

Securing cavity nesting habitat in your neighbourhood plan

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To:Neighbourhood Planning [REDACTED]

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Good morning,

I hope you will consider making a planning condition with regards to 'swift bricks' to any buildings built locally over 5 meters in height. You could use the British Standard guidance and wording used by Brighton&Hove Council could be incorporated into your plan (see bottom of email).

I am running an ongoing conservation campaign to raise awareness about the need to secure the cavity nesting habitat of birds reliant on our buildings to survive. There are 4 Red Listed birds and a further 4 who would use 'swift bricks' to nest and breed in.

Swift bricks are unique and as a result, urgently essential, compared to other biodiversity measures that they are often associated with. This is because the national scale loss of nesting habitat is resulting in severe and rapid declines of swifts and other birds in this category and without swift bricks there is no guaranteed nesting habitat for them in the UK and there never will be any opportunity to nest in new builds due to the modern materials used.

I believe a representative from the Swift Local Network has also contacted you to consider this ask but if you have any queries please let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannah Bourne-Taylor

Swift Campaigner

Brighton and Hove City Council wording that Kirklees could adopt:-

New build developments of 5m or greater in height are required to incorporate swift bricks/boxes, with regard to the council's Guidance note for provision of swift bricks. As recommended in the guidance, internal swift bricks that are integrated into the walls are preferred to external boxes, where feasible. Swift bricks/boxes should be secured at the following rate: • Minor residential development should provide a minimum of 3 swift bricks, or two per residential unit, whichever is the greater. • Minor commercial development should provide 3 swift boxes, or one per 50sqm of floorspace, whichever is the greater. • Major developments should seek to secure similar provision and will be recommended by the council's ecology advisor. • Householder extensions should also have regard to the Swift Guidance and provide a swift brick/box on any suitable development greater than 5m in height. All new build development and extensions to existing buildings are required to incorporate bee bricks at a rate of one bee brick per dwelling. Different requirements may be recommended for major applications. An appropriate amount is suggested as follows: • Major development – the total ratio of swift bricks should be the same as the units using the British Standard Guidance BS 42021:2022 • Minor development – 1 integrated unit per dwelling or 100sqm of floorspace. • Householders – 1 integrated unit. Further policy is being prepared through City Plan Part Two to positively support the incorporation of swift boxes/bricks in suitable new development. All new build, refurbishment, and renovation schemes should incorporate swift boxes and bee bricks where possible ensuring their installation follows best-practice guidance."

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