

From: Rhodri Jones
Sent: 25 April 2014 15:33
To: Geraint Nicholas Roberts
Subject: RECONIN/13/1279 - Land to South of Glan Usk Primary School, Herbert Road, Newport

PROPOSAL: **DEVELOPMENT OF 248 DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDING BOUNDARY TREATMENTS, RETAINING WALLS, VEHICULAR ACCESS, PARKING, PATHWAYS AND LANDSCAPING AFFECTING PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY 407/1**

SITE: **Land to South of Glan Usk Primary School, Herbert Road, Newport**

Dear Geraint,

The modifications to the layout of the riverfront area represent an improvement to the original design. The combination of fence and hedge planting along the entire length of the bund will increase considerably its effectiveness as a barrier to dogs and humans, and should, when the vegetation has grown sufficiently, make it suitable for use by otters. Also, to some extent it may allow other species to remain on-site, such as reptiles and breeding birds.

This proposal needs to be considered in relation to the previous proposal, for which consent was granted, 03/1531. Under 03/1531, the southern part of the site would be left undeveloped, but effectively isolated from the green area to the north of the school, by the siting of flats closer to the riverbank and increased lightspill. The previous proposal also included permanent enclosure of the reed.

I believe that with the proposed bund modifications, the current proposal is now preferable to 03/1531, subject to some additional modifications.

As the 3m-wide bridleway has been reduced to a 2m-wide footpath, the planting strip has increased to 2m in width. This should be utilised to provide mitigation/enhancement for the lost habitat by further planting appropriate for the site. Having reviewed the updated Landscape Scheme, I welcome the change of tree species to alder, but I notice that the proposed number of planted trees has not increased; 20 trees over 485m is pitifully low. Willow should be used to accompany the alder; there are numerous cultivars of *Salix alba*, *S. caprea* and *S. pentandra* suitable for landscaping schemes along rivers. These trees will add to the light and noise screening of the river, along with providing insects for birds and bats. For the shrub layer I suggest alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), service tree (*Sorbus domestica*), currants (*Ribes* spp.) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). The ground layer should be a mixture of locally native bulb species. This combination of planting will provide a wide range of foraging opportunities for wildlife, along with changing colour from spring to autumn.

I welcome the production of a 5-year Management Plan for the planted areas. It should be expanded to include the monitoring and treatment of any Japanese knotweed on-site.

I recommend that each of the revised mitigation measures is made conditional.

With these modifications in place I'm happy to remove my objection to this proposal, although I maintain a general objection to allowing large-scale development on land designated as Environmental Space.

Regards,
Rhodri

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