

Comments on the proposal:

The proposed plan brings the noise level to 100% above what existed before Nisa took over the site from NatWest bank.

When the site was occupied by NatWest bank, I was not aware of any fan or other audible noise at all. If any fan system was used it was purely for an office environment and therefore only used during office hours and off at weekends, evenings and night time.

The proposed refrigeration plant unit plans are vastly bigger, louder and of different purpose to what preceded it. Running the refrigeration plant unit 24 hours a day 7 days a week, serves an entirely different purpose and also gives no respite to residents in a conservation and densely-populated area.

Furthermore, in the acoustic report, I would like to add that it's not just the immediate neighbours that are affected. As a resident who does not live adjacent or above the unit, I can attest that the noise disturbance travels a considerable distance.

Nowhere have the proposed plans, as far as I can see, taken into account the surrounding buildings which act to bounce the sound around the neighbourhood. I don't think the reduction of decibels goes far enough and it sounds as if the refrigeration plant is fundamentally the wrong fit for the site.

Environmental impact: greater pollution, both noise and emissions than what preceded it (under NatWest ownership) especially given it running 24/7.

I am also concerned about the following health and safety aspects of the proposal:

Does the enclosing of the refrigeration plant machine pose a fire risk? I haven't seen any evidence or reassurance that the Nisa store owners have consulted with Daikin (manufacturer of refrigeration plant unit) over the suitability of the proposed plans with their unit both from a fire risk and from its suitability in a residential area. Daikin have in the past have had to recall air con/heating products 'due to fire and burn hazards'.

Reference: <https://www.johnsonbecker.com/product-liability/daikin-comfort-technologies-air-conditioners-and-heat-pumps-recall-lawsuit/>

I am concerned that the proposed size of the enclosure presents with an obstruction to the (fire) exit.

Are there any hazards/store items (ie roll trollies, bins) that might further obstruct residents above/adjacent to the store in the event of a fire?

Has a fire risk assessment been made of this proposal and of the premises?

Given the likelihood of sensitisation to the refrigeration plant noise and due to the relentless volume of noise and substantial disturbance over a considerable period of time, I think that even if the decibel level of the existing unit was reduced by the proposed plan, the noise would likely trigger continued distress to residents. It certainly would for me. The impact of noise pollution on mental and physical health is very real. I would also wonder whether, given the past record of non-compliance of the owners of the site in adhering to statutory volume regulations, whether they would manage to maintain the proposed volume level. Again, it would be 100% more than what preceded it.

Due to the above concerns, I object to the proposed plans.