

Nicola Gunn

From: Derek Richardson [REDACTED] >
Sent: 11 March 2026 09:47
To: Planning
Subject: App 3/2025/0002 land to the rear of Sabden Village Hall Wesley Street Sabden - Ecology Unit Response

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Ribble Valley Council

App 3/2025/0002 Proposed car park for 12 spaces plus additional disabled parking space, land to the rear of Sabden Village Hall Wesley Street Sabden

Thank you for consulting the Ecology Unit on the above planning application.

I have no overall objections to the proposals on Ecology grounds. However, I am not convinced by the results of the Biodiversity Metric supplied (I have taken the small sites metric as the one to be used since this is dated later than the other metric provided). The metric claims that the habitat post-development will be vegetated garden, but the car park will be created using reinforced plastic mesh with gravel. Grass could grow through this substrate but I'd consider that the best resulting habitat would be modified grassland rather than garden. This change would have a small effect on the required provision of off-site habitat which will be needed to achieve a 10% gain in biodiversity, but I would not regard this as significant. It would still be straightforward to procure the required type and small extent of habitat required from a suitable habitat bank.

I'd advise that a final biodiversity metric is provided alongside the Biodiversity Gain Plan which will need to be supplied by the Biodiversity Gain Condition which will apply to any permission which may be granted to the proposals.

Informative – no tree removals or vegetation clearance required to facilitate the scheme should be undertaken during the optimum time of year for bird nesting (March to July inclusive) unless nesting birds have been shown to be absent by a suitably qualified person.

Yours

Derek Richardson

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