

Biodiversity enhancement statement in respect to 'conversion of existing garages to provide additional residential accommodation ancillary to the flat P/24/0112

This green infrastructure statement has been prepared in accordance with the recently updated Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales [PPW12]

'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.' [Para 6.4.21]

It is considered that the development in question falls into the category.

As such this statement will outline the measures the proposals will take to ensure it is compliant and appropriate.

Site description.

The site is roughly triangular in shape and comprises of a building which historically has been used as garages at ground floor level and residential at first floor level. The area around the building can be described as hard landscaping incorporating car park

Ecological Enhancement Proposals

Bird boxes

Bird box 1

Surface mounted house sparrow terrace bird box-Schwegler1SP to be provided on the south west elevation under the eaves.

Bird box 2

Surface mounted Schwegler 17B to be provided on the north east elevation under the eaves

Bat box

It should be noted that there is no evidence of bat activity within the immediate area of the site, however a Schwegler Batcave 2F will be provided on the south east face wall 3m above ground level.

Garden bed

The site at present lacks very little greenery and consequently a new garden bed will be sited on the north west boundary of the site that will be used for flower and vegetation cultivation.

Raised planting beds.

Raised planting beds will be provided and sited on plan attached to this statement. The raised planters will be using a biodiverse and pollen rich mix for native plants and shrubs. European shrubs will provide winter foliage and shelter during colder months

Bug Hotel

A Schwegler bug hotel for hymenopterans insects and will be sited as shown on the plan attached to this statement .

Timescales

Where practicable the improvement identified will be implemented during and on completion of the proposed works. It is anticipated that works will commence in mid - August, thus avoiding bird nesting times. However careful inspection will be carried out prior to works commencing and if there is evidence of bird nesting the works can be phased not to disturb birdlife.

Conclusion

The works to be undertaken are considered fairly minor and the proposals actively maintain and enhance the landscape and biodiversity of the surrounding area.

The proposed raised beds will be planted with native shrubs and plants enhancing the local ecosystems for birds, bees and insects who will use planters as a food source, pollination, protection and home.

It is therefore considered that the proposals are acceptable in terms of its impact on the environment and biodiversity and compliant with Chapter 6 of PPW12