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From: michael priaulx [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 February 2018 13:57
To: Londonplan
Cc: Edward Mayer
Subject: Draft New London Plan

Comments on behalf of Swift Conservation.

Regarding Chapter 8 Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment:

Swift Conservation would like to see the beneficial species which make up our potentially rich urban biodiversity, and rely on buildings for their survival, 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. We would like to see these installed in all new developments that are suitable, together with an emphasis on providing street trees, "green" walls, "green" roofs, and also a move towards sustainable urban drainage systems and rainwater harvesting to relieve the "hardening" of the London landscape by the covering over of front and rear gardens to provide parking, barbecue areas etc. This is directing rainwater straight to the sewers where it has the potential to cause flooding, while the associated drying out of the areas around dwellings is provoking subsidence, and altogether it is denying plants and trees the water they need to survive.

Stand-alone combined swifts nest and bat roost towers are now available which are no larger than a mobile phone mast or lamp post, and we would like to see these installed for all major projects.

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 companion species within a greener environment, and enjoy the proven health benefits (e.g. reduction of the incidence of asthma) as well as the feeling of well-being that this brings.

Michael Priaulx, Edward Mayer

On behalf of Swift Conservation

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Website: www.swift-conservation.org

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