Green Infrastructure Assessment (Statement)

4 Pentwyn Road
Ystalyfera
Swansea
SA9 2AH

Household Extension

Proposal

The proposal is for a first floor rear bedroom extension.

On 11th October 2023 the Welsh Government issued updated National Planning Policy for chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.
The updated policy guidance recognises the value of green infrastructure within the built environment. In order to facilitate a quality built environment enhanced by integrated green infrastructure all planning applications must now include a green infrastructure statement.
A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi- functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach.

1 Details of all existing green infrastructure (trees, hedges and hedge banks) on site.

Existing trees, hedges, hedge banks and grass area to remain during on-going site work and for the planned lifetime of the development. This proposed build does interfere with the current landscaping of the site and not detrimental for the future of the surrounding green features.

2 What green infrastructure features have already been removed from site and/or require removal to facilitate the development?

There are no green infrastructure features removed from site to facilitate the development.

3 How are the retained features being protected during development?

Protection measures during the construction/build to not allow building materials, aggregates and other possible contaminants onto green areas consisting of sandbags and polythene sheeting with further physical barriers warning mobile plant to no-go areas.

4 What green infrastructure is being planted as mitigation for any losses?

There is no necessity to mitigate planting for green infrastructure as there are no losses to existing planting.

5 What Landscaping is being planted to enhance Green Infrastructure?

There is no landscaping being planted to enhance the development as this development does not interfere with the green environment as mentioned previously.

6 How will the new planting be managed and/or maintained?

Not applicable as there is no necessity for additional landscaping.

7 What Biodiversity enhancements are proposed.

Measures to provide a net benefit to biodiversity as part of an 'Ecological Enhancement Measures and an Implementation Timetable' as required.

Implementation

• Bird Boxes - Within one month of the completion of works

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to disturb breeding birds and therefore, annual cleaning cannot be undertaken between the months of March and September inclusive. Bird nest boxes should be cleaned in October to prevent the build-up of nest parasites in the boxes whilst avoiding the risk of disturbing birds using the boxes as a roost site during the cold winter months. All nesting material and other debris should be removed from the box. Ideally, it should then be scrubbed clean with boiling water to kill any parasites (avoid using any chemicals). Once the box is clean, it should be left to dry out thoroughly. Bird boxes should be left up over winter as they can provide useful roosting sites for birds in bad weather.

Site lighting and dark corridors

Measures will be taken to minimise light pollution to reduce any impact on nocturnal fauna such as bats and moths. Any external lighting within the rear garden will it be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT 2018). Appropriate ground facing, energy-saving lighting will be used, on timers. There will be no light spillage into landscape areas such trees and hedgerows on site will not be affected that's allowing dark corridors to be maintained for Nocturnal wildlife.

Conclusion

Applying the step-by-step approach, the assessment indicates that:

• The development avoids any damage to biodiversity.

• The proposal provides an ecological enhancement proportionate to the scale of the development.

• The proposed ecological enhancement will be maintenance free.

• There is a net benefit to biodiversity as a result of the development.