**Supporting the swift population in Quenington by proposing the inclusion of swift bricks or boxes when responding to planning applications for new houses and house extensions**

**Background**

The RSPB states that swift population declined by 62% between 1995 and 2021. One reason for this is a lack of suitable nest sites. Modern houses often do not provide suitable nesting sites and nest sites in older buildings are lost when buildings are converted or modernised. A link to a recent RSPB article about swifts and the need for swift bricks can be found below.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/swift/help-our-swifts?sourcecode=EMLNNE0078&utm_source=notes_on_nature_20250830&utm_medium=email&utm_term=notes_on_nature&utm_content=31&utm_campaign=notes_on_nature>

The CHEQS biodiversity group has written an article about swifts in the September edition CHEQS magazine and intends to conduct a survey of swift numbers in the CHEQS villages next summer with the help of residents. The article also mentions considering installing swift bricks or putting up swift boxes on houses.

<https://cheqs.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/4/5/11456394/cheqs_magazine_2025-09_full_colour_version_september_2025.pdf> (see page 24)

**The proposal**

As Quenington Parish Council is a consultantee asked by CDC to respond to planning applications in the village it has an opportunity to influence measures to increase swift numbers. It is proposed that when responding to planning applications for new build homes or house extensions QPC requests that if planning consent is granted it includes a condition that swift bricks are incorporated into the build.

If agreed we update the biodiversity policy.

It is proposed that If council resolves to implement this the biodiversity policy is updated to reflect this change.

**Advantages to adoption of the proposal**

More swift nesting sites in the village could lead to increased swift numbers.

Adoption demonstrates positive action by the council in support of our biodiversity policy

There are no financial costs associated with the proposal

**Risks of adoption of the policy**

CDC may not act on our recommendation when setting planning permission conditions.

It will add to building costs for new builds and property extensions.