SF 1942

High School, Royston.

Landscape Statement and Strategy

The aim of the landscape proposals is to integrate the mixed development into the fabric of the surrounding area. It also aims at providing a landscape structure which links the two diverse development proposals for the site with their differing scales and form.

There will be a requirement to create character areas within the development to provide identity, variety and interest and this would be achieved while still providing a cohesive scheme. Pedestrian routes through the scheme would also be given emphasis reinforcing the links and access to the surrounding areas.

A degree of maturity to the landscape scheme is provided by the existing belt of trees which lines the western boundary of the site. There are few other existing trees on the site and the proposals would include strong use of mature tree stock throughout the scheme. Strong separation between the supermarket and the adjacent existing housing, on the south side of the site, would be achieved through the implementation of a significant belt of new planting. Further strong tree planting would be located along the main site spine road and in particular around the internal roundabout where a distinctive tree species would be selected. – creating a sense of site arrival. Informal tree planting would be employed around the public open space with significant employment of multi stemmed trees. Tree planting would be randomly spaced throughout the housing area with the tree species selected being suitable for the restricted spaces available and providing colour and interest.

The use of hedges would be included to give separation and to create different character areas, with this treatment being used to screen the supermarket car park from the main pedestrian walkway and to divide the store car park from the petrol filling station. Hedging would also be used to screen the public open space from the adjacent housing.

Shrub planting and understory planting would be employed in strong drifts and generally in a very simple fashion with a limited pallet of species used strongly. Exceptions to this would be in smaller scale areas where more detailed planting would be more appropriate, such as around the Health Centre and seating areas.

While there is a need to keep the public open space area open, variety and interest would be added through strong use of wild flower planting carried out in large drifts, this could be supplemented through the inclusion of low mounding too further define the areas and help contain children's play.

There would be a strong emphasis of the use of British Native plant species running through the tree species selection, the hedging and the selection of shrub species and this would be reinforced by the wildflower mixes employed in the POS area.

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