



Langarth Garden Village scheme is awarded prestigious Building with Nature Design Award

7 December 2021

Langarth Garden Village has become one of the first Garden Villages in the country to receive a Building with Nature Design accreditation.

The UK's first green infrastructure benchmark, the voluntary Building with Nature scheme aims to support and encourage developers to create high-quality, sustainable places where people and nature can thrive.

Earlier this year Dr Gemma Jerome, Director of Building with Nature, visited the site of the proposed Garden Village to see how Cornwall Council is working to deliver a scheme which puts nature at the heart of development by providing high quality green and open spaces which are good for people and for wildlife, alongside new high quality, well designed homes, education, health, cultural and leisure facilities, and innovative and flexible workspaces.

Speaking after the visit Dr Jerome said **"Research shows that by putting nature at the heart of development, we can build better for wildlife, better for our climate and better for people's health."**

"We are delighted that Cornwall Council is using our Building with Nature Standards to develop a great scheme at Langarth and look forward to working with them to ensure that their plans meet the standards needed to achieve accreditation and see their exciting and ambitious vision become reality."

Now, following a comprehensive audit of the plans by a team of environmental experts, the project has been awarded a Building with Nature Design Award.

"This is great news for Cornwall Council and for the Langarth Garden Village project" said Olly Monk, Cornwall Council's Cabinet member for housing and planning.

"We want Langarth Garden Village to be a vibrant, connected, sustainable and well-planned community and have developed a scheme which will protect the environment and wildlife and create a new community that sits within a biodiverse and hard-working landscape".

Councillor Martyn Alvey, Cornwall Council's Cabinet member for environment and climate change, said: **"By working from the landscape upwards,**

protecting and enhancing green space, maintaining existing and creating new Cornish hedges, planting trees, creating diverse, natural green space for everything from leisure, sport, play, growing, wildlife and nature, and soft engineering, incorporating elements of 'eco' living and promoting high quality building design, our plans will create a nature friendly development at Langarth at the same time as setting a "gold standard" for all future development in Cornwall."

You can view a film about the Langarth Garden Village scheme [here](#)

Since taking on a proactive role in planning and delivering a new integrated community at Langarth two years ago, the Council has worked closely with environmental experts and the local community to create a scheme with green infrastructure at its heart.

A hybrid planning application, which includes outline planning permission for the Garden Village and full planning permission for the Northern Access Road, was submitted to the Council's planning authority in November 2020. The application is currently due to be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee on 16 December.

The masterplan includes around 45% of green space within the site (compared with just 19% in the previous planning applications). The proposed scheme works with the landscape to make the most of the natural environment; retaining as much of the existing field pattern as possible by retaining the majority of hedgerows, preserving green spaces and creating new community hubs for everyone to use and enjoy.

As well as preserving green space and protecting existing Cornish hedges, the plans include the creation of new hedges, rivers and wetland areas to provide habitats for insects, songbirds and badgers; using sustainable drainage as a natural flood prevention system and planting over 5 hectares (12 acres) of new woodland as part of the Forest for Cornwall and other trees throughout the site to support cleaner air and help capture carbon.

A tree nursery has also been created on the site which hosted its first school visit in September.

Together these measures will increase biodiversity by up to 20% across the whole site compared with the current farmland.

The new housing will be well integrated into the landscape and will feature allotments, community gardens and community orchards to support food production and bring communities together. Walkable green corridors, cycleways and pedestrian walkways will connect all parts of the development, together with river and woodland walks, with sports pitches and public open spaces for play and recreation.

The Building with Nature team work with planning authorities, professional experts and developers to design and deliver high quality green infrastructure. The BwN Design Award is used to accredit projects at an early

stage of design, including, as is the case with Langarth, at outline planning application stage.

This can then be followed by a BwN Full Award which is used to accredit projects at a more detailed stage of design and includes a post construction check to ensure that the development has met the BwN standards.

You can find out more about that visit and view a short film about our plans to create a sustainable place that really deliver for people and wildlife [here](#).

Ends

