

## Deputation From Ms Brooks

### **64 Bed Care Home, by Helmsley House, Bartons Road, Havant Planning APP/20/00761**

I am commenting on behalf of Havant Friends of the Earth and Havant Climate Alliance.

The arrival of a new care home in the area, primarily for those suffering from dementia or needing nursing care, is to be welcomed. There is growing need for this type of provision, although 2 smaller units might be more conducive to a friendly atmosphere. That will also depend on how the Home is managed.

We support the plans for a green roof and 63 solar panels, which will reduce carbon emissions.

The secure residential garden spaces can contribute to the well-being of the residents and also enhance biodiversity through the use of nectar rich and native planting.

Further to the Arboricultural Report:

Hedges to the East, West and South of the planned development need to be retained and strengthened where necessary, by planting native species. Underplanting below the hedges should also be of native plants and flora. The hedges need to serve as a wildlife corridor, which will become even more important when adjacent land is developed.

While approximately 31 trees are to be retained on the site, roughly the same number (31) are to be removed. These are of varying condition, but they all contribute to the overall tree cover. Given the role this has in carbon absorption, it is important that all these trees should be mitigated/replaced. If there is not room within what will be a crowded site, the developer should pay for the equivalent number of trees to be planted elsewhere in the Borough.

Tree Protection Plans must be followed during construction to protect the trees remaining on site.

From the Ecological Appraisal:

I could find no reference to fences, but where these exist, they should have regular small gaps suitable for reptiles, amphibians and small mammals such as hedgehogs, which can travel 2 to 3 km per night in search of food. As long as there is access, the perimeter hedges can provide wildlife corridors and connectivity between habitats. The ecological appraisal noted many sightings of hedgehogs in the area, which are classified as being vulnerable to extinction.

Diverse bat species have been noted in the vicinity, in considerable numbers, including Bechstein's bat. Bat boxes should be installed in the larger trees on the

site. Lighting used round the exterior of the building should be kept to the minimum and of a type that will be least disruptive to the bats and other wildlife.

Many bird species have been recorded around the area, and different size nest boxes should be placed in tall trees round the site. This should include nesting suitable for barn owls which have been seen over the site.

The aim should be for net gain in biodiversity, or at least to fully mitigate any loss.

Patricia Brooks 13.10.20.