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Green Infrastructure Statement

Project Address: 46 Ashwood Drive, Rhos, Pontardawe,
Project Description: Proposed Refurbishment and rear 2 storey extension
Property Status: Residential Dwelling

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 states development “must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems”

Proportionality:

The GIA should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity, and similarly appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Only materially relevant and necessary content should form the supporting information and proposed conversation measures, this also applies to the advice and comment from the Local Authority.

Response:

It is believed that the proposed enhancements are proportionate to scale of the project in question.

Maintainability:

The ecological enhancement proposed require minimal maintenance and overall, there is a net benefit to Biodiversity because of the development and ecological.

Stepwise Green Infrastructure Assessment:

Step 1: Setting a baseline

The proposals are to create an additional 2 storey rear extension for much needed space within the property. Along with refurbishing the host dwelling. Within the refurbishment the property will be thermally increased on the envelope along with having Solar panels and Battery storage installed greener energy usage. The property sits in a semi-rural area with woodland and Agricultural land surrounding the rear garden. The front and side garden are full of mature trees and shrubs which will remain and be untouched for privacy.

Step 2: Identifying Priorities

Ensuring the development proposals do not have a negative impact on existing green infrastructure by improving the habitat, diversity and general green credentials of the development area. Coupled with an appropriate widening of its biodiversity in a proportionate manner

Step 3: Identifying Opportunities

An appropriate domestic scale proposal could include utilising the proposed driveway footprint and create a permeable surface which would help with the increased surface water area and provide additional biodiversity.

Step 4: Site Assessment

The variety of mature planting already on the site is positive along with the wrap around lawn and planting.

Step 5: Review

No review necessary due to the scale of the proposals

Proposed Ecological Enhancement Measures:

We are limited to what can be achieved within the scale of the project but to further enhance the biodiversity the addition of bird boxes on the outhouse will unquestionably provide a net gain for the surrounding area and the scheme.

Implementation timetable:

The proposed measures are to be installed prior to commencement.

Conclusion:

The importance of integrating Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity enhancements into new development proposals from the earliest design stages is recognised and this proposal sets out the benefits of the proposed scheme for both residents and natural environment.