



Response from Hathern Parish Council to the second revision Planning Application P/21/1797/2 – July 2022

Footpaths through Hedge H1

We note a significant change from the previous proposal, an additional access point through the hedgerow at the southern corner of H1 is now proposed in addition to those provided in the south east and south west sections of H1. It appears that the new access point is not tarmacked or graveled but simply a grass pathway. Hathern Parish Council feels this additional access point is unnecessary given the other access points and also that it will be completely unsuitable as a route due to the fact that it forms part of the deep ditch that the hedgerow sits to one side of. We would like to see this section replanted as hedgerow as per the previous proposal.

Other Matters

Hathern Parish Council notes that a number of points we raised in our response to the previous consultation are not covered by this new proposal and so we have below re-iterated those points and concerns that still stand, namely :

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.

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.

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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 Wildlife 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)