

Katherine Williams
Mid Sussex District Council
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DM/25/0396 – Response to Mid Sussex District Council Environmental Protection Consultee Comment

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18 March 2025

Dear Katherine,

Thank you for providing the comments received from Mr Nick Bennett on behalf of Environmental Protection on 3rd March 2025.

The comments have been reviewed by our Environmental Consultants and are generally acceptable to our client. However, it is requested that the wording of the proposed planning condition relating to Noise Control (operational plant and machinery) be amended to better suit the requirements of the Community Diagnostics Centre.

It is requested that any planning condition relating to noise control of operational plant and machinery be worded as follows:

Noise Control (operational plant and machinery) - The rating level of the noise emitted from fixed plant and equipment (mechanical and electrical) located at the site shall not exceed 40 dB L_{Aeq} (daytime) and 30 dB L_{Aeq} (nighttime) at any premises used for residential purposes surrounding the site when assessed in accordance with BS 4142:2014+A1(2019).

The measured background noise levels at the site were 40 dB L_{Aeq} (daytime) and 30 dB L_{Aeq} (nighttime). BS 4142:2014+A1(2019) states: “Where the rating level does not exceed the background sound level, this is an indication of the specific sound source having a low impact, depending on the context.”

World Health Organisation guidelines set 30dBA as an internal sleep disturbance criterion within bedrooms. It is widely accepted that a partially open window provides around 13 to 15dB of attenuation. This is noted in BS 8233:2014: *Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings* and elsewhere. Therefore, 30dBA internally would equate to 43 to 45dBA externally. Therefore, any noise level below 43dBA externally would not exceed 30dBA within a bedroom.

The Community Diagnostics Centre will be open from 8am until 8pm daily. It is requested that ‘daytime’ hours be 07:00 until 23:00, in accordance with BS8233 and BS4142.

I would be grateful if you could please reconsult the Environmental Protection team on the proposed rewording of the potential planning condition.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

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