



Waldringfield Parish Council

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Waldringfield Tree Warden response to Brightwell Lakes DC/21/4004/ARM, DC/21/4005/ARM

To be read as part of the Waldringfield Parish Council Response

Dear Rachel,

I have been examining available landscape drawings looking for any sign of changes to increase biodiversity of the proposals. The only new drawing relevant to landscape appears to be:

JBA Soft Landscape Proposals 24.01.22 amended to new layout.
This shows part of the east site.

It does not have a schedule of plants but I assume this is the same as on the previous version and all planting appears as before.

My criticisms are:

1 Not enough trees: Canopy deficiency

Small number of trees which are mostly **narrowly fastigate** trees offering little canopy. Tight planting of ornamental hedges round all housing necessitating frequent trimming. No groups of native trees and shrubs.

The drawing only shows a part of the East site so I assume the remainder is unchanged.

2 No relevance to local species: biodiversity deficiency

The planting schedule is all as before therefore all the comments I made in the response of 22/10/21 still apply.

Please note that Taylor Wimpey 'Strategy' states:

"All new sites have planting that provides food for local species throughout the seasons" as quoted in the document from ecologists SES Part 2 environmental action plan.

This strategy is not complied with in that few of the planted species will provide food for native species.

Natural England comments

Also I would draw attention to the comments from Natural England which makes many of these points on page 2 of its letter of 11 October 2021, plus a lot more, under other advice, Landscaping, and which I wholly endorse.

"2) Other advice

In addition, Natural England would advise on the following issues.

Landscaping

The detailed landscape proposals indicate a large number of ornamental shrubs/trees which have little value for native wildlife. Ideally planting within residential areas would maximise benefits for biodiversity.

Opportunities for enhancement might include:

- *Planting more trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.*
- *Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds”.*

This would require a re-think of the layout as in the current design no room is left for wildlife apart from narrow strips between hard areas.

Biodiversity here seems to be providing a lot of boxes but little ‘natural’ habitat.

3 No trees or climbers within gardens and none (apparently) to be offered

In conclusion

The canopy effect will be very sparse even if all the trees grow to maturity. The 5m circles indicated would not be achieved with these narrow growing species so they are misleading.

There is no relationship between the coastal location in Suffolk, with low rainfall and extremely sharp drainage, and the proposed vegetation on site. These proposals could just as easily be in any county in England.

There are few ‘native species’ included and these are clones or varieties not the native growing ones e.g. clones of field maple and birch.

In all the plans are not relevant to current thinking regarding tree canopy to help modify climate and provide shade and belong in the days when stretches of massed ornamental shrubs were carpeted out in housing areas.

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Tree Warden to Waldringfield Parish Council Landscape Architect 27-02-22