Consultation Response from KC, Ecology Unit

2022/90397 Newsome Bowling Green, St John's Avenue, Newsome, Huddersfield, HD4 6JP

Erection of 10 dwellings and associated works

Date Responded: 27/04/2022
Responding Officer: Gareth Hey
Responding Ref:

Assessment

No ecological information has been submitted with the application therefore my assessment is based on the limited information available to me. The site is located in the bat alert layer and is located directly adjacent to 500m radius of a Great Crested Newt record.

The development proposals in their current form result in the loss of a significant amount of scrub habitat, a valuable foraging source for a variety of faunal groups, ensuring there will be an overall net loss in biodiversity for the development. As such, the development proposals cannot be brough forward in line with Local Policy LP30. Additional options within the applicants' land ownership should aim to provide ecological enhancements in line with LP30.

The proposals have not demonstrated a biodiversity net gain in accordance with LP30 (ii) which requires development to "*minimise impact on biodiversity and provide net biodiversity gains through good design"*. Guidance released June 2021 by Kirklees Council within the Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note indicates that a 10% net gain should be achieved.

Advice to planning officer

The applicant should engage with a suitably qualified ecologist in order to produce a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) of the site in order to determine the ecological baseline of the site and review options to ensure that the proposals can come in line with local policy LP30.

The applicant should demonstrate how a biodiversity net gain is to be achieved post-development. This is fundamental in order to determine if the proposals can be brought forward in line within Local Plan Policy LP30.

The application should not be determined until the necessary assessments have been received and a Biodiversity Net Gain demonstrated.