

Grove Lawn Tennis Club, Landscape Plan

Design Statement

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 create a continuous and enhanced street scene. As well as creating these benefits, it will be essential to consider maximising biodiversity where possible and to make the scheme sustainable and successful in the long term.

Plant and tree varieties will aim to maximise benefits for wildlife. This includes birds, insects, and mammals. This can be done by providing flowering plants for nectar, fruiting plants for food and plants for 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 can also be considered with global warming in mind. This is particularly important when considering tree species which, being long lived, could experience a considerable change in their environment. Layout of tree and shrub planting will be important to facilitate the movement of birds by creating "connectivity" across the site. 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.

Sustainable development is a very pertinent term for 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.

As well as re-evaluating the building 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 root zones. 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 nature of plants and trees will help to control and store water on site.

