

## APPLICATION FOR 2 FLATS AND ANCILLARY WORKS AT

16 GENTIAN ROAD, BLACKBIRD LEYS, OXFORD. OX4 6QE

### LANDSCAPING DETAILS:

EXISTING: The site is part of the side and rear garden to 16 Gentian Road, and is laid to grass with a small number of shrubs, well established along the boundaries with other properties. It is proposed that these remain unchanged except for occasional maintenance, thus retaining what minimal amounts of natural habitat that may exist at the moment. There is open land to the south, which contains a range of natural habitats, and from which an amount of flora and fauna will be attracted into the new gardens if conditions are suitable.

PROPOSED: In addition to other habitat creating opportunities that may arise, the following is a list of items shown on the plans submitted, and which can be the subject of a planning condition as part of any planning consent:

1. 2 Hawthorn trees within each of the 2 gardens – *Crataegus Monogyna* being the native hawthorn, though it is likely that a popular domestic version such as Paul's Scarlet may be more acceptable and still provide modest opportunities for nature enhancement. Generally never more than a large shrub/small tree, placed closer to side boundaries so as less likely to be removed later, and not causing overshadowing issues for neighbours. (Will also add to privacy between the two rear gardens).
2. Lengths of new hedging – As shown on the proposed site plan, these new hedges will be of locally sourced and locally common native hedging as whips, for example 60% native hawthorn, 5% blackthorn, 10% dog rose, 10% holly, 5% spindle, 10% hazel, or similar.
3. Sparrow terrace in the North East elevation of the building. It is recommended that two be provided, thus offering 3 nesting opportunities (photo attached). In my own experience these are often attractive nesting opportunities for a range of small birds such as blue tits, etc., placed 2.5 to 3.5 metres above ground level, away from windows and doors to reduce mess nuisance for occupiers.
4. Hedgehog highways – Exact locations not shown, but existing openings at ground level to be retained, any new fences to have a hole every 3 to 5 metres for hedgehog access.

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NOTE: Should it be expected that further nature enhancement features are needed, please advise the agent.