



The Heath & Hampstead Society

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The Society examines all Planning Applications relating to Hampstead, and assesses them for their impact on conservation and on the local environment.

To London Borough of Camden, Development Control Team

Planning Ref: 2014/7108/P

Address: Athenaeum Hall, Vale of Health NW3

Description: A/C Unit on balcony.

Case Officer: Mandeep Chagger

Date 7 January 2015

The website information on this application is incomplete; no elevations, no acoustic report etc---although it is reported to us that such items exist.

It would be helpful, in the interests of proper public access to applications, if full availability was given.

On the basis of others' reports, it is clear, however, that this application is unacceptable, on at least these grounds:

1. Noise.

It is unclear as to why a flat with unrivalled existing ventilation provisions needs airconditioning, and we query this in principle.

A/C noise from unit airconditioners is a common source of noise nuisance, and manufacturers' criteria can only be defined as objectives, rather than guaranteed outcomes. In this case the unit is to be positioned in very close proximity to the living rooms and bedrooms of several adjoining flats, and it could only be considered acceptable if it were totally silent.

This in turn would depend on constant attention to maintenance; very unlikely.

The minimum requirement for acceptability here must be an independent noise report from a reputable professional acoustic consultant; (i.e. not from a trade source), indicating that the unit was silent. We doubt whether this would be feasible.

2. Appearance

Athenaeum Hall is not a beautiful building, but would be rendered even more unsightly by the positioning of such a unit externally, in full view of the Vale Pond. And one unit could lead to another...

Please refuse.