



Planning Statement

Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, RH17 7PG

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This planning statement supports a planning application for the installation of four external condenser units associated with air source heat pumps at Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre, Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill, RH17 7PG. The proposed development forms part of a wider project to modernise the centre's heating infrastructure by replacing an aging and inefficient system with a more sustainable, low-carbon solution.

2. Background and Justification

- 2.1 The community centre's existing heating system is over 25 years old and has reached the end of its operational life. Following a review of long-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the charity's trustees have resolved to replace the system with a combination of low-carbon technologies, including:

- Air-to-water heat pump system;
- Air-to-air heat pumps; and
- A small, high-efficiency gas boiler (to provide backup capacity during peak demand or redundancy).

This mix ensures continuity of heating services to support the building's year-round use, while reducing overall carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency in line with UK government and local council sustainability objectives.

3. Description of Proposed Works

- 3.1 The proposed works comprise the installation of four external condenser units to serve the new air source heat pump systems. These units will be sited:

- To the side and rear of the building, where they will be largely shielded from public view;
- In locations selected for minimal visual and acoustic impact on neighbouring properties and the public realm.

- 3.2 Each unit will be enclosed in a protective security cage, both to safeguard the equipment from potential vandalism or interference and to ensure long-term durability. These cages will be powder-coated in a colour matching the existing aluminium window frames of the building to maintain architectural consistency and visual cohesion.



4. Planning Considerations

4.1. Design and Visual Impact

The proposed external units and cages are modest in scale and will be sensitively sited in discreet areas that are not prominent from the street or public footpaths. The finish of the cages has been chosen to harmonise with the existing materials palette, reducing their visual prominence.

4.2. Sustainability and Climate Change

The proposal is strongly aligned with national and local planning policies that promote sustainable development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By investing in air source heat pump technology, the community centre is actively contributing to the transition away from fossil fuels and supporting the UK's decarbonisation targets.

4.3. Noise and Residential Amenity

Modern air source heat pumps are designed to operate quietly and efficiently. The location of the proposed condenser units has been chosen to maximise distance from sensitive receptors and to ensure that sound levels fall well within acceptable limits set by the local authority and Building Regulations. Where necessary, acoustic enclosures or shielding can be incorporated to further mitigate any perceived noise impact.

4.4. Security and Safety

The installation of purpose-designed security cages reflects good practice in protecting publicly accessible plant equipment. These measures reduce the risk of damage or tampering, supporting the continued safe operation of the heating system.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The proposed development is a proportionate and environmentally responsible response to the need to replace an outdated heating system. The installation of air source heat pumps and associated outdoor units is consistent with sustainable development principles, has minimal visual or environmental impact, and enhances the long-term viability of the community centre.

We respectfully request that planning permission be granted for this application.