

Our Ref: 1805/28/DH/AGR

10 July 2026

Team Leader Development Management
Department of Business Growth and Management
3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury,
Lancashire, BL9 0EJ

For the attention of Ms H Leach

Dear Helen,

**Millwood Primary Special School – New Classroom Block
Application 70195 Discharge of Condition - Application 73285**

Further to our recent correspondence, I confirm the following, in relation to the limited bio-diversity and the use of no native shrubs in the proposed landscape scheme for the above project:

The proposed mix of plants has been carefully selected to achieve the best possible mix, but has been heavily influenced by our Client's feedback from the school, which has a robust requirement, in the interest of the safety of their children, that we avoid the following:

There are to be no plants with berries, nuts, thorns or any feature that will unduly attract the interest of the children, and that none of the plants are to be toxic or harmful if consumed or touched.

The submitted scheme is the third proposal to be presented to the Client and has had a number of proposed plants and trees replaced, in response to the concerns listed above.

In relation to the suggestions made by the GMEU, our Landscape Architect has responded as follows:

Corylus avellana (Hazel) produces a nut in a very hard shell in a leaf husk so is not considered suitable due to potential choking although as previously stated I believe this is a very low risk.

Sambucus nigra (Elder) produces bunches of very attractive black berries in autumn which are edible when ripe and cooked. The raw and unripe berries are toxic.

Buddleia davidii and its cultivars tend to be quite invasive as their seed spreads easily (these are the plants that you see growing out of chimney pots!). It needs to be managed fairly intensively although does attract butterflies.

Buddleia 'Nanho Blue' and 'Nanho Purple' cultivars are typically less invasive. All *Buddleias* need pruning back hard in spring so this is a management consideration.

The Elder and Hazel options fail to meet the criteria required by the school and the Buddleia will impose an additional duty upon the school grounds maintenance team. As these would be largely between the two perimeter fences, it would be extremely difficult to effectively control these.

In view of the above, I would be very grateful if the GMEU would consider whether this scheme can be accepted, as a reasonable response to the safety requirements of the children while maintaining a mix of shrubs and trees that provides an appropriate landscape and biodiverse setting for the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you require any further information or changes.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Ruaux
Pp. Bradshaw Gass & Hope LLP