two or more parts and sow in overlapping sections. Do not incorporate or cover the seed, but firm in with a roll, or by treading, to give good soil/seed contact.

First Year Management

- The wild flower and grass species in this mix are perennial; they will be slow to germinate and grow and will not usually flower in their first growing season. There will often be a flush of annual weeds from the soil in the first growing season. This annual weed growth is easily controlled by repeated mowing.

- Mow newly sown flowering lawns regularly (every 7 -10 days during growing season) throughout the first year of establishment. Cut to a height of 40-60mm, removing cuttings if dense. This will gradually develop a good sward structure, help maintain balance between faster growing grasses and slower developing wild flowers, and control annual weeds. Dig out any residual perennial weeds such as docks.

Management Once Established

- Mow regularly as a lawn but not too short (25-40mm). To permit flowering, mowing can be relaxed from late June. Cut again when the sward gets untidy (after 4-8 weeks). Mowing may be suspended earlier in the year to allow cowslips to flower. Heavy quantities of cuttings should be collected and removed from site.
- EL1 is a complete mix composed of 20% wild flowers and 80% slow growing grasses (by weight). The flower and grass components are also available to order separately as EL1F for the flower component and EG1 for the grass component. For quicker establishment of grass cover EL1 may be sown with an additional 10g/m² EG1 or lawn mixtures EG21 or EG22. Higher grass sowing rates will however reduce the time and space available for flower establishment, especially in good growing conditions.

TREES

- Plant 3 No new Fruit Trees as shown on drawing 24-083/P/08.
- Trees to be native species of local provenance (e.g., crab apple, bird cherry, wild cherry)
- Trees to the following specification:-
 - 'Extra Heavy Standard,
 - 16-18cm girth, minimum height,
 - minimum height 450-600cm,
 - minimum clear stem 200cm,
 - 75 litre container grown.
 - Rootballed
- Install bat / bird box to encourage bio-diversity.

5.2 Enhancement Features for Bats

- In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the development should aim to enhance the site for bats.
- 1 No. Bat box should be installed to provide roosting habitat for species such as pipistrelle.
- In general, bats seek warm places and for this reason boxes should be located where they will receive full/partial sun, although installing boxes in a variety of orientations will provide a range of climatic conditions. Position boxes at least 3m above ground to prevent disturbance from people and/or predators.
- 1 No. Bat box is to be installed at high level on rear elevation of house as shown on Drawing 24-083/P/06

- Bat Box to be Beaumaris Woodstone Bat Box
(<https://www.nhbs.com/beaumaris-woodstone-bat-box>)

5.3 Enhancement Features for Birds

- 1 No. Bird Box is to be installed at high level on rear elevation of house as shown on Drawing 24-083/P/06.
- Bird box to be double chamber), or equivalent Woodstone sparrow terrace box to this manufacturer.
 - <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-woodstone-house-sparrow-nest-box>
- Bird box should be fitted between 2m-4m high, Apex Bird Box

6.0 Conclusion

This green infrastructure statement demonstrates our commitment to sustainable development and the well-being of the natural environment.

Further Reading

1 naturalresourceswales.gov.uk 2 gov.wales 3 gov.wales 4 gov.wales

APPENDIX

Providing Suitable External Lighting (Bats)

- As a European Protected Species, disturbance of bats during foraging/commuting, even if accidental, is to be avoided. Artificial lighting is known to cause disturbance to bats and can discourage them from using a previously utilised site – it has been shown to be particularly harmful if used along river corridors, near woodland edges and near hedgerows. With this in mind, it is recommended that any additional lighting forming part of the development be kept to a minimum. Lighting must be directed away from linear features (e.g. waterways, hedgerows) and adjacent trees/woodland edges should not be illuminated. Furthermore, downlighting should be the preferred choice of any external lights to minimise glare or additional light pollution.
- If additional external lighting is to be installed, this must be limited and its use restricted to the safe access to and from the dwelling. Light fixtures will be directed downwards with additional canopy protection and must be on a passive infrared (PIR) sensor to restrict light usage to the minimum required.
- A sensitive lighting scheme is recommended and must be created using the advice given by an ecologist specialising in bat ecology. The sensitive lighting scheme must follow advice details in 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK: Technical Guidance Note 08/18' (2018) and comprise of;
 - light fixtures, filaments, light spill and artificial light must be directed away from bat roost entrances, both existing and those to be created as part of the mitigation;
 - Luminaries are to be LED only, due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability. Luminaires should have a warm white spectrum (ideally <2700 Kelvins), reducing the blue light component and increasing the red light component;
 - luminaries should feature peak wavelengths high the 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats;
 - heights of fixtures should be carefully considered to minimise light spill
 - only luminaries with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control should be used;
 - luminaries must always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt;
 - any external security lighting should be set on motion sensors and short (1 min) timers, and;
 - as a last resort, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres must also be used, and directed away from any natural features and must not encroach outside the site boundaries, particularly the surrounding trees, hedgerows and other vegetation in the landscape.