

**Deputation on Planning APP/20/00761  
64 Bed Care Home, by Helmsley House, Bartons Road, Havant  
On behalf of Havant Friends of the Earth and Havant Climate Alliance.**

**We support this application providing that a number of conditions are met.**

Our area needs more provision for those needing nursing, dementia and end of life care.

We support plans for a green roof, solar panels, and a building with an “excellent” BREEAM rating, 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.

**Conditions:**

**1. Bedroom space**

Although bedrooms meet minimum space standards they appear too small for someone needing to manoeuvre in a wheelchair, or to provide room for a second armchair for a visitor. Bedroom space has become more of an issue since Covid has meant that residents have had to spend their days in their bedrooms rather than being able to access communal areas. Therefore we would like to see larger bedrooms, and consequently a reduction in numbers of residents.

**2. Transport**

(Provision for staff trying to reach the care home on foot or by bicycle will be adequate for those coming from the west/Leigh Park, as there are proposals to improve or provide shared use foot/cycle paths along Bartons Road from New Lane to Havant Garden Centre). However the only viable route for those coming from the south/Denvilles direction is to come via Eastleigh Road, as the footpath north from Juniper Way to Bartons Road is currently a muddy quagmire. Eastleigh Road is extremely dangerous for anyone on foot or bicycle because of the blind bends and lack of verges to avoid traffic. Mention is made of a plan to “make up” the Juniper Way footpath, which should be tarmaced. This should be done before the Care Home opens.

**3. Trees**

While approximately 31 trees are to be retained on the site, roughly the same number 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. Some infill planting is proposed around the boundaries, but if there is not room to replace all 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.

#### **4. Hedges and vegetation**

Hedges to the East, West and South of the planned development need to be retained and strengthened where necessary, as proposed, with native species and an understorey of native plants and flora.

#### **5. Wildlife corridors**

Where fences 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.

#### **6. Bats**

Diverse bat species have been noted foraging in the vicinity, including Bechstein's bat. No roosts have been found but care should be taken with any tree felling, in case a roost exists. 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.

#### **7. Birds**

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.

As proposed, conditions 3 – 7 should provide a net gain in biodiversity and fully mitigate any loss.

Pat Brooks