

Good morning

I live in 34 Warren Street which is adjacent and at right-angles to 15 Warren Mews with its north wall being the party wall to our property (and to our courtyard garden).

With relation to the above planning application, I have concerns about the proposal to install a heat pump and 2 air conditioning units, as detailed below:

1 Type and model of units

These have not been specified, which I understand is a criterium for the consideration of planning consent being granted.

2 Location

In Totem's 'Design and Access' document, under '1. AIR CONDITIONING' it states that:

'Permission is sought for the installation of 2no. Air conditioning condensing units.... mounted over the rear roof of the building. Citing [sic] the new units in this location, means that they are completely concealed from all inhabitants of the mews and from neighbouring streets.'

However, in the 'Proposed Drawings' document, looking at the 'North West Elevation', it appears that the units will be clearly visible from 34 Warren Street.

3 Noise

In Totem's 'Noise Impact Assessment' under 3.2 Proposals' it states that:

'The window of 126 Cleveland St.... has been established as the closest Noise Sensitive Receptor'.

This statement presumes that the location most impacted by any noise from the units is the one that is closest. This does not take into account that the units would be situated in a corner where two roads with tall buildings meet and where sound reverberates, echoes and is greatly amplified as a result of its bouncing off the walls. Any noise is exacerbated by Aradco House at the top of Cleveland Street, which has a sub-basement courtyard. Indeed, in the 20 years that we have lived in our property, we have had an ongoing issue with noise pollution from 3 of Aradco's air conditioning units (reported to Camden Noise Team) on the first floor, East side of Aradco House.

Also, under '3.3 Background Noise Survey Details', it states that:

'An unattended continuous noise survey was undertaken... at two locations between 15:30 28th September to 16:30 29th September 2023.'

This does not stipulate where the locations were and I would have thought that in order to assess any potential noise that the assessors would need to go to the locations where the noise is likely to be heard the most, eg from our courtyard and Aradco House's basement courtyard — and from the window/s of the closest properties (open, in order to replicate a hot summer's day). Also, the noise survey being in September, was, presumably, conducted when any other neighbouring air conditioning units (eg Aradco House) were not in operation, so this does not establish the additional potential noise during hot weather.

In conclusion, without knowing which type of heat pump or air conditioning units are proposed, the assessments conducted for both the location and noise emissions cannot be surmised. Also, the assessments do not appear to have not been conducted thoroughly as Totem have neither viewed the proposed location of the units, nor conducted a noise assessment, from neighbouring locations that are likely to be most impacted (ie, from 34 Warren Street, the basement courtyard of Aradco House etc).

I would be happy to provide access to our property in order that they can conduct these assessments.

Kind regards

Sophia Pandit