

Update Sheet for Southern Area Planning Committee 14th October 2021

Item 7(c)

Apologies are given from the Senior Environmental Health Officer who is unable to attend the committee in person to answer any questions regarding the suggested conditions. A written update has been provided to explain the recommended condition with regards to the height and acoustic effect of the proposed barrier as follows below. Based on the advice of the Senior EHO, a condition stipulating the noise barrier at a minimum height of 4 metres from ground level would be necessary and reasonable for the purposes of meeting the tests for planning conditions and preventing noise nuisance to neighbours at Charter Court. This does not preclude a higher barrier being submitted for consideration, however the advice to officers is that the effect of an additional 1 metre above the 4 metres specified would be negligible.

“Please accept my apologies for not being available for the hearing in person. I understand further explanation of the barrier height requirements may be required. The suggested wording for the condition relating to the barrier is:

Detailed plans of an acoustic barrier to a minimum height of 4 metres above ground level, as specified at Sections 4.3 and 4.4 in Hayes McKenzie Noise report dated 10th September 2021, shall be submitted within 1 month of the date of this decision and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The acoustic barrier shall be installed and sited in accordance with the approved details by 1 March 2022 and maintained at all times thereafter. The use of the outdoor venue shall be closed to members of the public during January and February 2022 to enable the required works to be undertaken and tested prior to re-opening.

Sections 4.3 and 4.4 of the acoustic report discuss barrier height and that the resultant sound level at residential properties. The consultant has modelled the sound levels with the barrier in place and the results indicate a sound level of either just below 17dB or just below 18dB depending on barrier height. The difference between 17dB and 18dB is negligible and would not be discernible to the human ear. A 3dB change in sound level is required for the human ear to notice the difference. Both of these sound levels are extremely low and are comparable to a quiet whisper from around 5ft away. Sound at this level in most environments, but particularly in a city centre, would not have an adverse impact on amenity or cause a statutory noise nuisance.

When making a judgment on the final barrier height noise is not the only factor that needs to be considered but also conservation and blocking of light. The condition is

worded to give flexibility while ensuring the minimum height considered in the noise report is required.

I hope this explanation is helpful.”