Mr Michael Fearman
Environmental Health
G18643

Planning Services Officer
FAO: Mrs Helen Boston

19/0221/COU

21/06/2019

RE: Scott Bros Master Road, Thornaby, Stockton-On-Tees, TS17 0BE

Change of use from industrial (B2) to a doggy day care center and grooming salon (suis generis). Erection of 1.82m high fence.

Following my comments dated 17/06/2019 I received a further revised copy of the noise report where the external fence had been increased in height to bring the noise levels below 5dB above the background level.

Due to the suggested noise levels within the submitted report of barking dogs and the measurement location which was used to record a background level not complying with that of BS4142 criteria I undertook some additional measurements myself to ensure the validity of the data provided.

BS4142 Assessment

On Thursday 20th June 2019 I visited the site and undertook an hour long recording 3.5 meters away from the nearest residential property, between 09:53- 10:53 where I obtained an L90 background recording of 41.1dB. Using this figure against the levels of the barking provided by the noise consultant the noise from external barking increase from +4dB above the background level, to become +10dB above the background level and in BS4142 terms the noise is categorised as being likely to cause a significant impact upon the amenity of the nearby residents.

As no justification has been provided within the noise report of proposed dog barking levels (i.e. “2-3 dogs barking at three meters is between 82-86dB” & “it is estimated that if 20 dogs are disturbed only 9 of them will bark, the maximum noise level (laq) for that event will be 93dB”); I undertook noise recordings of two dogs myself at 14:11 on 20/06/2019. One dog was a Shitzu and the other dog was an English Bull Terrior; this therefore enabled me to obtain noise levels from a medium sized dog and small sized dog. During a 12 second period where both dogs were barking together the LAeq was recorded as 95.9dB at a distance of approximately 1 meter from the dogs, an increase of the noise reports proposed levels (for 2-3 dogs) by 10dB for the external assessment and an increased on 9 proposed dogs by 3dB for the internal assessment.

Using this level in the BS4142 calculation for the barking dogs externally it would again increase the impact of the noise at the nearest residential properties to indicate the likelihood of the proposal causing a significant impact.

This figure also shows that if 2 dogs produce 95.9dB, 20 dogs within the unit barking together is likely to produce a significantly louder level than the 93dB maximum as proposed by the noise report. I predict by using 95.9 (96dB) that the noise impact at the nearest residential property due to noise loss through the roof will be:

96-30+10log(10)- 20log(20)-8= **41.9dB** (formula provided by noise report). This would therefore be above the background level I recorded of 41dB. If BS4142 penalties (impulsive and intermittent) were then to be applied because the noise is audible I believe the assessment would conclude that the noise would have an adverse impact upon the amenity of the nearby residential properties.

Individual Barks

During the recordings individual barks were recorded from the Shitzu reaching the following peaks at approximately 1 meter distance from the dog- 100.1dB, 97.4dB, 93.8dB, 87.1dB, 103.0dB, 97.4dB, 102.4dB, 94.5dB, 104.7dB, 100.6dB, 99.8dB, 99.9dB, 101.4dB, 96.3dB, 94.1dB, 99.6dB & 93.7dB.

During the recordings individual barks were recorded of the English Bull Terrior reaching the following peaks at approximately 1 meter distance from the dog- 95.4dB, 98.9dB, 98.6dB, 109.3dB, 106.3dB, 107.4dB, 102.8dB, 106.0dB, 105.5dB, 103.4dB, 107.8dB, 105.5dB, 110.8dB, 110.4dB & 107.5dB.

From the barks above, the average level of the barks were 101dB. Using this figure I have calculated the following:

Noise level at nearest residential address from noise escape from roof:
101dB-30+10log(10)-20log(20)-8= **46.9dB** (formula provided by noise consultant within report)

Noise level at nearest residential address from noise from barking dogs externally:
101db- 20log(35m)-8= 62.1dB -10dB for fence= **52.1dB** at ground floor

As the higher flats are likely not to be provided with the same level of protection from the acoustic fence I believe approximately an extra +5dB will be experienced at this location, resulting in noise levels of approximately **57.1dB.**

Should residents at this location have their windows open they would receive into their property approximately 42.1dB per bark (when the bark from the dog is 101dB), louder barks will result in higher levels entering the property.

Each of these levels provided are above the L90 background level I recorded of 41dB which suggests that the noise will be audible.

Orientation of flats

Whilst on-site on Thursday 20th June 2019 I spoke to a resident who advised me that the flats are orientated so that the windows which face onto the fire station are for bedrooms and habitable rooms whilst kitchens are towards the other opposite side of the flat. This is significant as the noise will therefore impact upon residents in their bedroom and living area.

Pro-PG

In relation to Planning Pro-PG I believe that the noise of dogs from within the unit will be “noticeable and intrusive” and noise of the dogs externally will be “noticeable and disruptive”

Amenity

I believe that this proposal will result in a loss of amenity to the nearby existing residents both inside their properties and for those with external gardens.

I therefore maintain my objection regarding this application on noise grounds due to the potential loss of amenity from the barking dogs.