

Comment for planning application 21/02893/REM

Application Number	21/02893/REM
Location	Os Parcel 4300 North Of Shortlands And South Of High Rock Hook Norton Road Sibford Ferris
Proposal	Approval of reserved matters pursuant to condition 1 of planning permission 18/01894/OUT for details of layout, appearance, scale, landscaping, access and parking for 25 dwellings
Case Officer	Nathanael Stock

Organisation Name	Tim Huckvale
Address	2 Mannings Close,Sibford Ferris,Banbury,OX15 5RA
Type of Comment	Comment
Type	neighbour

Comments 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 also 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 Cherwell Council's own Guidance Document on 'Biodiversity in the Built environment' (at http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/documents/s42083/Appendix%205_Biodiversity%20in%20the%20Built%20Environment%20Guidance2.pdf, and attached below). As the Guidance Document says, swifts are a species that is "dependent on our buildings for breeding sites but the capacity for our buildings to provide such sites is quickly disappearing across the UK, contributing to a very significant decline in their populations". Again quoting from the Cherwell guidance document: "There are many different types and models of species-adapted nest box and "brick" readily available on the market. Nest bricks designed specifically for Swifts have the advantage that they will be used not only by Swifts but also by House Sparrows, Starlings, Blue Tits and Great Tits. These nest bricks are inconspicuous, simple to install and do not require ongoing maintenance. Boxes should be approximately 5 metres or more above ground level and ideally will be sited close to the eaves or bargeboards." I have also attached an RSPB document about swift bricks. A target of one swift box per dwelling on average would be reasonable, but it would be best to group them in twos and threes rather than singly. I believe that targeting nestbox help for swifts is likely to pay off quite quickly, as there are several small colonies of swifts in the Sibfords already. I provided four internal nestboxes in the gable of our extension in 2017 and very quickly attracted breeding pairs that have successfully raised about twenty chicks since then. However, we still get more swifts "banging" on our occupied boxes as they look for nesting sites. If residents in the new development are willing to play recordings of swift calls at appropriate times (something I could help them with) they would soon attract breeding pairs and would be rewarded with spectacular flying displays on summer evenings.

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Attachments The following files have been uploaded:

- Appendix 5_Biodiversity in the Built Environment Guidance2.pdf
- rspb-swift-bricks.pdf