

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Address: Vaughan Avenue Welfare Park, Resolven, Neath

Proposed Development: Floodlit 3G synthetic training pitch

Site description: A proposal to develop a 50 x 50m all-weather synthetic 3G floodlit training pitch on hard standing currently devoted to a floodlit Multi Use Games Area and tennis court (see indicative site plan below). The site is located to the rear of John Street and adjacent to the Vale of Neath Supplier Park, South of the A465 and North of the B4434 Neath Road. The site is flat and laid out as sports fields and a children's play area with Skate Park. Access is through the former 'TRW Cam Gears' Industrial site. The parcel of land for the proposed development is directly to the rear of the Resolven Bowls Club pavilion and bowling green.

Surrounding area description: Application site located in a Public Park setting bounded on three sides by Vaughan Avenue (to the south), Cross Street (to the east), John Street (north) and the Vale of Neath Supplier Park (west) -See aerial image. Hedgerow and tree line separating the Park from the Industrial Units to the west.

Development Impacts:

Impact on biodiversity will be minimised. There will be no loss of habitat, disturbance of species or loss of connectivity, as there will be no loss of trees, canopy or hedgerow. Local species populations will be maintained. 1,260m² of hard standing will be converted to a synthetic surface. 1,240m² of grassed area will be lost to development.

The proposed extension of the Multi Use Games Area and tennis court to a 3G will reduce the current 300 lux illumination (emitted by the halogen lamps) to 200 lux making for a more favourable conservation status. The use of modern day LED 'Phillips Asymmetric Opti – Vision' lamps will reduce light spillage to 11.5 lux 10 metres behind each of the four floodlighting columns. All floodlights are to be fitted with integral louvres to reduce glare and direct light down onto the playing surface. There will be a net benefit for biodiversity.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

In addition to the creative solutions mentioned above due regard has been given to the Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note 08/23 'Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night'. Consideration has been given to keeping dark corridors open to allow bat species to commute safely, as they do now.

Also, establishment of four new bird nesting boxes on nearby mature trees in accordance with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) guidance (North and East facing away from direct sunlight, rain and wind). Two boxes to have a hole 25mm for Blue tits, two with a hole of 32mm for larger birds like sparrows and great tits.

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 the summer and autumn of 2026 ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are minimized.

Signed - Cheryl Payne (Clerk to the Resolven Community Council)

Dated – 25.07.25.

Addendum: Indicative Site

Plan Layout

