
Comment by Mr Hamish Burnett

Representing Hackney Swifts Group

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With reference to Policy G6 Biodiversity and Access to Nature (Chapter 8 Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment).

Hackney Swifts Group would like to see the urban biodiversity which relies on buildings to be given higher priority, as these species are becoming seriously endangered in London and the UK as buildings are refurbished and demolished and their habitat is lost without replacement. In particular swifts, house sparrows and starlings, whose numbers have all dropped by 50% or more in the last 20 years, and also bats who are also threatened in many areas.

Creating new nesting and roosting sites is straightforward, as integrated nest and roost bricks have been proven effective and are cheap, almost invisible, easy to install and zero maintenance. Nesting towers are also possible. We would like to see these installed in all new developments that are suitable.

We would also like to see ecological surveys being mandatory for building works in areas known to support the key species mentioned above, and appropriate protection measures taken following the ecologist's recommendations.

Then we can look forward to a future sharing our streets with this urban biodiversity and the feeling of well-being that this brings.

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