

From: [Chris Johnston](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Internal Consultation Letter - App ref DOC/2024/0082
Date: 07 November 2024 17:23:01

Subject: RE: Internal Consultation Letter - App ref DOC/2024/0082

To whom it may concern,

Please find a response below to the consultation for application DOC/2024/0082:

- The Biodiversity Officer, Arboriculture Officer and Senior Strategy & Partnerships Lead (Leisure & Parks) have reviewed the Applicant's proposals and are maintaining a holding objection on the application. The key reasons for this are set out below.
- The proposed tree species 'Prunus Serrulata (Royal Burgundy)' is not a native species, and therefore is not considered to be in line with the Council's wider plans and strategies to improve native biodiversity. A mixture of native tree species would be more appropriate.
- The layout of tree planting would be more appropriate as smaller clusters of whips, building upon existing tree lines, as compared to spaced out planting of larger saplings with risks of not establishing.
- The proposed hedgerow location has been reviewed and is considered potentially inappropriate given existing trees on the site which provide shading and may limit the ability of the hedgerow to establish. Notwithstanding this, the concept of mixed native hedgerow planting is good. Discussions should be held to determine the most suitable location(s) for hedgerow planting.
- Wildflower areas – the shape and extent of these is to be discussed and agreed with the Parks department. They are currently very angular and the site may benefit visually from more 'natural' and 'imperfect' shapes. Furthermore, longer-term management of these areas as meadow grass (as compared to initial seeding with a vibrant mix) may be more appropriate and sustainable for the site.
- The potential for public consultation on the proposals should be considered.

- A better understanding of costs and responsibilities regarding the financial elements of the proposals, and the long term management/maintenance of habitats, is required i.e. defining who is responsible for meeting costs for and carrying out/arranging initial establishment and on-going maintenance/management of proposed biodiversity enhancements. This includes:

- o Responsibility for the work to create/plant the areas in the first place and any damage to the wider site.
- o Replacement of trees/hedges that do not successfully establish in the first few years.
- o Watering of new trees/hedges during periods of drought in the first few years.
- o Annual cut and collect for 'wildflower' area(s).
- o Potential for agreement with Council contractors to manage 'wildflower' areas.

- Therefore, in its present form, the scheme should not be approved. A meeting with the Applicant's Architect and Ecologist is requested to discuss amending the layout and species proposed in the off-site biodiversity enhancement works.

Do not hesitate to get in contact should you wish to discuss anything further.

(Please note I will be on annual leave w/c 11th November, so could you ensure that Steve and Gareth are CC'd into any correspondence).

Kind regards,

Katie Hampton Biodiversity Officer
Communities, Culture and Climate Change
High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
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