

Green Infrastructure Statement

Proposed Domestic Extension to 18 Castle View, Cimla, Neath SA11 3UY

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies the planning application for a double storey domestic side extension at the above property. It sets out proportionate enhancements that will contribute positively to local biodiversity, landscape character and the wider green infrastructure network, in accordance with the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018).

2. Site and Project Overview

The site comprises a typical suburban residential garden within Cimla, Neath, characterised by areas of tiered decked / garden seating areas due to the sloping site, ornamental planting and established boundary treatments. The proposed house extension will result in only minor alterations to the existing garden layout and will not give rise to any significant loss of green infrastructure value. Certainly provided site photographs can attest to the existing status within the proposed extension footprint being devoid of any green planting. Opportunities remain to deliver modest biodiversity enhancements through targeted native planting, retention of existing soft landscaping, and the inclusion of small-scale wildlife features such as bird or bat boxes. These measures will ensure the development maintains and modestly enhances green infrastructure provision in line with Welsh planning policy expectations for small-scale domestic development..

3. Green Infrastructure Enhancements Proposed

a) Pollinator-Friendly Planting

The proposed development incorporates opportunities for modest enhancement of green infrastructure within the existing domestic garden - essentially localised low level planters are proposed to be set on the decked seating area (refer to proposed plans). These planters will incorporate shrub and perennial planting to support local biodiversity and pollinator activity.

Planting will comprise a pollinator-supportive mix suited to sheltered upland residential conditions typical of the Cimla area, with species selected for seasonal interest, resilience and low maintenance. Indicative species may include:

- *Lavandula angustifolia* (Lavender)
- *Salvia* varieties (e.g. *S. nemorosa* 'Caradonna')
- *Hebe* varieties
- *Skimmia japonica*
- *Hylotelephium* / *Sedum* ('Autumn Joy')
- *Verbena bonariensis*
- *Erica* (winter-flowering varieties)
- *Buddleja* (compact or dwarf varieties where appropriate)

This planting strategy will provide nectar and pollen sources across multiple seasons, supporting bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. The proposals will help retain and modestly enhance ecological value within the site, contributing positively to local green infrastructure in accordance with Welsh planning policy objectives for small-scale residential development.

b) Wildlife Nesting Provision

A single bird nesting box (timber, standard or hole-fronted type) will be installed on the rear north / west facing elevation of the property at an appropriate height shown on the elevations. This is suitable for common garden species such as blue tit, great tit, robin and house sparrow.

3. Ongoing Maintenance

- New planting will be maintained, watered and allowed to establish.
- Pruning will avoid removing flowering stems during peak nectar seasons.
- The bird box will remain in place long-term and checked annually when not in use.

4. Conclusion

The modest scale of the proposed development provides realistic and proportionate opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. The introduction of pollinator-friendly planting, together with small-scale bird and/or bat nesting provision and sensitive ongoing garden management, will deliver a measurable improvement to the site's green infrastructure value.

This Green Infrastructure Statement demonstrates that the development will maintain and modestly enhance ecological function within the local area, in accordance with Welsh planning policy objectives and the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan requirements for small-scale residential development.