Hanham Hall **HTA Practice Note**

Climber Planting for Timber Screens

24.02.2016

This practice note has been prepared to provide the residents of Hanham Hall some suggestions of suitable species of climbing plants which could be trained up the timber trellis/ screen elements found on a number of unit types across the development.

The covenant within the title deeds of the properties requires the screens to be treated every 7 years to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the shading they provide the homes and therefore maintain the performance of the buildings. Should residents wish to train climbing plants up these screens there are a number of issues to take into account;

General:

To maximise the performance of the buildings the climbers should assist with providing extra shading in summer but allow sunlight into the home in winter and as such we would recommend that only deciduous species (those which drop their leaves in winter) are used.

Climbing Habit:

Climbers typically fall into 2 categories in their climbing habit; winders and aerial rooting (also known as 'self clinging' or surface rooting). As the screens provide a robust framework for the plants to grow up winding plants are recommended. We would not recommend using aerial rooting plants which physically attach themselves into the structure up which they are growing and can cause significant damage and would in this instance reduce the effective lifespan of the screens. Some surface rooting species of climbers to avoid are;

- Hedera (Ivy)
- Parthenocissus spp.(Boston ivy & Virginia creeper)
- Fallopia baldschuanica (Russian vine or Mile-a-Minute)
- Pileostegia viburnoides (Climbing hydrangea)
- Campsis spp.(Trumpet vine)

Speed of growth / Lifespan:

Due to the stipulation in the covenant, plants which reach their maximum size more quickly will provide greater benefits to the homes. The screens are relatively high and it may be difficult to get a good coverage of planting within the required time frame if only planted into the ground. If greater coverage is desirable then planting into containers located on balconies would be a method for increasing overall coverage. The plants we have recommended would all achieve there mature size within the required 7 years.

Alternatively, if any residents wish to achieve more variety in the planting on their home then the use of annual climbers in place of hanging baskets could be an interesting option. These plants tend to provide more flowers than a shrubby climber but loose their form after one year and, whilst can be treated as perennials, are better if replaced annually. Some plants to consider for this use are;

- Lablab purpureus
- Lathyrus odoratus •
- Ipomoea purpurea
- Rhodochiton atrosanguineus
- Thunbergia alata

-Information obtained from Royal Horticultural Society website; www.rhs.org.uk/advice/ profile?pid=590

Ecological Benefits:

In line with the ecological credentials of the development native or wildlife attracting plants would be preferable. Especially vigorous climbers should be avoided as they are typically nonnative and can sometimes be invasive.

HTA RECOMMENDATIONS - Information taken from RHS website

Solanum crispum 'Glasnevin' Potato tree



Humumlus lupulus 'Aureus'

Golden hop





Lonicera pervclemenum 'Graham

Thomas' Climbing honeysuckle





For further information on plant aftercare and pruning methods refer to: www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=380#section-3



Sunlight

South-facing or East-

Sheltered

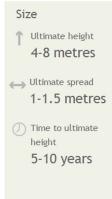


Sand Clay

Chalk

Moisture Moist but well-drained Soil

Sand, Clay, Chalk рH Alkaline Neutra



South-facing or West-



and a second Clay

Moisture Moist but well-drained Soil

Loam, Chalk, Clay pН

Acid Alkaline Neutral



South-facing or Westfacing or East-facing or North-facing

Exposure Sheltered or Exposed



Chalk Clay



Moisture Moist but well-drained

Soil Chalk, Clay, Sand, Loam pН

Acid, Alkaline, Neutral

