

As briefly discussed last week

The site's front boundary feels rather over-formalised for the street – and as the frontage vegetation is to be removed I would advise omitting the railing and trying to retain and enhance the character, with a new hedge-it could have a low railings also if the developer really wants a formal boundary but it should have hedge planting behind it. This also will have benefits for wildlife of course.

On the north/western boundary adjacent Ben hall, the boundary is rather harsh – and the strip of grass adjacent the building is impractical to maintain. I would suggest a slim border be created either next to the fence or next to the building and low spreading groundcover and climbers be planted with supporting wires on the fence to maintain some of the previous vegetated character of the site. This will help soften the impact of the façade which I feel is rather imposing facing Benhall.

The immediate building frontage shows indicative landscaping, and I would suggest that the entire areas be planted with mixed, low maintenance, colourful evergreen shrubs to create a garden character and soften the building. This should extend around the site including the east façade where again, some trained climbers will soften the blankest façade, as there is little space for trees to grow which is disappointing.

The area adjacent the gateway and at the frontage & rear of the bin store have space for several specimen trees set into shrubbed spaces – again this will soften the buildings and add character.

The rear area for amenity – I would advise that a low formal hedge be added around the patio areas to define the private spaces a little better with a 1 metre gap for access only.

The exterior space generally needs a little more definition and has planting opportunities - Some medium sized trees along the rear/footpath edge and a low hedge or shrubbed boundary to the west footpath edge and east road edge will add a garden character.

The small landscape spaces adjacent car parking space 14 and 20 should be low growing ground cover plants, perhaps climbers to the fence also.

The rear of parking spaces 15-20 has tree planting opportunities to mitigate the loss of the previous larger trees. 1 or 2 larger specimens with shade tolerant grass seeding or ground cover underneath should be proposed. The rear boundary could be strengthened with new mixed native hedge planting.

The area adjacent parking space 9 could have 1 specimen medium sized tree and shrub cover to reduce maintenance of impractical grass areas.

I would like to see more hard landscaping details – where kerbs and edges will be – to ensure the landscape areas are adequately protected from traffic and to maintain the site at its best.

Will there be any low level lighting i.e. bollards at the rear?

I would advise use of landscape architect to ensure a quick and suitable resolution for the soft and hard landscaping conditions.

Please see the Landscape checklist for requirements.

[The Hampshire Checklist Developers guide is available here](#)

I look forward to an updates plan.

Kind Regards

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