

Date: September 2023

Our ref: S\_6936/J001454 & J001506

Site: 27 Husum Way, Kidderminster DY10 3QJ, land at OS 385175 277187.

Client: Living Space Housing Ltd.

### **Lighting Plan Commentary.**

Planning permission (application reference: 21/1071/FUL) was granted by Wyre Forest District Council, as Local Planning Authority, for 48 dwellings with associated works. Amongst the conditions associated with the granting of planning permission, condition 24 states:

*24) No development shall commence until a strategy for external lighting has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The strategy shall include the following:*

*a) Identify with an ecologist those areas/features on site that are particularly sensitive for bats, badgers and dormouse and that are likely to cause disturbance along important routes used to access key areas of their territory, for example, for foraging.*

*b) Use the Bat Conservation Trust and ILP Guidance: Bats and artificial lighting in the UK.*

*c) Ensure only minimal lighting on site where it is genuinely needed for H&S reasons.*

*d) Amber (<3000K) lights to be used unless agreed with the LPA and WCC that a whiter light is needed for H&S reasons.*

*e) Show how and where external lighting will be installed (through the provision of lighting contour plans and technical specifications) so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent the recorded species using their territory. This is to include light from properties.*

*f) Where lighting is required along the site access, the strategy shall demonstrate that proper consideration was given to minimising the potential impact in this area.*

*g) Where the road crosses the tree belt to the east and north of the site, a detailed drawing showing how lighting impacts will be minimised, with use of screening if 0.5lux or less cannot be achieved shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

*All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the design, and these shall be maintained thereafter in accordance with the design. Under no circumstances should any other external lighting be installed without prior consent from the local planning authority.*

#### **Reason**

*In the interests of nature conservation in accordance with Policy SP.23 of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan.*

The Ecological Walk-over Survey (Betts Ecology, April 2021) found no evidence of badger or dormouse and none of the trees on site to be of sufficient age and size containing features able to support roosting bats. The boundary vegetation may offer some foraging and commuting routes and is appropriately buffered from the development area in terms of disturbance and light spill as shown on Proposed Lighting Layout prepared by Worcester County Council's Consulting Engineer (Jacobs, March 2023). This plan indicates installation of lighting columns along Husum Way, not exacerbating existing lighting, and seven columns along the proposed access road in the centre of the site. The lighting spill contour of 0.2lux does not encroach the more ecologically sensitive areas of the site including the SuDS attenuation pond, any boundary vegetation to the east or the Ecology Buffer strip along the southern boundary. A minor and low-level spill into the development side of the Public Open Space in the northern section of the site is indicated but is of less than 0.5lux.

These figures are still lower than what may be expected on a moonlit night and are in line with research findings for the illuminance found at hedgerows used by lesser horseshoe bats, a species well-known for its light averse behaviour as stated in the Bat Conservation Trust and ILP Guidance note: Bats and artificial lighting at night guidance (GN08/23).

Lighting on residential properties is not detailed. However, the Ecology Buffer strip along the eastern boundary is of a width greater than the likely light spill from residential external lighting systems, particularly at plots 20 and 25 which have primary windows facing the tree belt. It is recommended that any external lighting on all properties should be set on motion-sensors and short (1min) timers or baffles, hoods or louvres used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. The light barrier could be increased by the addition of a hedge along the western/internal edge of the footpath, which would also significantly reduce the effects of low-level lighting such as vehicle headlights.

This lighting design restricts all spill from external lighting to within the residential area and minimises the impacts from artificial lighting upon wildlife. Provided the above-listed recommendations are followed, the proposed lighting scheme is expected to have no significant impacts on surrounding habitats of good ecological value.

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