

PLANNING REF : 243244
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Pitts Lane
:
: RG6 1BT
SUBMITTED BY : Mr Ian Raine
DATE SUBMITTED : 19/02/2025

COMMENTS:

Whilst it is appreciated that the consultation period for this application ended on 29 January 2025, further documents were posted by the applicant on 11 and 17 February. I therefore make the following further comments on this application.

It is noted that some noise data has been provided in relation to the proposed outdoor air conditioning units, which have already been installed. Although the data only shows some of the information required, it does show the A-weighted noise levels from the air conditioning units at 56 dBA. No acoustic enclosures are shown and no acoustic barriers are indicated to show any attempt to reduce noise nuisance to neighbouring properties.

The expected ambient noise level during the night in a quiet residential area would typically be within the range of 30 to no more than 40 dBA. Based on the data provided, the noise from the units will be significantly higher than the normal ambient noise levels during the night. As the decibel scale is logarithmic, an increase in noise of 10 dBA corresponds roughly to a sound being perceived as twice as loud. A noise level of 56 dBA could therefore sound at least 3 times, but potentially up to 6 or more times louder, than the ambient level at night. The noise from the units would therefore stand out and be the dominant sound. The units will therefore have a significant impact, particularly during nighttime.

For comparison, a medium sized petrol engine car would produce a noise level in the range of about 50 to 60 dBA when idling. The quoted noise from the installed air conditioning units is in the upper part of that range. The noise produced by the units would therefore be similar to having a car with its engine running parked a few metres from our openable bedroom window.

Pitts Lane is a quiet residential area. Noise such as this at night in a quiet area is likely to result in disturbed sleep. It is not reasonable that residents should have to put up with such nuisance.

Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 lists matters that constitute "statutory nuisances" and includes, "noise emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance".

If the units remain in the positions shown, with no acoustic barriers, they will cause a nuisance.

I therefore maintain my objection to the retrospective application for the installation of the air conditioning units.