

Application No:	Consultees Name:	Consultees Addr:	Received:	Comment:	Response:
2017/3898/P	Ron Aslan	Upper flat 67 and 67A Chetwynd Rd London NW5 1BX	02/09/2017 09:51:31	OBJLETT ER	<p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am the resident long leaseholder of 67A &amp; B(upper flat 67) Chetwynd Rd. 67A is immediately behind the application site at the Village Vets at 65 - 67 Chetwynd Road. 67B is immediately above it. The air conditioning of the application site has been a long standing disturbance of my quiet enjoyment and that of my neighbours, transmitting both noise and vibration and often at unsociable hours. The original installation was illegitimate having neither planning permission nor building regulation approval. No enforcement was taken. Now two of the original external condensing units have been replaced with a single unit and planning approval is being sought retrospectively. I write to object.</p> <p>The units are on the roof of no.65 within 1m of, and on the floor immediately below my living room at no.67A. They are within 3m of, and at head height of my 1st floor roof terrace at no.67B. They are within 5m of, and at head height of my kitchen/living room at no.67B. They are within 5m of, and immediately below my master bedroom at no.67B. Their noise, vibration and ugly appearance is unacceptable in this residential Conservation Area in such proximity and full view of my property and those of my neighbours. The site of the units is only accessible through the flat above no.65 hence some old units and a dismantled acoustic enclosure are an abandoned eyesore complete with their harmful refrigerant gases rather than being decommissioned and cleared away.</p> <p>John Nicholls at Camden Council has been aware of the problems caused by the original units since 2006 since when a makeshift acoustic enclosure of plywood and foam was constructed. This did little to mitigate the disturbance and eventually fell into disrepair (see the applicant's Report of Replacement). Likewise constraints imposed on operating hours were similarly ineffective because they relied on manual operation which were ignored, forgotten or not communicated to new staff. Continual operation and lack of any remedial action led to sleepless nights and increasing frustration.</p> <p>Since it was installed the unit for which planning permission is now sought has also been left on overnight continuously and intermittently despite assurances that its operation would cease at 6pm. This is acknowledged by the applicant's own report which acknowledges (my emphasis):</p> <p>"The new Daikin Ducted Air Conditioning System is supplied complete with a time clock controller which has been programmed in accordance with Village Vet instructions and the times are as follows:</p> <p>Monday through to Friday: On 8:00 - Off 18:00 – SECOND (EXTRA) OFF – 20:00 Saturday: On 9:00 – Off 13:00 – SECOND (EXTRA) OFF 15:00 Sunday: Off all day"</p> <p>A new system may be initially quiet and conform to guidelines but within a short period due to wear and tear the noise and vibration greatly increase. The unit which has been replaced, and some still in use, are over 13 years old (see applicant's report) and should have been replaced a long time ago but have only been replaced when they stop functioning.</p> <p>Airconditioning is not environmentally friendly and is now widely accepted as unnecessary particularly in the UK. In 2014 a wide ranging report by the Committee on Climate Change, chaired by Lord Krebs, which is the government's official climate change advisors included an assessment of hospital wards by Professor Alan Short (Dept. of Architecture) of the Cambridge University Institute of Public Health.</p> <p>Lord Krebs said measures to tackle overheating could include tinted windows, awnings to</p>

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					<p>prevent sun coming in, painting the outside of buildings white, a range of passive cooling measures and better ventilation.</p> <p>Prof Short and Lord Krebs said they did not advocate installation of air conditioning because it would use large amounts of energy and contribute to climate change.</p> <p>See report here:  <a href="http://www.iph.cam.ac.uk/public-health-policy/case-studies/sustainable-healthcare-buildings/">http://www.iph.cam.ac.uk/public-health-policy/case-studies/sustainable-healthcare-buildings/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/climatechange/10955143/Hospitals-at-increasing-risk-of-overheating-due-to-climate-change.html">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/climatechange/10955143/Hospitals-at-increasing-risk-of-overheating-due-to-climate-change.html</a></p> <p>Should policy for sustainable healthcare buildings not be applied to veterinary practices? Perhaps the vets could invest the same expenditure on some of the suggested measures e.g. heat reducing window film and windows that open (at present none of the frontage windows open) to achieve a similar result in an environmentally friendly manner that doesn't contribute to climate change.</p> <p>My brother is a General Practitioner at Hampstead Group Practice next to the Royal Free Hospital and it manages without aircon as do most GP practices. If a large medical practice serving people doesn't have it surely it is unnecessary for a veterinary practice in a residential area with flats adjoining. If airconditioning must be fitted then external condensers such as proposed by this application are dated technology in the light of more modern air conditioning which completely dispense with external units e.g. by using water cooling.</p> <p><a href="http://www.coolyoudirect.co.uk">http://www.coolyoudirect.co.uk</a></p> <p>Indeed I consulted the applicant's own airconditioning engineer who confirmed it is also perfectly possible to have internal regular units inside the ground floor of no.65 in an acoustic enclosure for which an estimate has been prepared. These seem far better solutions not least if it continues to be manually left on inadvertently.</p> <p>The airconditioning at nos. 65 &amp; 67 has been the cause of increasing distress ever since it was first installed. Its recent renewal causes fresh anxiety. When in 2015 my floor began vibrating whenever the aircon was being used it took five months of innumerable phone calls, emails and texts to the applicant for the applicant's engineer to diagnose it was mounted directly to my floor joists and lacked anti-vibration mounts and a further six months before a remedy was attempted. Meanwhile the vibration caused me unbearable irritation and as a light sleeper, sleepless nights and definite lowered mood. I found myself much more anxious, irritable with my friends and family and generally anti-social without a feeling of my home being a refuge. The incessant nature of such noise pollution/vibration take its toll not least because I am self-employed and work from home. I became unable to concentrate so would escape to other rooms or cafés. I have even agreed to contribute towards the maintenance of the ventilation systems when this was a condition stipulated by the applicant for improvement works to proceed, in order to ensure disturbance was minimised but I simply am not prepared to countenance this any longer. The units must go once and for all!</p> <p>Please refuse this application for planning permission.</p> <p>If you must approve, make it conditional on the automatic cessation of the units outside</p>

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normal business hours i.e. Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm and 9am to 1pm Sat so some daylight hours can be enjoyed on our only outside spaces without the constant sound and vibration of machinery.  
Yours faithfully,  
Ron Aslan

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