Cwm Planning & Design Ltd.

(Civil, Structural & Architectural)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Project Construction of Single Storey Side Extensions and Provision of off street parking

Address: 19 Cook Rees venue
Neath
SA11 1UR

Date: 6th November 2024

General Introduction:
In accordance with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, this Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared to support a Planning Application made to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for the construction of a Single Storey Extension and provision f off-street parking area at 19 Cook Rees Avenue, Neath.

This GIS will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal following the - step-wise approach referred to in the Planning guidance and will be an effective way of demonstrating the impact of the development and how it is mitigated against.

Aerial view of application site and surrounding area

Site Description:

The application site is located in a well built up suburban area within the village of Cimla, near Neath. The property is located within a row of terraced and semi-detached properties all fronting Cook Rees Avenue Road and all with similar layouts of a small front gardens or parking area and a terraced rear garden. longitudinal gardens.

The property is a traditionally built double storey semi-detached property with facing brickwork and rendered elevations and a tiled covered pitched hipped roof. There is also single storey outbuildings / storage sheds to the side, similar to all other properties within the vicinity.

STEP WISE APPROACH - STEP A: ***IDENTIFY***

Existing Green Infrastructure:

The site is currently within a well-connected landscape with numerous established trees, areas of amenity grassland, with numerous hedgerows and lawned gardens to most properties. There is a small area of mature scrub woodland to the North and larger area to wider West.

The application site interior comprises a small elevated garden area to the front, laid to lawn, a side access path with steps and a fairly large rear garden. The gardens have minimal green infrastructure in the way of established shrubs or plants but do amenity grassland.

Existing street lighting is present along Cook Rees Avenue Road. There is also a PIR security light mounted on the rear elevation which illuminates the patio and garden area. These arrangements are to remain with no other lighting fixtures proposed

STEP WISE APPROACH - STEP B: AVOID

The proposed extension build would not affect the current amount of green infrastructure**.** However, in order to provide the off street parking area the front lawned garden would need to be removed - this equates to approx. 25m2

STEP WISE APPROACH – STEP C: RESPOND & DESIGN

Development Impacts:

Whilst there is sufficient Green Infrastructure within the immediate locality of the proposal it is important to respond to current climate requirements with the need to improve connectivity and habitability.

The extension will be built where there's currently a path and outbuildings. The outbuildings will be converted to provide a utility room and store with a new pitched roof over.
(Refer to Architectural Drawings).

The off street parking area will be formed where the front garden is currently. This will be surfaced with a porous resin bound gravel material to allow any surface water to permeate through. The path above will be retained by a masonry retaining wall, rendered to match the man dwelling.

No additional lighting is proposed, therefore minimal impact beyond the limited localised issues within the current garden and neighbouring areas.

STEP WISE APPROACH – STEPs D: MITIGATE

Some green amenity space will be lost in the form of the elevated front garden, an area of approx. 25m2, to provide the off-street parking area. In response the planting of native species shrubs and plants in raised beds and planters within the existing garden landscape will be in keeping with the proportion of the development and will enhance the current ecological features.

STEP WISE APPROACH – STEP E: COMPENSATE

See above, compensation of the lost green amenity space will be provided with raised beds and planters within the rear garden landscape.

STEP WISE APPROACH - STEP F: ***ENHANCE***

Proposed Green Infrastructure Measures and Bio-diversity enhancement:

The raised beds and planters will contain a number of native species plants and shrubs. These will include wildlife friendly species, to encourage insects and pollinators, creating additional small habitats and further improving localised connectivity.

Planting species may include: *(not limited to)*

Dog rose (Rosa canina)
Common snowdrop *(Alanthus nivalis)*
Prunus avium wild & edible cherries
Sedum (Hylotelephium spectabile)
Rubus fruticosus agg.
Common knapweed (Centaurea nigra)
Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa)
Hemp Agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum)
Bell heather (Erica cinerea)
Field scabious (Knautia arvensis)
Fruit trees
Wild privet (Ligustrum vulgare)
English ivy (Hedera helix)
Common holly (Ilex aquifolium)
Honeysuckle (Lonicera periclymenum)
Common mallow (Malva sylvestris)
Crab apple (Malus sylvestris)
Heather (Calluna vulgaris)

In addition, and to enhance the ecological features further It is proposed to install a bird box (Woodstone House Sparrow Nest Box) on the North East elevation of the main dwelling at eaves level along with a bat box (Beaumaris Woodstone) on the South East elevation at eaves level
(Refer to CPD 002 for details)

STEP WISE APPROACH - STEP G: MAINTAIN

The planting scheme will be implemented with 1 month of beneficial completion. Regular maintenance will be carried out to ensure the planting scheme remains effective.

*STEP WISE APPROACH - STEP H: **MONITOR***

The Planting scheme and bird and bat boxes will be reviewed annually to monitor the effectiveness of each to ensure the enhancement remains effective. Should plants die or become too overgrown they will be pruned or replaced. Should the bat and bird boxes not be efficient these will be substituted for a more suitable option.

Conclusion:

The local area has sufficient connectivity and green infrastructure. The provision of the supplementary planting and ecological measures would aim to minimize any adverse environmental effects and given the extent of work proposed it is considered the introduction of various shrubs, plants, a bird box and a bat box would be **proportionate to the scale of the development** and **enhance** the ecological features, creating additional nesting habitats and increase the connectivity in the local surroundings.