



27th August 2024

Planning Officer
Havant Borough Council

Dear Ms Taylor

APP/24/00612 | Approval of reserved matters comprising layout, landscape, scale and appearance, pursuant to outline planning permission APP/21/01071 for the development of 43 dwellings along with public open space and associated infrastructure works. | Land south of Lower Road and west of Old Manor Farm, Havant

I am writing to you on behalf of Hampshire Swifts, a charity devoted to the conservation of Swifts in Hampshire and part of a national network of Swift groups throughout the UK.

According to current best-practice guidance, as specified by British Standard BS 42021:2022 and CIEEM, new developments should contain at least 1 swift brick per home. In addition to being beneficial for Swifts, swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species including Red-listed House Sparrows, as confirmed for example by the NHBC Foundation report "*Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities*" (April 2021). BS 42021:2022 specifies that all integral nest bricks should be of swift brick design as this ensures that Swifts, House sparrows and other cavity nesting species can use them safely, with no risk of a bird getting trapped inside

The Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy by Aluco Ecology (section 5.3) says that this 43-home development will have only 5 swift boxes or bricks. This is inadequate for a development of this size and not consistent with current best-practice guidance: there should be at least one swift brick per home. Swift bricks are preferable to external boxes as they are a permanent feature of the building with zero maintenance requirements, better thermal regulation with future climate change in mind, plus aesthetic integration with the design of the development.

We therefore request that if this application is approved, there should be at least 1 swift brick per home, in accordance with best-practice guidance. Since 1994, data from the BTO show that swifts have declined by 75% in the South-East of the UK, including Hampshire, and by 66% in the UK as a whole. Loss of places to nest is the major cause of this decline.

Best-practice guidance is provided by BS 42021:2022, and CIEEM:
<https://cieem.net/resource/the-swift-a-bird-you-need-to-help/>
<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2017-03102>.

Yours sincerely

Prof Catharine Gale
Trustee