

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR FULL COUNCIL

UNDER PARAGRAPH 11.1 OF THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

The following Motion to be submitted to Full Council on the date indicated below:-

Request the mandatory conditioning of Swift Bricks into new developments in Rossendale

This Council notes:

Swifts are an iconic migratory species that grace our skies each summer with their thrilling acrobatic flight displays, they have nested alongside us for centuries, thus providing opportunities for people to engage with nearby nature, which is now well recognised to be of great value to our well-being.

Swifts and House Martins are “building-dependent” species, House Sparrows and Starlings partially so. However, as the new Biodiversity Net Gain Metric does not consider buildings as habitat, provision for them is not counted within the metric. It is, however, encouraged by the Design Codes thus these species require specific inclusion within Local Planning Policies.

A further challenge in that modern housing is designed to ensure properties lack any gaps or spaces, such as would be used as for breeding sites by urban bird species and bats too. When combined with the continued reduction of potential nest sites on existing buildings caused by refurbishment and repairs, this overall loss of breeding opportunities has resulted in a long-term dramatic decline of urban birds. Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Starlings, all now red-listed, by the British Trust for Ornithology, indicating species of high conservation concern. Thus, without proactive policy we stand to lose many species, causing further deprivation of nature in urban areas.

It has been recognised that integrating nest bricks into the structure of the new buildings is a much-preferred solution over bird boxes; they are a permanent feature of the building, require zero maintenance, are aesthetically integrated within the design, less vulnerable to vandalism and have better thermal regulation with future climate change in mind.

Furthermore, analysis of breeding records from new housing estates built with integrated Swift bricks has shown that these spaces are readily used by both Swifts and other urban bird species, particularly House Sparrows; thus, Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species.

Best-practice guidance has recently been made available with the publication of British Standard BS42021:2022 Integral Nest Boxes – selection & installation for new developments

<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/integral-nest-boxes-selection-and-installation-for-new-developments-specification-1/standard>

This Council resolves to:

1. Ensure the inclusion of swift bricks on in future developments via the ‘Residential Alterations Supplementary Planning Document,’ (SPD) which provides more detailed guidance on

residential building works.

2. Rossendale Borough Council will lobby housing associations who have stock in the borough to include Swift bricks in any future development and any re-roofing scheme that happen in the borough (especially if there is evidence of existing nests).
3. Pledge ongoing commitment to this scheme by accepting that best practice, in the form of British Standard 42021:2022, should be proposed and adopted within any new Local Plan that the council adopts going forward.

Date of Council Meeting:-	2 nd October 2024
Notice submitted from	
Councillor S Barnes	Date: 18 th September 2024
Councillor D Ashworth	Date: 18 th September 2024
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Chris Warren	
Comments: Should the motion be agreed the cost which is expected to be immaterial will need to be found within the existing budget envelope of each development.	Date: 23 rd September 2024
Notice received and validated by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yasmin Ahmed	
Comments: The Council needs to ensure the correct policies and procedures will be followed for the inclusion of Swift Bricks in any updated SPD or revised local plan if the motion is agreed.	Date: 18 th September 2024
Notice received on behalf of the Head of the Paid Service and entered in the book open to Public Inspection	
Received by: Rob Huntington	Date: 18 th September 2024