

## Case study: Wrekin Housing Trust use of Swift Bricks

### Project description

- Wrekin Housing Trust was approached by the Ludlow Swift Group to see if they could include provision for swifts in their Riddings Road development.
- The development was in an area of town where the nesting sites of a significant population of these birds was under threat.
- The Trust worked with developer UKC to include 5 swift bricks in the new homes.



Figure 1. Inbuilt Swift Brick at Riddings Road

### Motivation

This was a simple addition to the development which required little additional expense but potentially a significant gain to the local population of swifts. The Ludlow Swift Group provided a strong argument to the Wrekin Housing Trust who was willing to do their bit for biodiversity.

### Return on investment

Each 'swift brick' in this installation cost £52 although many designs at different prices are available. It is difficult to determine any return on investment for this case study. The Trust featured the installation of the Swift Bricks in the [news section of the web site](#) and a [survey by Rightmove and the RSPB](#) has revealed that seven out of 10 people in the UK would consider paying more for a property that has a wildlife-friendly garden.

Take up of swift bricks can be very high – more than 60% within 5 years on the redevelopment of a social housing estate in Cambridgeshire which was known to have a significant colony of the birds and where the residents and developers worked together to ensure their survival. See: <http://bit.ly/Camb-Swifts>.

### Challenges / barriers

The Trust reported no challenges or barriers to the installation of these bricks.

### Next steps

The Trust have circulated details of the swift bricks within their development team and said they will provide them in other developments where possible. The Ludlow Swift Group have committed to monitoring the take up of the boxes.

### Contacts

Peta Sams, Shropshire Swift Group -[shropshireswifts@gmail.com](mailto:shropshireswifts@gmail.com),  
<http://www.shropshireswifts.org.uk>