

Penny Mills
Planning Department
West Suffolk Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St. Edmunds
IP33 3YU

17th October 2024

Dear Penny,

RE: DC/24/1452/RM | Reserved matters application - a. submission of details under DC/15/2151/OUT for access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale of the local community centre (Class F2(b)) within Parcel D1 pursuant to outline permission DC/15/2151/OUT, comprising community space which will also provide cafe, office, retail and nursery space (Class E) with associated internal roads, car and cycle parking, mobility hub, landscaping, play space, public open space and servicing, including detail reserved by conditions 4, 6, 9, 10, 28, 31, 37, 38 and 44 of DC/15/2151OUT | Location Zone D1 Land Ne Haverhill Wilsey Road Little Wratting.

Thank you for sending Suffolk Wildlife Trust detail of this reserved matters application. We have reviewed the provided documents and make the following comments.

We are satisfied with the provided lighting assessment and the inclusion of two integrated bat boxes, which are suitably included within the provided plans. However, the design could go further in delivering for nature, including bird boxes and “bee bricks”. For a building of this size, we typically expect that nesting provision for swifts – a Suffolk Priority Species – in the form of integrated swift boxes would be provided. Where bird boxes are integrated into new building, installation should follow BS42021:2022¹. The uptake of new swift boxes has been demonstrated to increase when swift calls are played near new boxes between May and July. This best practice method should be utilised when installing swift boxes².

Overall, Suffolk Wildlife Trust raise no objection to the proposals, but remain disappointed at the lack of ambition in the design to deliver biodiversity enhancements beyond the bare minimum.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Jessop
Planning & Advocacy Officer
planning@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

¹ BS 42021:2022 is available from the BSI: <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/integral-nest-boxes-selection-and-installation-for-new-developments-specification-1/standard>

² <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Swift%20information%20sheet%202020.pdf>