[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 31 January 2025 17:12
To: Andrea Dollard
Cc: DMAdmin
Subject: 24/02389/HHFUL - 23 Ashton Gardens Huntingdon

Categories: [redacted]

Hi Andrea,

Proposal: Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump to rear property.
Location: 23 Ashton Gardens Huntingdon PE29 7HG
Planning Ref: 24/02389/HHFUL
EH Ref: 403505

Thank you for consulting us on the above.

I note the proposed Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) failed the MCS assessment. There is no argument to allow a higher sound level at this location.

ASHP's can cause significant adverse impacts due to noise and vibration. When assessing planning applications for ASHP's we utilise the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) Heat Pumps Professional Advice Note (November 2022). I would advise the applicants look at the guidance, available at https://www.cieh.org/news/press-releases/2022/cieh-and-ioa-launch-new-heat-pump-briefing-notes/

This guidance is more stringent than the MCS assessment and takes into account the sound characteristics of the units which can be intrusive to nearby sensitive receptors.

From the information supplied I have gained the sound power information (53.8dB) and using the calculation sheet within the Heat Pumps Professional Advice Note, the information indicates that the sound rating level of the unit would be 42dB(A) (free field) at the adjacent property. This is utilising the same distance and directivity factors as those utilised within the MCS assessment. I assume these are using the adjacent upstairs window as the receptor. If this is the case I have included a -5 correction as from the plans it appears the receptor would be partially obscured by the boundary fence? Even using this, the sound level exceeds the recommended sound rating level of 35dB(A), stipulated within the same Advice Note.

The advised limit is inclusive of the reflected sound from the façade. In this case as the unit is not perpendicular to the façade of the neighbouring property it is considered the façade correction would only be 1-2dB rather than 3dB, so the applicant would be aiming for a free field level of 34dB(A). Using the CIEH & IOA reverse calculation this would indicate a maximum sound power level of the unit of 46dB(A). The calculation sheet enables users to assess the impact of screening and distance.

It is therefore considered the sound levels of the proposed unit are too loud and would adversely impact the neighbouring property and therefore Environmental Health cannot support this application.

I would however recommend that the applicant revisit the MCS calculation as there appear to be some discrepancies, for example the sound power level utilised is not that within the supporting information for this application? Also the distance calculation does not appear to have been gained from the table within Note 4? The fencing and line of sight to the receptor should also be investigated (Step 5).

If you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL

[redacted]
Environmental Protection Officer (Community) MCIEH, CEnvH, Dip

Phone [redacted]
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CEnvH
Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner

Any comments represent the informal opinion of an officer of Huntingdonshire District Council. These comments are made on a without prejudice basis.