



# **MICHELMERSH and TIMSBURY** **PARISH COUNCIL**

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30<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Ms. Julia Davey  
Development Control Team Leader  
Mineral and Waste Planning: Environmental Services  
Hampshire County Council  
The Castle  
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SO23 8UE

Our Ref: KH116/nov2012

Dear Ms. Davey

## **Application 12/02408/CMAS**

**Ace Liftaway, Yokesford Hill, Romsey**

**Variation of Condition 19 of Planning Permission 10/1992/CMAS (extend completion of building for a further 18 months)**

The Parish Council has no fundamental objection to this application and appreciates that the company is unable to complete Building 3 until legal proceedings are further advanced. However, we are concerned that in the interim period local residents should be protected, as far as is reasonably practicable, from noise and dust impacts. It is not clear that the noise issues, in particular, have been adequately addressed.

As set out in the supporting information (para. 6.3.2) temporary cladding to the end (SE-facing) gable wall of Building 3 is proposed as a mitigating measure. However the noise assessment (24 Acoustics' Report R4436-1) refers only to the sound insulation requirements for the cladding to the walls and roof of the completed building. It does not address the effectiveness of the proposed temporary measures and is therefore of limited relevance to the current temporary situation.

The 24Acoustics report provides an assessment of current noise levels from the site (with Building 3 present only as an open steel frame). The assessment indicates that current noise levels at houses on Yokesford Hill to the SW ('Belbins') comply with the standard agreed with TVBC Environmental Health for the overall site and therefore that no noise reduction is necessary. The assessment shows a 'marginal complaints' situation at Wynford Farm to the SE, applying the agreed assessment method of BS4142:1997.

These BS4142 assessments rely on the levels of background noise in the area (the noise levels that would prevail during working hours if Ace Liftaway were not operating). The assumed daytime background noise level at houses in Belbins is assumed to be 45dB L<sub>A90</sub> (1 hour). This level is derived

from measurements made in May 2006, as reported in 24Acoustics Report R1727-1 dated 2007. However, at the date of the 2006 survey the speed limit on Yokesford Hill at this point was 60mph: the 2007 Report notes that 'the principle noise source during the survey was *"fast moving road traffic using Yokesford Hill"*'. This road is now restricted to 30mph and vehicle speeds have (from experience) significantly reduced. Therefore the assumption of a 45dB L<sub>A90</sub> daytime background noise levels at the houses in Belbins, to the SW of the site, is likely to be incorrect. Lower background noise levels would change the result of the BS4142 noise assessment in 5.3 of the 2012 Report.

The 2012 Report describes measurements at Wynford Farm, to the SE of the site, in October 2012. These indicated a daytime background noise level of 38 dBL<sub>A90</sub> ((para. 4.8), which also leads to the conclusion that the assumed level of 45 dB at Belbins may be not be correct.. In any case, traffic flows on Yokesford Hill were untypically high in October 2012 because of traffic diverted from the A3057 during bridge works. Therefore the background noise measurements in October 2012 may also be unrepresentatively high; again, lower background levels would change the BS4142 noise assessment (para. 5.2) and the excess of site noise above background noise, and the likelihood of complaints, would be greater than the 2012 Report indicates.

Temporary cladding to the end gable wall, as proposed, is likely to result in some noise reduction at Wynford Farm, but noise emitted to houses in Belbins would not be reduced, and may even be increased because of the reflective inner surface of this end wall.

Whilst complete cladding of the building will address the noise issue, it is not clear that the temporary sheeting to the end wall will provide effective protection in the interim period, and there is a possibility that depending on the progress of the company's legal action it may be necessary to further extend the completion date beyond April 2014.

We emphasise that the Parish Council sympathises with the company's position and does not wish to hinder in any way their efforts to resolve the issues concerning Building 3. However, we suggest that the question of temporary measures to reduce noise affecting local residents during the interim period should be more thoroughly investigated. We therefore request that a further noise assessment is carried out to specifically address this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Hardy  
Clerk to Michelmersh & Timsbury Parish Council