

Comment for planning application 20/02227/OUT

Application Number	20/02227/OUT
Location	The Beeches Heyford Road Steeple Aston OX25 4SN
Proposal	Erection of up to 10 dwellings with all matters reserved except the means of access on to Heyford Road
Case Officer	Bob Neville
Organisation Name	Chris Mason
Address	21 Hatch Way,Kirtlington,Kidlington,OX5 3JS
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Re: The Beeches Heyford Road Steeple aston I would like to comment on the above planning application and request that the Council stipulates that Swift nest bricks be incorporated into the development as a biodiversity enhancement, and that this be made a condition of any approval given. This would accord with the Council's responsibility under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, to 'have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity", and with the provisions of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which state that "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: minimising impacts on and providing net gains in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures". It would also be in line with the Council's own Guidance Document on 'Biodiversity in the Built environment'. Swifts now depend entirely on man-made structures for nesting, and there are still a few of them nesting in Steeple Aston for instance nearby this site in The Crescent, but as elsewhere their numbers in the village have declined. Partly this is because the nest sites to which the birds return year after year are being lost when buildings are repaired, altered or demolished. Nationally the decline has been so great (around 50% in the last 25 years) that they are now amber-listed as birds of Conservation Concern. Incorporating new nest places could help ensure that Swifts can continue to find nest places in the village. There are many designs of Swift brick now available. They are easy to install, inexpensive and will last the life-time of the building. If requested I can be available to advise about designs and/or locations of boxes. I very much hope that a condition such as I am proposing can be part of any planning approval. Regards Chris Mason Cherwell Swifts</p>
Received Date	29/09/2020 21:17:36
Attachments	