

HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY

Providing ecological advice to Hertfordshire's Local Authorities and communities

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Mr M Peacock
Planning Case Officer
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AL8 6A

Ask for: Anita Parry
Tel: 01992 556149
Date: 18/04/2017

Dear Mr M Peacock,

Application Reference: 6/2017/0401/COND

Proposed development at: 8- Salisbury Square Hatfield AL9 5AD

Proposal: Approval of details reserved by conditions 2 (materials) & 5 (bird boxes) on planning permission 6/2016/1086/FULL

Thank you for consulting Hertfordshire Ecology on Condition 5 (bird boxes), which states:

- *Prior to the commencement of development a scheme for the provision of an integrated bird boxes must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall detail the location, height, orientation, numbers and specification of bird nesting and bat roost provision. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to the occupation of the building. ☐*

REASON: To ensure the development contributes to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity and to provide net gains where possible as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

I have seen the *Ecological Enhancements* report (by The Ecology Partnership, dated 28 February 2017) submitted in support of Condition 5. It includes plans showing the location of 2 x Starling boxes and 3 x integrated standard bird boxes.

I note that the building was assessed in 2016 for the potential to support roosting bats and that no bats or evidence of them was found; consequently, the building was considered to have negligible potential to support bats. No details of provision of bat boxes or integrated units were suggested in 2016 and none have been provided now.

Although Condition 5 does refer to the location detail of *bat roosting* provision, I am unsure if this is a requirement of Condition 5 or an error of wording?

If Condition 5 relates specifically to bird boxes only, then I am happy to advise that Condition 5 can be discharged. However, if it relates to bat roosting provision as well, then I cannot advise this Condition is discharged until further details are provided showing the location and specification of bat boxes / units to be incorporated in to the development scheme.

I have no comment to make on Condition 2 (materials).

Regards,

Anita Parry
Ecology Advisor, Hertfordshire Ecology