

Green Infrastructure Statement

Proposed Two-Storey Rear Extension

Address: 12 Castle Street, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4BN

1. Introduction

This statement supports the planning application for a two-storey rear extension to a dilapidated residential property in Pentrebach. The proposal has been designed with sensitivity to the site's natural context and seeks to deliver modest but meaningful green infrastructure improvements aligned with the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's environmental and sustainability policies.

2. Existing Site Conditions

- The existing garden is of substantial size but is currently overgrown, unkempt, and ecologically degraded.
- There are no structured planting or habitat features, and the area lacks biodiversity value in its current state.
- Hardstanding or built features are minimal and not ecologically functional.

3. Green Infrastructure Objectives

The proposal aims to:

- Enhance the site's contribution to local biodiversity and pollinator support.
- Improve ecological value with minimal maintenance demands, ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Integrate soft landscaping elements that align with natural systems while supporting the functionality of the new extension.

4. Proposed Green Infrastructure Measures

a) Pollinator-Friendly Planting (Low Maintenance)

- Introduce select native and drought-tolerant plants known to support bees and butterflies.
- Proposed species include:

- **Lavandula angustifolia (Lavender)**
- **Sedum spectabile (Ice Plant)**
- **Echinacea purpurea (Coneflower)**
- **Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)**
- These plants are perennial, resilient, require minimal watering, and provide pollen/nectar across seasons.

b) Wildflower Area (Optional / Seasonal)

- A small corner of the garden may be allocated to a native wildflower patch using pre-seeded mats for ease of installation and maintenance.

c) Permeable Surfaces

- Where any paving or hard surfacing is added (e.g., patio or access path), permeable materials will be used to reduce surface water runoff.

d) Habitat Support

- Installation of one integrated bee brick or insect hotel on a sunny wall of the extension.
- Provision of a bird box on a rear fence or wall to support local avian life.

5. Maintenance and Longevity

- Planting will be chosen specifically for negligible maintenance requirements (no mowing, minimal weeding).
- A layer of mulch will suppress weeds and retain moisture.
- All features will be designed to remain functional without regular intervention, in line with the overall low-maintenance objective.

6. Conclusion

Although modest in scope, the proposed green infrastructure improvements represent a clear upgrade from the site's current neglected state. They will contribute to Merthyr Tydfil's wider goals on biodiversity, pollinator support, and climate adaptation—while remaining appropriate for a residential setting with limited maintenance resources.

Photographs of site at Possession

