

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/23/00494

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/23/00494

Address: 1-14 Farm View; 1-10 Hedgerow Gardens; 11-19 (odds) and 30-52 (evens) Helston Drive; 534-548 (evens) Southleigh Road, Emsworth.

Proposal: Installation of external wall insulation to external elevations.

Case Officer: Denise Sheath

Consultee Details

Name: Consultee Principal Ecologist

Address: Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: Ecologist, Planning Policy Team

Comments

Dear Denise,

APP/23/00494 | Installation of external wall insulation to external elevations. | 1-14 Farm View; 1-10 Hedgerow Gardens; 11-19 (odds) and 30-52 (evens) Helston Drive; 534-548 (evens) Southleigh Road, Emsworth.

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is now accompanied by a Bat Roost Assessment and Bat Emergence / Return Survey Report (Vivo Defence Services/Tetra Tech, August 2023). The report details an assessment of bat roosting potential and further bat surveys conducted between December 2022 and June 2023. Of the 48 buildings included within the assessment, a total of 24 were considered to offer some potential for roosting bats and were subject to further survey works. No bats were observed roosting within these dwellings and it is therefore concluded that roosting bats are not currently a constraint. Given the potential for roosting bats to occur at any time, I would urge caution during any works to ensure that impacts continue to be avoided. I would very strongly recommend that a suitably licensed ecologist is present during works.

On the subject of nesting birds, no bespoke assessment has been carried out. As noted previously, there are confirmed (not simply anecdotal) records of nesting bird species Starlings and House Sparrows within dwellings in this area and there is much potential for inadvertent impacts to nesting bird habitat. Whilst I welcome the intention to carry out works outside the main nesting bird season (provided that this takes account of the full nesting season for the species likely to be present, assessed by a suitably qualified person), it is not clear whether any of the buildings to be refurbished currently support nesting birds. On that basis, we do not know the

potential impact of the proposed works on nesting birds how many of the refurbished dwellings currently support nesting birds? However, I welcome the installation of new boxes for nesting birds, but would highlight that boxes for Common Swift (as proposed) are only suitable for Starlings where the nest hole entrance is of sufficient size. If each dwelling is to have one nesting feature installed, these should be externally mounted Swift boxes with large diameter entrance holes. The boxes should be installed in a suitable location, normally beneath a soffit at eaves height.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that the careful timing of works to avoid the bird nesting season, and the provision of nesting boxes, are secured by condition.

Birds nests, when occupied or being built, receive legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Works to the dwellings should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season, which extends from March to the end of August, although may extend longer depending on local conditions. An assessment of nesting bird presence should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to works commencing, and works adapted to ensure impacts are avoided. If occupied nests are present then work must stop in that area, and works should only recommence once nesting activity has concluded naturally.

At least one bird nesting box should be installed on each refurbished dwelling, providing a minimum total of 48 boxes. These entrance holes on these boxes should be of sufficient diameter to allow Common Starling access. Boxes should be installed as per manufacturers instructions and retained in situ permanently. A plan showing the location of each nesting box should be provided to the Local Planning Authority upon completion of installation.

Reason: to protect and enhance biodiversity in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, NERC Act 20226, NPPF and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

If you have any queries, please dont hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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Planning Services, Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Havant, PO9 2AX