



8th January 2024

Planning Officer
Eastleigh Borough Council

Dear Ms Sharpe

O/23/96432. Outline application for residential development of up to 34 dwellings and associated infrastructure (access only to be considered). Land to the west of Cobbett Way (please see location plan), Land Off Cobbett Way, Botley

I am writing to you on behalf of Hampshire Swifts, a charity devoted to the conservation of Swifts in Hampshire and part of a national network of Swift groups throughout the UK.

In summary, we request that at least one swift brick per home on average is installed in this proposed development if planning permission is granted and that the swift bricks are located in accordance with best-practice guidance such as BS 42021:2022 or CIEEM. Suitable installation should be demonstrated by photographic evidence.

In more detail, the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (November 2023) by MMEcology says "A minimum of 8 integrated bird features will be incorporated into the design of the new dwellings (25% of the new dwellings). These could include a mixture of Schwegler 1SP Sparrow terraces and swift bricks." We'd like to make two points here. Firstly, Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species including Red-listed house sparrows, as confirmed for example by the NHBC Foundation report *"Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities"* (April 2021) which confirms: *"Provision of integral nest sites for swifts is through hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building while in construction [i.e. swift bricks]. Although targeting swifts they will also be used by house sparrows, tits and starlings so are considered a 'universal brick'"* (section 8.1 Nest sites for birds, page 42). https://www.nhbcfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/S067-NF89-Biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments_FINAL.pdf. Swifts are unable to nest in Sparrow terraces. Secondly, best practice guidance from BS 42021:2022 and CIEEM recommends at least one swift brick per home on average per development.

The value of swift bricks is highlighted by national planning policy (NPPG Natural Environment 2019 paragraph 023).

Therefore, we request that if this application receives approval, at least one swift brick per home on average per development is installed, located in accordance with best-practice guidance such as BS 42021:2022 or CIEEM. To ensure suitable installation we request that installation is demonstrated by photographic evidence.

Yours sincerely

Catharine Gale, Trustee