

Consultee Comments for Planning Application APP/23/00246

Application Summary

Application Number: APP/23/00246

Address: Land adjacent 38 - 45 Robin Gardens, Waterloooville

Proposal: 4No. three bedroom terraced dwellings with associated parking and landscaping.

Case Officer: Lesley Wells

Consultee Details

Name: Mr Tristan Norton

Address: Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UD

Email: Not Available

On Behalf Of: County Ecologist

Comments

Dear Lesley,

APP/23/00246 | 4No. three bedroom terraced dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. |
Land adjacent 38 - 45 Robin Gardens, Waterloooville 23.0495

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (EcoSupport, February 2023). The site comprises an area of hard surfacing and improved grassland within an existing housing development. I am content that the on-site habitats are not of significant ecological value. The site is bordered to the west by a strip of woodland, a remnant of the former Chaplains Wood, cleared post-1945. This woodland strip still provides an invaluable linkage along the western edge of Waterloooville.

I am content that the proposal is not likely to result in significant ecological impacts, and the loss of small areas of modified grassland is acceptable in the context of the proposal. The western wooded strip is to be retained, although a single Ash tree will require removal. In terms of protected and notable species I am again content that impacts will be minimal: the Ash tree is considered to offer low potential for supporting roosting bats based on the presence of a single split. The removal of some low bramble at the western edge of the site will be supervised in order to ensure that the potential risk to Hazel Dormice (which I agree is very low) will be avoided. Similarly, impacts to nesting bird species from the limited vegetation removal will be avoided by seasonal restrictions.

The proposed landscaping scheme includes areas of enhanced modified grassland (to include wildflower plug plants appropriate to the local area) as well as diverse scrub plantings adjacent to

the wooded strip. These are all sensible. The enhanced grassland areas will require specific management. The proposed integral bat and bird boxes are welcome.

If you are minded to grant permission, can I suggest that ecological avoidance and mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are secured by condition. I would suggest that all ecological compensation/enhancement measures are secured through the submission of a landscape management strategy, detailing the commitment to ongoing management of dedicated ecological plantings.

Prior to the commencement of development activities, a Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Strategy shall be in accordance with the ecological measures detailed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (EcoSupport, February 2023) and shall include, but not be restricted to: details of all ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures; details of habitat establishment, aftercare and ongoing management; roles and responsibilities. Reason: to provide ecological protection and enhancement in accordance with the Conservation Regulations 2017, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, NPPF, NERC Act 2006 and Policy CS 11 of the Havant Borough Core Strategy March 2011.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

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Ecology Team
Specialist Environment Services
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