pete sonntag
ARCHITECT

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

Old Flint House, Church Lane, Ferring, BN12 5HR
16 November 2024

Policy

Policy - ENV DM5

17.1 Natural Environment

Arun's Local Plan strategic objective for the Natural Environment is:

"To plan for climate change and work in harmony with the environment to conserve natural resources and increase biodiversity."

Policy ENV SP1

Natural Environment

Arun District Council will encourage and promote the preservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment through the development process and particularly through policies for the protection of both designated and non-designated sites. Where possible it shall also promote the creation of new areas for habitats and species. In relation to designated sites, development will be permitted where it protects sites listed in Tables 17.1-17.7 that are recognised for the species and habitats contained within them.

Assessment

Our site is not within -

1. Designated site of biodiversity of geological importance,
2. Ramsars site,
3. Special Area of Conservation (SAC),
4. Special Protected Area,
5. Nationally Designated Site,
6. Marine Conservation Zone,
7. Locally Important Site,
8. Local Nature Reserve,
9. Site of Nature Conservation Importance, or
10. Regionally Important and Geomorphological Site.

Considerations

The site is currently the driveway/parking for The Old Flint House. The garden contains many small bushes and is bound by small and well established trees; the rest is grass with shrubs and well planted borders. The area where the carport is proposed is currently gravel and paving, please see submitted site photos. As such it could be considered the current biodiversity potential of the whole site is very high. Please see existing image below.

Proposals

The site is already rich in diversity and planting, all existing planting will be respected during the works and as much as possible retained to protect the current biodiversity. New biodiversity will be encouraged by:

1. Using permeable paving where appropriate.

2. Retain areas of bushes/shrubs to encourage a diverse mixture of native species to intercept surface water.

3. Create compost heap to compost waste and improve soils.

5. Retain friendly linear features (e.g., native, mixed-species hedgerows along site boundaries), to improve air quality and encourage native bird and insect species.

6. Retain plants that provide a variety of food for wildlife e.g. nectar rich/berries/grasses.

7. Protect and maintain as much of the existing trees and shrubs as possible.

8. Retain existing tree cover ensuring trees are native and locally characteristic and well managed to facilitate more natural diversity growth.

9. Minimise areas of heavily managed amenity grass considering using wildflower and add to existing meadow mixes on less intensively used areas.

10. Potentially use new planting to connect up nearby habitats.

11. Minimise areas of heavily managed amenity grass considering using wildflower and meadow mixes on less intensively used areas.

12. Rainwater from the proposed carport will be collected and used for watering the garden.

13. Bird box located on the new carport or appropriate tree.

14. Hedgehog nesting box to be provided on the site.

Additional considerations during construction:

15. Any works to the trees or vegetation clearance on the site should only be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season which takes place between 1st March - 1st October.

16. As a precaution any trenches should be covered overnight, or a means of escape made available and any hazardous materials need to be suitably stored away so animals cannot access them. Any brush, compost and /or debris piles on site could provide shelter areas and hibernation potential for hedgehogs. These piles will be removed outside of the hibernation period mid October to mid March inclusive. The piles will undergo soft demolition.

Conclusion

The above proposals will retain and enhance the current biodiversity possibilities and will contribute to the wider local by providing opportunities for species of wildlife, including bats and native plants to establish a new area for habitation or visitation.

Due to the size of the site and proposed construction no further Biodiversity Assessment is deemed unnecessary and all items listed above are considered an improvement over the rich biodiverse situation.