

Landscape Design and Biodiversity Statement For The Grove Lawn Tennis Club, Cascade Avenue.

Our Ref: Biodiversity and Sustainability Statement 2

Introduction

The project will involve the creation of gardens and green space around the proposed buildings. The primary aim of the design is to soften the new built form and to give a continuous and enhanced street scene. In addition, it will be essential to consider maximising biodiversity where possible and to make the scheme sustainable and successful in the long term.

Nature

The choices of plant and tree varieties will aim to provide benefits for birds, insects, and mammals. This can be done by providing flowering plants for nectar, fruiting plants for food and plants that create habitat. Plants will generally provide greater benefit if they are native, although, certain non-native cultivated varieties can also be utilised. The use of non-native varieties in some locations can also be considered good practice with climatic change in mind. This is particularly important when considering tree species which, being long lived, could experience a considerable change in their environment throughout their life time. Layout of trees and shrub planting will be important to facilitate the movement of birds by creating “connectivity” across the site to neighbouring vegetation. Artificial means of creating habitat will also be incorporated into the scheme in the form of bird and bat boxes. These will be positioned in line with guidance from relevant guidelines to developers. The protected Cudweed plants will be moved as recommended to the bin store roofs that will be designed as brown roofs to allow the Cudweed to live and propagate.

Plant choices

Sustainable development is a very pertinent term in construction and site planning. The site will be sustainable by making careful plant choices tailored to the available maintenance resource and skill set. A manual will be provided to detail these procedures to ensure the scheme is successful and achieves the desired aesthetic. The beds to the fronts of the new buildings will be planted with, predominantly, ground cover plants. A Beech hedge will be planted along the front boundary to compliment the aesthetic of the rest of the estate. This will be punctuated with wooden gates to provide access. Climbers will be planted on the fronts and backs of the houses, again to mimic similar houses on the street but also to soften the new development. Garden trees will be planted in the front and rear gardens examples of these are Hawthorn, Mountain Ash, Pendula Birch and Ornamental Pear. These trees have been chosen for suitable size, Autumn colour and to provide food for birds and insects.

Trees and hard surfaces

As well as re-evaluating the building foundation positions, tree protection is a key consideration with the safeguarding of trees and their roots paramount in the minds of the designers. To achieve this, aim the landscape scheme has been designed to have a minimal impact on tree rootzones. To this end all paths will be “floating” on a steel frame system with piled supports. These paths avoid excavation, compaction, and allows vital water and air to reach the roots. It will also allow plants to grow in these shady areas adding to biodiversity on site. The paths have been designed in collaboration with an arboricultural consultant and in accordance with recommendations for tree protection.

Disabled users

These floating paths will also provide level access to the houses for disabled users.

Sustainable drainage

The nature of lawns, plants and trees will help to control and store water on site.

Urban Greening Factor

This study has been carried out to evaluate the landscape schemes contribution to urban greening. This includes items such as trees and plants, rain water drainage and surface treatments. The urban greening factor of the proposed site would be 0.038.