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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

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Wrexham County Borough Council
Planning Services.

Description – Green Infrastructure Statement.

Address – The Laurels, Hightown Road, Wrexham

Client – Mr & Mrs Whittaker.

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of a householder planning application for a single-storey front extension to an existing residential dwelling within an established built-up residential area of Wrexham.

The property forms part of an established urban residential environment. The site is predominantly domestic in character, with existing garden areas and boundary vegetation providing the principal opportunities for green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement.

The proposed development is of a domestic scale and is not expected to result in significant effects on the wider green infrastructure network. Nevertheless, opportunities have been considered to incorporate proportionate measures that maintain and enhance biodiversity within the site.

2. Green Infrastructure Context

The application site is situated within an established built-up residential area, where green infrastructure is primarily provided by:

- Existing private gardens and garden planting;
- Existing trees, shrubs and boundary vegetation associated with residential properties;
- Street trees and other incidental areas of urban vegetation where present; and

- Nearby public open spaces and other areas of urban green space.

The existing garden and boundary areas provide opportunities for small-scale biodiversity enhancements which can contribute to the wider urban green infrastructure network.

The proposed extensions will remain within the established residential setting and will not result in the loss of any significant area of natural habitat, woodland or other designated green infrastructure.

3. Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Measures

a. Bat Habitat Box

As a proportionate biodiversity enhancement, the applicant proposes to install a Beaumaris Bat Box (approximately 290 x 400 x 70 mm), sourced from Wildcare National Ecology Supplies.

The bat box will be installed in a suitable position on the property or within the garden, subject to the practical requirements of the building and surrounding vegetation. Where practicable, it will be positioned at an appropriate height and in a sheltered location to provide a suitable potential roosting opportunity.

The provision of a bat box will provide additional habitat within the established residential environment and represents a simple, low-impact measure to support local biodiversity.

The installation will not involve the disturbance of any known bat roost. The measure is intended as a biodiversity enhancement rather than mitigation for an identified ecological impact.

b. Retention of Existing Garden and Boundary Vegetation

Existing garden areas and boundary vegetation will be retained wherever reasonably practicable as part of the development.

No significant trees, hedgerows or areas of established natural habitat are proposed to be removed as a consequence of the development.

The retention of existing vegetation will help maintain habitat and foraging opportunities for common garden wildlife and will preserve the contribution made by the property to the wider urban green infrastructure network.

c. Sustainable Construction Materials

Where reasonably practicable, the development will make use of responsibly sourced and durable construction materials. Materials will be selected having regard to their longevity, maintenance requirements and environmental impact.

Where suitable materials are available locally, the use of local suppliers will also be considered, helping to reduce unnecessary transportation associated with the construction works.

d. Responsible Construction Practices

Construction works will be undertaken in a manner that seeks to minimise unnecessary environmental disturbance. This will include:

- Restricting noisy construction activities to reasonable working hours;
- Managing construction waste responsibly and recycling materials where reasonably practicable;
- Avoiding unnecessary damage to retained vegetation and garden areas; and
- Taking appropriate measures to prevent construction materials, pollutants or waste entering drainage systems or surrounding areas.

4. Additional Domestic Biodiversity Opportunities

The applicant will also consider incorporating further small-scale biodiversity measures within the garden as part of the ongoing use and maintenance of the property. These may include:

- Pollinator-friendly planting and/or a small area of wildflower planting;
- A water butt to collect rainwater from the extension roof for subsequent garden use;
- Additional bird or insect boxes where appropriate; and
- Maintaining suitable gaps or permeable sections within garden boundaries where practicable to allow movement of small wildlife such as hedgehogs.

These measures are appropriate to the scale and urban context of the property and can provide additional ecological value without materially altering the established residential character of the site.

5. Conclusion

The proposed development relates to an existing dwelling within an established built-up residential area of Wrexham. The site does not form part of a large or undeveloped area of countryside, and the proposal will remain within the established residential character of the area.

The development will retain existing garden and boundary vegetation wherever reasonably practicable and will incorporate proportionate biodiversity enhancements, including the provision of a bat habitat box. Sustainable material choices and responsible construction practices will also be encouraged.

Overall, the proposal provides an opportunity to maintain and enhance the contribution of this residential property to the local urban green infrastructure network while ensuring that the measures proposed remain proportionate to the scale and nature of the development.

Yours faithfully,

Spencer Cullis

Cullis Architectural Design