

Green Infrastructure Statement

to support the planning 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 12 to address the nature emergency by publishing a revised Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Places'. The policy changes came into immediate affect 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' (*Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 11. PPW12 (Feb 24)*) which 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 (PPW 12 Paragraph 6.4.11) 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 rear yard.
- Built in Swift bird boxes added to the north elevation.
- Built in bat boxes added to the north elevation.
- Bat loft access to new roof space via bat access tile.

2.5 The GI elements are detailed on drawings P797_L_002_ Site Plan as Proposed_Rev B, P797_L_200_ Basement and Ground Floor Plans as Proposed_Rev B, P797_L_201_ First and Second Floor Plans as Proposed_Rev A, P797_L_211_ Elevations 2 of 2 as Proposed_Rev A & P797_L_212_ Section as Proposed.

Shrub planting to the rear yard

2.6 The shrub planting features species which are low maintenance, mostly evergreen and species that are hardy to and tolerant of urban environments. The shrubs includes species that have flowers and berries and are good plants for pollinators, as well as being hardy woody species which add seasonal interest but also help add focus to the rear of the development year-round. Species used are set out below:

- *Cytisus scoparius*- common broom
- *Daphne mezereum* – mezereon

Bat & bird box specifications:

2.7 Swift Bird box - PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box:

https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-rendered-build-in-swift-box-uk-brick-size?bkfno=256322&ca_id=1495&adlocale=uk&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=231032408&gclid=Cj0KCQiAgvPKBhCxArisAOIK Egnm3c8Q342-5isoLRoyk7mAoCOZAbIDed4QLI4yalsc7uw7DKaqoUaAiXwEALw wcb

2.8 Built in Bat box – Vivara Pro IB VL 08 Bat built-in box:

https://vivarapro.com/product/ib-vl-08-bat-built-in-box/? gl=1*p5kni4* up*MQ..* gs*MQ..* ga*NTQzMTA2MDkuMTc2NzcwMTQ4OA..* ga P65KXMREE6*cze3Njc3MDE0ODckbzEkZzEkdDE3Njc3MDE1MDgkajM5JGwwJGgw* ga S6892SNCWJ*cze3Njc3MDE0ODckbzEkZzEkdDE3Njc3MDE1MDgkajM5JGwwJGgw&gclid=Cj0KCQiAgvPKBhCxArisAOIK Eo0Eu7vRRd3N3zgsSdsDAYLPRDcW3SFghi68za8 8kUm64pxbshBrMaAs7-EALw wcb

Summary

2.9 The site plan and elevations show that there is space available for shrub planting within the rear yard and siting of the bird and bat boxes.

2.10 Green Infrastructure elements such as shrub planting and installation of bird and bat 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.

3 LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 Planting to be undertaken in first planting season following the implementation of the development. The shrubs will be watered as necessary during periods of dry weather. Any failures will be replaced on a like-for-like basis in the next available planting season.

3.2 Funding for smaller-scale developments, the Welsh Government notes that enhancements do not need to be costly and can include low-cost measures like bird boxes or native planting. Larger strategic projects often rely on Green Infrastructure Assessments conducted by local authorities to identify regional funding priorities. Funding for the on-site biodiversity enhancements for the project will be managed by the developer as part of the development costs.

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