

Householder Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

15 West Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1XA

Proposed Development:

'Replace front and rear windows with like for like style, double glazed windows and replace the doors of the property with Accoya timber frame doors. Replace rear garden fencing and replacement of the rear wall outdoor lights with sensor lights. Replace the rainwater gutter and fascia board to the front elevation, like for like. Alterations to property manhole and removal of concrete in garden'.

1. Introduction

In accordance with local planning policies regarding biodiversity enhancement, this statement outlines the proposed measures to be incorporated into the proposed development, as per above, to support local wildlife and habitats.

2. Appraisal

The rear courtyard style garden is enclosed by rendered walls with a timber fence defining the rear boundary. The central section of the garden comprises concrete cast in-situ; this area is enclosed by natural stone slabs, inset within gravel.

The stone slabs are proposed to be retained due to the following:

- Natural breathability;
- Raw composition that encourages microhabitats;
- Zero Volatile Organic Compounds emissions;
- Thermal regulation capacity contributing towards a temperature-stable environment.

The concrete cast in-situ is proposed to be completely removed due to the following:

- High PH Levels – these deter most pioneering bacteria, lichens and mosses;
- Surface Impermeability – the smooth solid finish seals off the natural environment and does not provide micro-niches for seeds to germinate or insects to shelter, resulting in a 'sterile' zone to the centre of the garden;
- Heat Enhancement – concrete absorbs and traps heat;
- Contributes to water 'run-off'.

3. Proposed Enhancement Measures

To deliver a positive contribution to the local environment, the proposed development will:

- Remove all of the concrete to the centre of the garden.

- Install a coastal garden theme to improve biodiversity within the extant garden framework. This will comprise the following:
 - Gravel Mulch – to promote a biodiverse ecosystem, creating a low-nutrient, well-draining environment that supports drought-tolerant, native plant communities. It also reflects light and mimics a natural beach habitat, appropriate to the location of the property.
 - Planting of native species – plants and shrubs indigenous to the region that will support the ecosystem of the garden overall. For example:
 - Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*):
 - Coastal Grasses such as Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) Common Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Cordgrass (*Spartina* species) and Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*).
 - Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*)
 - Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*)
 - Yellow Horned Poppy (*Glaucium flavum*)
 - Sea Campion (*Silene uniflora*).
 - 2 x hanging baskets and 1 x trellis, placed on the garden walls and planted with native species such as trailing lantana, ivy-leaved geraniums and calibrachoa for the hanging baskets and escallonia or evergreen clematis for the trellis in order to increase the garden's biodiversity
 - Zero use of synthetic pesticides.

3. Conclusion

The proposed enhancements are proportionate to the scale of the courtyard garden and householder development. They will result in no adverse effects to existing habitats and will provide a measurable net benefit to local biodiversity.