

## **Comments for Planning Application: 6/2023/1079/COND**

The proposals in the LEMP for bird boxes are welcome, however two points should be noted.

Firstly, the suggestion of boxes to attract Tree Sparrows is no longer of any benefit. Tree Sparrows have effectively become extinct as a breeding species in Hertfordshire, with no records received by the Herts Bird Club since April 2022 from the last breeding site at Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits (I am on the Herts Bird Club committee and am part of the team with responsibility for bird records).

Secondly the proposal for Sparrow terraces to be attached to the building could be improved. Any boxes attached to buildings should be integrated within the fabric of the building rather than attached to the outside. Integrated boxes do not require maintenance and cannot be removed or dislodged, and therefore last the lifetime of the building

It would be of considerably more ecological benefit if integrated Swift bricks were specified instead of Sparrow terraces. Such Swift bricks meet BS 42021:2022 and as such provide nest cavities for four red-listed species of conservation concern: Swift, House Martin, Starling and House Sparrow. As a direct comparison, House Sparrows will use Swift Bricks but Swifts will not use Sparrow Terraces.

I would suggest that the proposals are amended to include the provision of 12 integrated Swift bricks within the fabric of the building, to be located on high elevations under eaves and away from windows