

From: wimbledonswifts
Sent: 06 August 2021 16:55
To: Future Merton <Future.Merton@merton.gov.uk>
Cc: islingtonswifts
Subject: Local Plan Stage 3 comment

To Future Merton:

Merton New Local Plan Publication Stage 3
Biodiversity Net Gain: p 515

5.3.19. Development.....should utilise opportunities to attract new species to a site. This can include the incorporation of artificial nest boxes and bricks in buildings to provide nesting and roosting opportunities for birds, including species under threat such as swifts, house martins, swallows and house sparrows, and where appropriate, bats. Swift bricks integrated into new buildings are preferred, as these are suitable for multiple bird species. As outlined in the NPPG 2019 (para 023) these relatively small features can achieve important benefits for wildlife. Applicants will be expected to provide details of such features as part of planning applications.

Comment: Although the specific reference to integrated swift bricks and boxes is most welcome, please add a requirement for developers to follow best practice guidance principles. This will ensure an acceptable standard of biodiversity enhancement, and prevent ineffective biodiversity gestures by developers.

Density of swift bricks, best practice guidance, including densities:

Swift bricks should be installed in the following densities:

One nest brick per residential unit.

One nest brick per six square metres of wall, on commercial buildings.

For further explanation, please see:

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
Journal, Issue 104, June 2019:

<https://cieem.net/resource/the-swift-a-bird-you-need-to-help/>

And

https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf

From

L Cole

(Representing Wimbledon Swifts, associated with Action for Swifts)

<https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com>