

Development Control Committee Update – 28th June 2017

Item 6 – Application LCC/2017/0017 – Recycling Lives

The applicant has requested that the County Council takes into account the social benefits that the applicant company brings in terms of providing rehabilitation and work opportunities for offenders, redistributing surplus food and resolving homelessness.

The applicant also advises that they have reviewed a copy of the committee report and have the following comments:-

Prediction vs real-time results - The committee report is written on the basis that the findings of the noise impact assessment are 'predicted' or 'modelled'. However, in reality this is incorrect because the results set out in the report are actual measured results during the relevant days and times.

The assessment was carried out in accordance with BS4142 and concluded a "Low Impact" on all receptors based on measured data. There is no notable change on the BS4142 impact between 20:00hrs and 21:30hrs during the weekdays or when assessed at the weekend.

What activities did the noise report consider - The noise impact assessment did include consideration of all activities including the loading/unloading of the pre-shredder and movement of machinery.

Noise climate after 8pm - Whilst the Council suggests that the background noise levels are lower after 8pm and the noise resulting from the attendant activities on site would thus be more noticeable, this is in conflict with the outcome of the BS4142 assessment which considers actual real-time results.

No statutory objections - There are no objections from Preston City Council's Environmental Health Officer and moreover, there is support from the Environment Agency who regulate noise and vibration arising from the site under Section 3.4 of the Environmental Permit. As such, other than the Parish Council's suggestion of an 8pm finish time, it is unclear from where the rationale for reduced hours arose.

Noise and vibration mitigation scheme – The committee report makes no reference to the approved mitigation scheme granted through the discharge of condition no.9 on application ref. LCC/2015/0070/1 which was approved in spring this year. The programme of works includes the cladding of the fragmentiser on site which will offer additional noise attenuation of high frequency sounds and will address the perception of adverse noise impacts reportedly experienced by local residents. The absence of this consideration in the report means that a material consideration has not been taken into account.

The applicant has offered to reduce the proposed pre-shredder operating hours to the following:

07:00 - 21:00 Mondays to Fridays

08:00 - 17:30 Saturdays

10:00 - 16:00 Sundays and Public Holidays

Officer Advice

The comments in relation to the applicant's social programme are noted and whilst they should be noted are not considered to be an over riding matter in this application.

The applicant's noise survey is based on actual noise readings. It is also noted that the noise assessment included measurements of the noise impacts from the pre shredder and loading of metal - this is recognised in the report on page 21.

The applicant's comments about noise levels after 8.00 pm are noted – however, the County Council considers that the data shows that the background levels start to decline after this time in line with a reduction in noise from road traffic.

A condition of the existing 2015 permission is to require additional noise mitigation measures. However, these measures apart from a slight raising in height of the perimeter wall are to the fragmentiser plant itself and therefore will not directly mitigate noise resulting from the use of the pre shredder.

The applicant's offer to reduce the hours below those applied for is noted. However, the reduction retains the working after 20.00 hours on Mondays to Fridays and the Sunday operation which are considered to be the times of greatest sensitivity.