

Green Infrastructure Statement:

Site Address: 5 Pleasant View Aberfan

Proposed Development: Two storey rear extension and rear garage

Site description: The existing site comprises of mid terrace dwelling, with a large rear garden with access onto woodland way behind. The property has a small front garden beyond which is a large retaining wall which fronts on to the public pavement which runs parallel to Pleasant View road. To the rear there is a concrete yard to a retaining wall and steps, behind which lies a grassed area and flower beds, this leads to the existing shed and beyond that are hard areas leading to the boundary.

Surrounding Area description: The area is predominately housing stock with a mixture of terrace properties of which one is the application site, opposite are some self build properties and behind lies several large detached properties.

Existing Green Features :

The existing features are located between the existing rear retaining wall and the shed and are predominantly some grassed area and some flower beds. There is a small front garden which is fully paved. There are no bushes, trees or hedges on the application site.

Development Impacts:

The impact to green features will be to the area between the existing rear retaining wall and the existing shed as it is proposed to remove the rear retaining wall and part of the garden to construct a two storey extension and new retaining wall and steps. There will be no impact beyond the shed to the boundary as this already has a hard area and there is no development to the front of the property.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

Once the construction work has been completed it is proposed to create a small patio area immediately behind the new retaining wall and beyond that to the existing shed the ground will be landscaped.

To provide biodiversity enhancements its proposed to relay a new lawn and provide new planting areas along the boundary and along the existing shed. They will be planted with suitable plants which are water tolerant and bee friendly, examples are below but the exact species and mixture will be determined later.

Plants: *Sambucus nigra*, *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica', *Viburnum opulus*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Astilbe* 'Fanal', *Matteuccia struthiopteris*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm', *Vinca minor*, *Persicaria bistorta* 'Superba', *Luzula nivea*, *Carex Testacea*, *Geranium pratense*

Bats /Birds

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the development should aim to enhance the site for bats.

1No. Bat box (Beaumaris) should be installed to provide roosting habitat and 1 no bird box (elegance) examples below. It it proposed to fit the bat box to the extension and the bird box to the apex of the new garage.

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.

Bird boxes should be fitted between 2m-4m high, on a north or east facing elevation to avoid direct sunlight.

Lighting should also be carefully selected to avoid disturbance to bats who are foraging/commuting. Artificial lighting is known to cause disturbance and can discourage use of the site and boxes.

A sensitive lighting scheme is recommended and should be created using the advice of an ecologist. The lighting scheme should follow the advice details in Bat and Artificial Lighting in the UK, technical Guidance Note.

Luminaries are to be LED only and should have a warm white spectrum <2700 Kelvins reducing blue light and increasing red light.

Luminaries should not face upwards and should have 100% downward light



Beaunmaris Bat Box.



Elegance Sloping Bird Box

Conclusion.

It is considered that subject to the above, that the proposed development would provide enhanced biodiversity, although some biodiversity is lost during the construction work currently it is of poor quality. By introducing a wider variety of plants this would build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity and further enhanced by installing features such as bat and bird boxes.