

From: Mason

Sent: 18 June 2020 17:15

To: James Kirkham

Subject: Planning App 20/01317/F - Magistrates Court Warwick Road Banbury

Dear Mr Kirkham

I thought I'd send you direct the comments I've submitted about this application (see below). It's an important building for Swifts and other wildlife and there would seem to be good opportunities for enhancement here.

I would be glad to offer advice regarding Swifts if requested though in this case it looks as though the ecologist is well informed.

Regards

Chris Mason (Cherwell Swifts)

Comments

The building is known as a traditional Swifts' nest site. There are at least 2 nesting pairs and very likely more. As proposed by the applicant's ecologist the access to these should be left if at all possible. Swifts remain faithful to these traditional sites for a very long time.

In addition the opportunity should be used to incorporate Swifts nesting bricks within the structure of the building. The application suggests 2 of these, but there is ample space to include more than this. Swifts are sociable birds, so a small colony could be created here.

Given that nest places are so frequently lost when building repairs are carried out, 10 nest bricks within the new structure would be one appropriate way of enhancing biodiversity, and would more nearly accord with the Council's biodiversity aims regarding developments.

Swifts will not cause nuisance to residents. Specially-designed bricks are all completely self-contained. The birds leave no mess near or below their nests. Having wildlife around people's homes is likely to be beneficial for their well-being.

I endorse the proposal that provision be made for a bat roost within the structure.