



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: Kelly Joyce
FROM: Helen Forster
DATE: 23 May 2024
SUBJECT: Westwood, Meopham 20240347

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (KCC EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the county council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application and if sufficient/appropriate ecological information has been provided.

Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the planning officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

Condition 4 states: *Prior to the first occupation of the dwelling hereby approved, a scheme detailing the proposed hard and soft landscaping associated with the development shall be submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include: (i) the type and species of planting to be carried out to include their quantity and size; (ii) measures to promote biodiversity enhancement to include the planting of native and wildlife attracting species; (iii) a timetable for implementation; (iv) details of initial aftercare, long term maintenance and details for monitoring and remedial measures; and (v) the materials for all areas of hardstanding and retaining walls. The approved landscaping scheme shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the approved timetable and maintained in accordance with the approved details. Any trees or plants that die, are damaged, removed or become diseased within five years from the date of planting shall be replaced with a species of a similar size and species during the next available planting season.*

The submitted information has detailed the following will be included within the site:

- Native Hedgerow
- Native planting
- Log piles

We are satisfied that these measures will benefit biodiversity however more could be done including:

- Inclusion of hedgehog highways in the close board fencing
- Bird and bat boxes within the site boundary.

We recommend that information is provided confirming what measures can be implemented within the site.

If you have any queries regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Forster MCIEEM
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:

-