

17 December 2024

**London Borough of Richmond upon Thames**  
**Planning Policy Team**  
**Civic Centre**  
**44 York Street**  
**Twickenham**  
**TW1 3BZ**

**Dear Officers**

**Discharge of Conditions | Community Roundhouse, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

On behalf Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBGK), we enclose an application to discharge a condition associated with the planning permission (ref: 23/1491/FUL), which approved the construction of new staff welfare accommodation in the form of a wooden structure in the existing Community Allotment. In particular, this application seeks to discharge the following:

- **Condition 'U0166199'** (Submitted arboricultural details)
- **Condition 'U0166200'** (Ecological enhancements)

This application has been submitted via the planning portal (ref: PP-13643131). An application form is submitted, together with the relevant information to support the discharge of the condition (as identified below). The relevant application fee of £215 (inc. £70 Planning Portal admin fee) has also been submitted.

**Application background**

Planning permission for this development was granted by LB Richmond Upon Thames on October 5, 2023. The approved scheme will provide a safe year-round working and teaching space to complement the existing Community Allotments, which facilitate the Community Horticultural Learning Programme. The Programme focuses on wellbeing, delivering both one-off introductory workshops and longer-term learning through practical horticulture, education and seasonal food-growing skills at RBGK. These sessions are aimed at organisations and charities that work with refugees, asylum seekers, people in crisis and those struggling with homelessness. Providing year-round, seasonal accessibility is key to delivering an inclusive and productive allotment space for the community groups.

The description of development associated with PP 23/1491/FUL is: "construction of new staff welfare accommodation in the form of a wooden structure in the existing Community Allotment."

**Details of the conditions**

This current application seeks to discharge the following condition associated with the above decision:

- **Condition 'U0166199'** (Submitted arboricultural details)
- **Condition 'U0166200'** (Ecological enhancements)

**Submitted arboricultural details** | Condition U0166199 states: "A. *The development hereby approved shall not be implemented other than in accordance with the principles and methodology as described within the approved Arboricultural details "Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Community Allotment, Date: 05/07/2022 V1.0" & "Plan: 001 (Tree constraints & Protection Plan), Date: 04/07/2022", unless otherwise previously agreed in writing with the local planning authority.*

*B. Illustrated monitoring reports concerning the condition of retained trees shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, upon commencement and completion of works hereby approved.*

*REASON: To ensure that the tree(s) are not damaged or otherwise adversely affected by demolition, building operations, excavations and soil compaction.*

The submitted Schedule of Arboricultural Supervision sets out the tree protection measures taken and results of regular monitoring of the site by an appropriately qualified and experienced Kew Arboriculturist in accordance with BS 5837: 2012. Appendix D of the reports outlines the monitoring of the site logged prior to construction and post-completion, and confirms that this identified no issues or harm to trees.

**Ecological enhancements** | Condition U0166200 states: *“Full details of all ecological enhancements shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and thereafter implemented in accordance with these details, prior to first occupation.*

*(A) These details shall:*

- 1. Follow Furesfen Preliminary Ecological Assessment (dated March 2023)*
- 2. Include 1 new bird box*

*(B) Details should include*

- 1. specific location (including proposed aspect and height) on a plan in context with the development.*
- 2. specific product/dimensions*
- 3. proposed maintenance.*

*Reason: To enhance nature conservation interest.*

To enhance ecology on site RBGK has installed seven new bird boxes, exceeding the minimum requirement set out in the condition. These have been installed in two locations shown on the submitted plan and marked in green; two on the new roundhouse and five on the store to the south of the adjacent allotment.

The two boxes installed on the roundhouse comprise 1no. RSPB robin and wren diamond nest box and 1no. RSPB classic nest box. The Diamond box is installed at 5ft from the ground, and the classic box is 4ft from the ground. Both boxes are facing southeast. 5no. homemade bird boxes have been installed on the nearby store building. These boxes were made by RBGK’s ‘Toolshed’ workshop group supporting people in mental health recovery. The boxes are made with non-treated scaffold boards, using the specifications contained at Appendix 1 and painted in non-toxic paint that is safe for all wildlife. They range from a height of 3 feet to 5 feet from the ground and are facing north in a protected corner where lots of birds feed.

RBGK will maintain and clean all the birdboxes annually in February. RBGK will monitor the boxes from a distance to see which are attracting birds, and will review the placements of these boxes accordingly.

If you have any questions on any of the enclosed information, please contact [henry@theplanninglab.com](mailto:henry@theplanninglab.com).

Yours faithfully

**The Planning Lab**

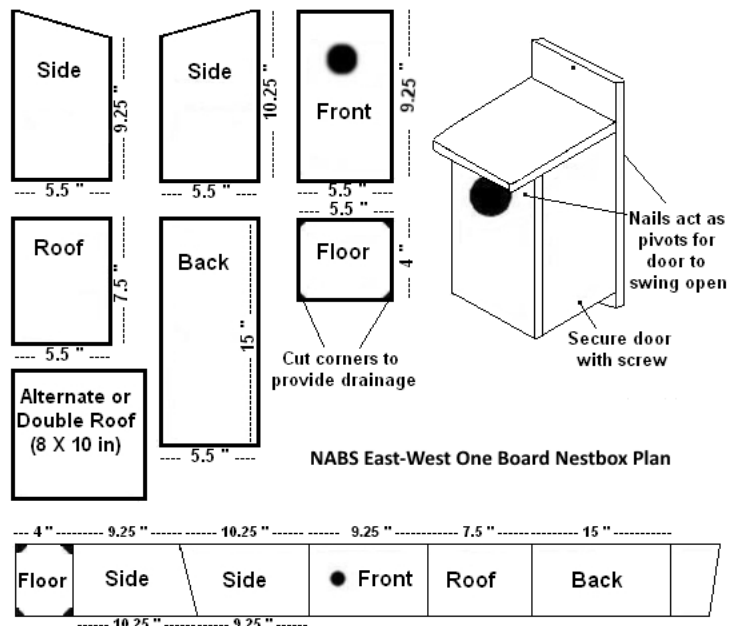
**Appendix 1: Bird boxes in situ and specification**



**Fig 1: 5no. homemade bird boxes located on the store building**



Fig 2: 2no. RSPB bird boxes located on the new roundhouse



Use a single 1X6X 8 foot board (will be 3/4 inch thick and 5 1/2 inch wide)  
 There will be about 40 inches left over

**Fig 3: Homemade bird box specification**