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Noise Mitigation Statement for Proposed Dog Grooming Business and Residential Conversion

This sound mitigation statement accompanies a planning application for the conversion of an existing public house (which has ceased trading) into a residential dwelling with an attached dog grooming business. This document addresses potential concerns regarding noise from the proposed business and offers assurances that measures will be taken to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment and community.

Overview

The proposed dog grooming business will be operated as part of the owner's home, reflecting their personal interest in maintaining harmony within the village. In contrast to the former public house, the grooming salon will generate significantly less noise and have a much smaller footprint in terms of both activity and operation.

Given the location of the property and the nature of the business, we believe that with appropriate sound mitigation measures, there will be no detrimental noise impact on neighbouring properties. In fact, it is anticipated that the noise levels generated by the grooming salon will be much lower than those associated with the building's previous use as a pub, which was licensed for extended hours with substantial traffic and higher noise levels, especially during evenings and weekends.

Sound Mitigation Measures

1. Acoustic Glass Installation

To ensure any noise generated from the grooming salon is contained within the premises, we propose the use of acoustic glass in the renovation. Acoustic glass, specifically designed to reduce sound transmission, is effective in mitigating noise, particularly in environments where sound insulation is important.

Typically, acoustic glass consists of two or more layers of glass bonded with a layer of PVB (polyvinyl butyral), which dampens sound waves. Depending on the thickness of the glass and the interlayer, it can achieve a significant reduction in dB levels, often reducing noise by 40dB or more. For this application, we are happy to accept a condition ensuring the installation of this glass to industry-standard specifications, providing effective insulation against both external noise pollution and noise from the grooming salon.

2. Limited Staffing and Customer Flow

The business will operate on a small scale, with only one full-time member of staff, the applicant, who will provide one-on-one grooming services by appointment only. This means that the flow of customers and any associated noise will be minimal, with a maximum of five appointments per day. This is in stark contrast to the former pub, which saw a much higher level of traffic, noise from patrons, and potentially disruptive late-night activities.

3. Parking and Customer Management

Parking will not be an issue, as there is a public car park located just 20 metres from the property. Clients will be instructed to use this parking facility when booking their appointments. This will prevent congestion in front of the property and reduce any noise from cars parking or idling near residential homes.

4. Operational Hours

The grooming business will operate during sociable hours, from 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday, and from 10 am to 4 pm on Sundays. These hours align with the typical activity levels of a residential neighbourhood and are far less intrusive than the former pub's operating hours, which allowed operation from 10 am until midnight on weekdays and until 1 am on weekends, with additional time for patrons to leave. By comparison, the grooming salon's working hours will significantly reduce the potential for late-night noise and disturbance.

5. Noise Levels of Equipment

The loudest piece of equipment used in the grooming salon is the 'Double K Airmax Blaster', which operates at 84dB. For comparison, this is roughly equivalent to the noise level of a standard household vacuum cleaner (approximately 80dB). This equipment will only be used indoors, and with the planned installation of acoustic glass and other soundproofing measures, any potential noise will be well-contained within the building.

Additionally, the heat exchanger attached to the exterior of the building, used to power the cellar cooler, is estimated to produce around 49-50dB. This will be removed as part of the conversion, creating a quieter external environment than currently exists.

6. Comparison to Previous Use (Public House)

It is important to emphasise that the public house, in its previous state, generated significantly more noise than the proposed dog grooming salon is expected to. The pub's typical operations included the following noise sources:

- Patrons talking and engaging in activities both inside and outside the premises
- Loud music, particularly during events
- Noise from kitchen equipment, deliveries, and refuse collection
- Cars arriving and departing at various hours, often late at night

The pub was licensed to operate until midnight during the week and 1 am on weekends, creating a much more disruptive environment compared to the quiet, controlled appointments of the grooming business. Furthermore, the type of noise generated by the grooming salon is more predictable and easier to control, unlike the fluctuating and often high levels of noise associated with a pub.

Conclusion

We understand the importance of maintaining a quiet and peaceful residential area and are committed to implementing sound mitigation measures to ensure that the dog grooming business operates without causing any disturbance. The installation of acoustic glass and soundproofing materials will effectively contain noise within the property, while the small scale and appointment-only nature of the business will minimise traffic and noise pollution in the surrounding area.

In summary, the conversion of the former public house into a residential dwelling with an attached dog grooming business will result in a quieter and less intrusive environment than its previous use. The proposed operating hours, limited customer flow, and sound mitigation measures will ensure that noise levels are kept to a minimum, and we are confident that the business will have no negative impact on the surrounding community.

We are committed to complying with all necessary regulations to ensure the peaceful enjoyment of our client's property and the village.