

Comment for planning application 20/03467/F

Application Number	20/03467/F
Location	Land Adjoining And West Of Stonecroft House Clifton Road Deddington
Proposal	Erection of 7 one and two storey age restricted dwellings for older people (60 years) with access, landscaping and associated infrastructure
Case Officer	Matthew Chadwick
Organisation	
Name	Chris Mason
Address	21 Hatch Way,Kirtlington,Kidlington,OX5 3JS
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I would like to comment on this planning application and request that the Council stipulates that Swift nesting bricks be incorporated within the 2 storey dwellings. I hope this can be made a condition of any approval given. The ecologist mentions that Swifts were noticed when the survey was carried out, but it is known from records submitted to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (and thence to the Council), that Swifts actually nest in several nearby locations. This makes it likely that if nest places were provided they would be used. Swifts are an Amber-listed bird of Conservation Concern having declined by more than 50% in the last 25 years. So they need help and providing long term nest places is one of the best ways this can be done. Swifts are included in the Council's Good Practice Guide 'Biodiversity in the Built Environment' as a bird which should be helped by the provision of new nest places. Incorporating nest bricks like this would also 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". Providing Swift bricks would contribute to biodiversity enhancement; and not the least benefit would be that if Swifts nest here in the future their presence would bring considerable pleasure to residents for several months of the year. The design of the two storey homes makes them suitable for Swift nesting bricks. I would suggest that four could be installed in each. This would provide approximately one per dwelling in the development. There are many designs of Swift brick now available. They are all discreet, easy to install, inexpensive and will last the life-time of the building. Also they are often used by other hole-nesting birds, House Sparrows for instance (Red-listed). One design that could be used here is the Model S brick designed by Action for Swifts. If requested I (Cherwell Swifts) could make suggestions about the best locations for the bricks within the buildings. Deddington still has a reasonable population of nesting Swifts. Integrated nesting bricks for them would be a good way to ensure that they can continue to breed here.</p>
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Attachments	