



## **Response from Hathern Parish Council to revised Planning Application P/21/1797/2**

### **Entrances via Hedge H1**

Hathern Parish Council welcomes the rethink on the layout of the proposed estate, particularly the changes to the entrances through hedgerow H1 (Boyer's hedgerow). The council took part in a meeting prior to this submission with representatives of William Davis and its consultants. The council pointed out that the new layout had no direct connectivity with the existing tarmac path that leads to the village via Rowan Avenue. The council notes that the plan submitted at that meeting has now been changed. Specifically, the south west entrance through hedgerow H1 has been moved to outside the playground providing the connectivity to the tarmac path.

In the light of this change, Hathern Parish Council questions whether the south east entrance through hedgerow H1 is now necessary. The developer has agreed with the council and other respondents that hedgerow H1 is an important and historically significant hedgerow. As a result, any access breaks in it need to be made only if absolutely necessary. Now that there is a route from the estate to the village via the tarmac path, residents do not need to use the south east entrance onto the gravel path to access this route. The south east entrance does afford a route to the farm track, however as the council has pointed out to the developers, the farm track, given its poor condition, is not an acceptable route into the village. For those residents who wish to access the farm track to proceed northwards, the council feels that the route to this from the south west entrance is straightforward, if a little longer. This minor inconvenience needs to be balanced with the value of hedgerow H1. As a result, the council would wish to suggest that the south east entrance is removed from the plan.

### **Biodiversity Impact**

Hathern Parish Council is grateful that this time, it has been given sight of the Ecological Assessment. The council is interested to note that the developer will be required to make a financial contribution to the LPA, BNG broker or nature conservancy group, or purchase/lease land for creating or enhancing biodiversity in Charnwood. The council would be interested to know how this contribution will be determined and would welcome being involved in the process.

The council notes that the developer will also be required to install bat and bird boxes, however the number and location of these is not given. Again, the council would welcome being involved in this process.

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## Play/ Recreation

The proposed development makes no direct provision for play/recreation on the site. Therefore Hathern Parish Council would want to see an appropriate level of financial contribution made in the S106 agreement towards improving/expanding existing provision within the parish for children's play, youth/adult recreation and library services.

## Maintenance of Hedgerow H1 (see image attached)

Hathern Parish Council notes that a recommendation in the Arboricultural Survey and Assessment Report is for hedgerow H1 to be cut and laid. The justification is that this would provide a better-quality ecological resource in the long term. This would be at the expense of the ecological value of the existing mature hedgerow in the short to medium term. Despite any long-term gains, there would also be significant opposition from residents if the hedge was to be cut down for re-laying soon after the campaign to save it. It should also be noted that the south west leg of the hedge differs significantly from that on the south east boundary. The south east leg is tall, has a number of trees within and is species rich. The south west leg is lower, and mostly composed of hawthorn. It may well be that different management strategies are appropriate for these parts of the hedge.

The council has significant experience in managing the many hedgerows on its land and takes advice from Leicestershire and Rutland Trust in determining its maintenance strategies to enhance ecological value. Now that the historical and ecological value of this hedge has been recognised its management will be important. The council is the first level local authority for the area and is in the process of adopting the green spaces on the adjacent Daisy Bank estate, including the land alongside hedgerow H1, and is interested in taking on responsibility for the public green spaces on this new development as well. As such the council considers itself a stakeholder with respect to the future management of this hedge and would wish to be involved in any decision making on maintenance. The Wildlife Trust conservation officer has inspected hedge H1 and suggests that it would be beneficial if the Trust, the developer and the Parish Council could meet to discuss the most appropriate management regime for this hedge.

Yours Faithfully

R G Dann, Chair Hathern Parish Council

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Boyer's Hedgerow (South East boundary)