

Green Infrastructure Statement:

Minor Development / Homeowner

Site Address: The Friends And Neighbours Centre, Maes-y-ffynnon Close, Neath, SA11 1HQ

Proposed Development: Installation of heat pumps

Site description:

Detached single storey community hall with hard surfacing all around. Carpark and gardening area on the left (north) with a concrete / hard surface path extending around the rest of the building and patio area to the front. Palisade fencing around full perimeter. Heat pumps will be installed on the path on the right of the building. The gardening area is being developed with biodiversity in mind included a number of moveable potted trees, mini meadow and planters. At the front of the building are 2 small pond features and 2 large wildflower planters, each containing a tree. The south facing path (where the heat pumps are proposed to be installed), has wall planters (creating a living wall) and a downpipe miniature wetland feature.
(see plan 1 Aerial image-trees for example)

Surrounding Area description:

Application site a stand-alone property located in a residential area. There is a similar hall opposite the front, bungalows to the left, adopted community garden space, children's play park and small playing field to the rear and residential gardens sloping upwards to houses to the right.
(see plan 1 Aerial image-trees for example)

Development Impacts:

Proposed installation to be carried out on existing hard surface path. No green areas will be touched and no external lighting proposed. The only impact will be from noise (see forthcoming noise impact report), however, the units have

been kept small due to this concern and will also be placed on rubber feet to reduce impact further.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

- Plant native climbing plants (e.g honeysuckle) along the right of the rear fence / back right fence
- Install a bird box on the large tree on the left of the community garden space that we have adopted, and hedgehog house in the mini meadow feature below (where the tree overhangs our carpark)
- Plant creeping and alpine plants amongst the rocks surrounding the miniature ponds on the front patio.

This will improve connectivity to both residential gardens and the grass / hedgerow of the park behind the building whilst avoiding the site of the heat pump installation which may impact species sensitive to noise (e.g moths), whilst also increasing nesting habitats

Conclusion.

It is considered that subject to the above, that the proposed development would maintain and / or enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by:

- Reducing emissions and contributing to achieving net zero goals, protecting nature by helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Being part of our Climate and Nature Emergency plan which will continue to enhance the local area to support biodiversity with improved local habitats and connectivity.

Thus ensuring that any adverse environmental minimized.

Signed



Dated 29.4.24