



# Hampshire Ornithological Society

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Mr John Richards  
Land and Planning Director  
CALA Group (Holdings) Limited  
CALA House  
54 The Causeway  
Staines  
Surrey TW18 3AX

Dear Mr Richards

## **Swifts at Kings Barton Development, Winchester**

We were very concerned to read that the new Kings Barton development near Winchester will see only 20 new swift brick boxes as part of the development.

Swifts are a rapidly declining species and the reduction is partially caused by loss of habitats as a result of inappropriate large scale development. We have lost 100,000 pairs in 20 years and the decline continues at a rate of 5% every year. Under the current government schemes, there is a focus on net biodiversity gain for all new housing plans in England. This is surely an opportunity for the CALA Group to show that it cares for nature.

The current target of 20 nesting bricks is a derisory total and substantially below the recommended numbers for new housing schemes. Swifts need to be given a choice of nest sites in new housing estates and the current scheme at Kings Barton is woefully inadequate. Indeed, in the first tranche of 420 houses not a single swift brick will be included. This is a shocking derogation of responsibility to biodiversity.

We encourage you to rethink your plans in regard to Swifts. We would recommend increasing the number of swift bricks so there is one per home for the development.

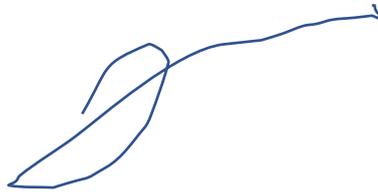
Having a single swift brick per property is a small price to pay to help save one of the most iconic species of bird.

We would be delighted to visit the site with you and discuss further. Do also free to contact us for a further conversation for more information and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Betton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Keith Betton  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Lester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andy Lester  
Conservation Liaison Officer