

Summary

There are unlikely to be any significant ecological issues associated with the erection of the hoardings. Issues relating to bats, nesting birds and invasive species can be dealt with via condition and or informative.

Bats

I have had phone conversations with the ecological consultants who suspect a bat roost in the former health centre. However the erection of the hoardings has negligible potential to impact on the potential roost. ***No further information or measures are required at this time.***

Nesting Birds

It appears that the erection of the hoarding will require the cutting back or removal of trees and shrubs around the building. This will provide potential bird nesting habitat. All British birds nests and eggs (with certain limited exceptions) are protected by Section 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended. I recommend a condition along the following lines be applied to any permission.

No works to trees or shrubs shall occur between the 1st March and 31st August in any year unless a detailed bird nest survey by a suitably experienced ecologist has been carried out immediately prior to clearance and written confirmation provided that no active bird nests are present which has been agreed in writing by the LPA.

Invasive Species

A Cotoneaster spp is present on the site. A number of Cotoneaster spp are included in schedule 9 part 2 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to introduce or cause to grow wild any plant listed under this schedule. As it unclear whether any such species will require removal for this phase and the only risk would be if the cut back material was illegally disposed of, I am satisfied that at this stage an informative will suffice. I recommend an infomrative along the following lines is applied to any permission.

It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended to introduce, plant or cause to grow wild any plant listed in Schedule 9 part 2 of the Act. Certain species of Cotoneaster are included within this schedule. If any such species will be disturbed as a result of this development a suitably experienced consultant should be employed to advise on how to avoid an offence.

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Section 170 of the NPPF 2019 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. The current application whilst potentially having minor negative impacts is a pre-liminary and temporary phase of the development proposal. ***No further information or measures are required at this stage.***

David Dutton

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