

PLANNING COMMITTEE DATE: 23rd May 2018

APPLICATION NO: F/YR17/1028/F

UPDATE

Further consultation received from the RSPB stating the following:

The RSPB supports the conclusions and recommendations registered by Natural England and the Wildlife Officer for Peterborough and Fenland District Councils and have the following recommendations :

The updated BSG ecology report and local plan policy LP19 and NPPF paragraph 109 require beneficial features for biodiversity in new developments and for net gains in biodiversity to be sought. The RSPB acknowledge the barn owl mitigation proposed will be appropriate to mitigate loss of nesting habitat for this species. However, we reiterate our recommendation for meaningful biodiversity *enhancement* measures to be incorporated, to fulfil the policies.

We support the recommendation a pre-commencement condition is used to ensure that measures that will bring about a net gain in local wildlife populations. The recommendation is for appropriate nest boxes for species (other than barn owl) to be incorporated. Additionally a recommendation in relation to the provision of new nesting habitat for a range of relevant local species . Many bird species suffer from a 'hungry gap' in the winter months, which can limit their populations. Incorporating means to provide winter food sources is therefore strongly recommended as an option for achieving net gain in local wildlife populations in this instance.

Options could include the simple measure of providing berry producing hedgerows/shrubs that are managed in a way that maximises their berry crop late into the year, as this can go some way to helping wintering birds. Allowing them to flower in spring/summer can also increase abundance of insect food, and so provide feeding opportunities for nesting birds. As an additional option, the area of 'tall ruderal vegetation' currently marked on the ecology report plan (Figure 1. Phase 1 Habitats) could be used to establish and manage an area of nectar and pollen rich habitat, to provide for beneficial insects that will also provide for other species and create a visually attractive feature.

Recommendation.

To meet the recommendations of the RSPB recommended Condition No 3, (e) be revised to read as follows:

e) details of planting or features to be provided to enhance the value of the development for biodiversity and wildlife including planting of a berry producing hedgerow and an area of tall ruderal vegetation.