

Donna Williams

From: Markwell, Jonathan <Jonathan.Markwell@reading.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2020 14:46
To: Craig Pettit
Subject: FW: Tree species - 55 Vastern Rd, Reading (181724/PREAPP)

Categories: Filed by Newforma

Dear Mr Pettit,

Further to your email of 13th December regarding tree species, please see below in full the comments I have received from the Natural Environment officer Sarah Hanson and the RBC Ecology consultant Giles Sutton, which I trust are of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Markwell
Principal Planning Officer
Planning Section | Directorate for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

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From: Hanson, Sarah <Sarah.Hanson@reading.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2020 12:33
To: Markwell, Jonathan
Cc: Giles Sutton
Subject: Tree species - 55 Vastern Rd, Reading (181724/PREAPP)

Jon,

With reference to the tree species plan provided in Craig's email of 13 December (not previously provided), I have discussed this with Giles Sutton and here are our thoughts:

- Use of *Quercus palustris* on riverside - we can see why this has been included as it's a large canopy tree tolerant of waterlogging (assuming this is considered to be a likely issue), albeit we believe our native *Quercus robur* has some tolerance to waterlogging. However, if non-native is to be included here (*Betula nigra* included for obvious reasons), we would rather a Swamp cypress be included instead of the Oak as that would complement those planted on the riverside at Thames prom or even a Sequoia to reflect the Wellingtonia across the river (one of the 'landmark' trees planting on completion of our 2010 Tree Strategy).
- Use of *Alnus spaetii* - whilst noted as bee friendly we would not expect it to have as much wildlife associated with it as native *Alnus glutinosa*, which would therefore be the preference.
- *Gleditsia triacanthos* - assume chosen for light shade to avoid light blockage into the buildings. However these have thorns so should be avoided - we note inclusion of a thornless variety as well.
- Use of *Betula Jacquemontii* - arguably over-used in landscape schemes. Use of one of the two native Birches would be better for biodiversity, however there are already quite a few *Betula pendula* proposed so perhaps a change to something else native. A species with fruit for birds would be good, if not considered to be a potential nuisance given the location.

Regards,

Sarah Hanson, BSc, L4 DipArb (ABC), MArborA
Natural Environment Officer
Planning & Building Control
Directorate for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services.
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From: Craig Pettit [<mailto:Craig.Pettit@bartonwillmore.co.uk>]

Sent: 13 December 2019 10:58

To: Markwell, Jonathan

Subject: RE: 55 Vastern Rd, Reading (181724/PREAPP)

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Good morning Jonathan,

Thank you for your response which we will consider in full. However I note you make reference to the lack of a species plan which I believe I did send you, but apologies if this did not reach you for some reason. Please could you confirm receipt and seek comments on this from your colleagues. If you are able to simply provide updated thoughts on this point via email that would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

Craig Pettit

Planning Associate



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From: Markwell, Jonathan <Jonathan.Markwell@reading.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 December 2019 17:15

To: Craig Pettit <Craig.Pettit@bartonwillmore.co.uk>

Subject: 55 Vastern Rd, Reading (181724/PREAPP)

Dear Mr Pettit,

Further to our recent pre-app meeting, please see attached the subsequent written advice.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Markwell

Principal Planning Officer

Planning Section | Directorate for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

Reading Borough Council

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