



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT / BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

BRYNHYFRYD CHAPEL, THOMAS STREET, TREHARRIS

CONVERSION OF CHAPEL INTO 6 FLATS WITH ASSOCIATED REFURBISHMENT WORKS, DEMOLITION OF REAR VESTRY ANNEXE AND CREATION OF DEDICATED CAR PARKING AREA

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1. Planning Policy Wales defines Green Infrastructure as 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.
2. The application site comprises the former Brynhyfryd Baptist Chapel located within the predominantly residential area of Treharris along with a parcel of land to the south



3. The existing chapel is set within a well defined enclosed boundary, with timber fencing delineating the curtilage to the sides and rear and stone steps and forecourt to the front. The building has been vacant for a number of years and has been covered in overgrown ivy and shrubs. The chapel sits within a fenced gravelled area with residential properties to the east, west and north. To the south is a grassed bank area which opens to the Celtic Trail to the east. The Taff Bargoed river runs approximately 200 m to the south of the site.



4. The application proposal envisages the conversion of the chapel into 6 no flats with associated refurbishment works, demolition of rear vestry annexe and creation of dedicated car parking area on land to the south of the chapel. The application follows on from planning permission (Reference P/22/0326) which was granted for the conversion of the chapel into 8 no flats with associated refurbishment works, demolition of rear vestry annexe and creation of dedicated car parking area. However, this approved scheme did not meet WDQR or lifetime homes standards and was accordingly revised to the current proposal.
5. The removal of the rear annex provides space for a communal lawned garden area for the residents, enclosed by a close boarded fence, as well as an area for bin storage and recycling.



6. In accord with the previous approval the application includes proposed ecological gain for bats and birds, including accessible ridge tiles for crevice dwelling species and swift nesting boxes (Schwegler No. 16 or similar) on the building's south and east elevations.

7. As the supporting Bat Survey, submitted with the application recommends, prior to works commencing, 1 Beaumaris Woodstone bat box (or similar) is to be fixed to the rear (eastern) gable end and access will be retained on the front western gable end to allow for wall top roosting. 1 Sparrow terrace will be fixed to the rear (eastern) gable end.



8. In line with PPW 12, the scheme proposes replacement tree planting at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost (minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost) within the southern parcel of land.
9. Additionally, the application proposes new planting areas within the parking area, comprising native grass and wildflower and native trees (Silver birch (*Betula pendula*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Crab apple (*Malus evereste*) or similar).
10. Currently there is fencing around the majority of the site boundary, and whilst it is recommended that the fencing is retained to provide protection, it is recommended that hedgehog / mammal holes are installed at the rear of the site, to provide new potential commuting routes for small mammals such as hedgehog.



11. It is considered that these proposals would enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks, and deliver a net benefit for biodiversity. The combined effect of the above measures will be the creation of a species rich landscape, appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposed development.



Appendix No.1

RE: Vegetation at Brynhyfryd Chapel, Thomas Street, Treharris, CF46 5AA

The appended short list of the species were noted during the site visit undertaken by the appointed Ecologist (I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd).

Within the northern parcel of land, the site contains minimal vegetation, with the site mainly consisting of hardstanding. The following species were identified:

- Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*)
- Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
- Buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*) -remains un-scheduled under the Wildlife & Countryside Act but is an invasive non-native plant.
- Willow (*Salix* sp)
- Harts tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*)
- Common polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*)

Within the southern parcel of land, the site contains no vegetation and is a mixture of hardstanding and grass within the highway verge.

