

Memorandum

FROM: Mat Robinson
Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Protection
New Forest District Council

TO: Ms K King
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ext: 023 8028 5588
My Ref: EPCST/11/08651
Your Ref: NF264 - HCC/2011/0280
Date: 12 December 2011

Copies:

Wastewater Pumping Station, Keyhaven Road, Milford-On-Sea

I have reviewed the application for the installation of the waste water pumping station, application number HCC/2011/0280.

The pumping station is to be located on an area of open land adjacent to residential properties. This is a significant change to the land use in a potential sensitive area. Whilst we understand the need for the development I am concerned that there is the potential for detriment to the amenity if the design and operation of the site is not done sensitively. My concerns relate to noise. I have reviewed the information supplied with the application.

I note that planning that has gone in to mitigate the noise during the build phase including limiting the hours of operation.

We are concerned by the statement that the emergency generator is expected to have a *"noise rating of approximately 80dBa at 1m (including effect of sound insulating enclosure)"* and that *"it is accepted that the generators will be audible from adjacent residential properties."* The mitigation is that *"the frequency and duration of operation is sufficiently small that noise impacts are assessed as acceptable"* in that it is only expected to operate for one hour per year, plus the four times a year when it will be run under test.

Even though this unit will operate for a short period, the level of noise may be significant due to the expected low background noise level in this area. This information on the expected noise impact has not been quantified. For example, there is no information on the design of the acoustic enclosure and whether or not this is suitable or sufficient. No information on the background noise level that would be expected at the noise sensitive premises and no way therefore to understand if this unit could be heard in a bedroom through an open window at a level to cause sleep disturbance.

I would like the applicant to undertake a noise assessment, by a competent person, in accordance with British Standard 4142 to understand the background noise levels (L90) and to quantify the impact on this development on the neighbours. I would then like recommendations to mitigate the noise impact as appropriate. I would like the rating level of the unit to be 10dB below the background noise level. Further noise control measures may require further planning applications. For example this mitigation may require the installation of acoustic bunds or barriers, a change in design of the acoustic structure or, moving the unit to a more suitable location.

I wish to object the application on the grounds of insufficient information.