

Cerys Jones

From: Sharon Holman
Sent: 03 August 2021 11:40
To: planning_admin
Subject: FW: P/2020/0887 - Dog agility areas, Caia Farm, LL12 8UA

civ- PP resp

From: Toby Zorn <Toby.Zorn@wrexham.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2021 03:16 PM
To: Sharon Holman <Sharon.Holman@wrexham.gov.uk>
Cc: Paul Campini <Paul.Campini@wrexham.gov.uk>
Subject: P/2020/0887 - Dog agility areas, Caia Farm, LL12 8UA

Hello Sharon

Paul has asked me to have a look at this planning consultation as he is off this week, so please see my comments below: -

1. Having been involved in a case for Wirral Council that involved barking nuisance associated with kennels located in a semi-rural area I am only too aware of the issues and difficulties in controlling dog barking. This case carried on for some 30 years and involved massive resources in an attempt to resolve it. The nuisance was only finally abated when the kennels were demolished and replaced by houses.
2. The LAeq result obtained for the test period (12:50 to 13:58 on 11/02/2021) resulted in a reading of 73.8dB which is quite high but does not detail the peak sound levels. I did not see any reference to Lmax for instance and the intermittent nature of dog barking can be very disturbing. The 'averaging' effect of LAeq softens the peaks and as such does not give a complete picture of the potential noise climate.
3. I have recently measured my own dogs barking at a peak level of 95dB
4. As Paul has pointed out there is no consideration of impulsivity due to the nature of dog barking.
5. The noise report correctly states BS4142:2014 should not be used as a methodology to make an assessment of dog barking, however the standard does detail corrections for specific sound characteristics which would result in a likely addition of 3 to 9dB for impulsivity and another possible 3dB for intermittency, resulting in a possible 12dB addition to the rating level derived at the receptor location. A subjective doubling in loudness. It is difficult to assess noise attenuation over distance in this situation as the noise source/s could be either a point source (stationary - handlers) and/or line source (moving - dogs). Distance attenuation is approximately 6 dB for a point source but only 3 dB for a line source.
6. Ideally the sound level at the boundary of the receptors premises should have been measured at the same time that the test period of dog training was taking place.
7. Dogs barking trigger other dogs to bark so the addition of one dog that is prone to barking will cause the 'quiet' dogs to bark, leading to a very large increase in sound level.
8. Due to the large area and varying distance to any proposed sound barrier this method of attenuation would be of very little use.
9. Increasing the distance from the receptors to the noise source would be the only effective way of attenuating sound levels. Doubling the distance by using the field immediately to the east of the proposed location could double the distance to the receptor and would result in an approximate 6dB/3dB sound level reduction.
10. The hours and days of operation also appear to be excessive and don't offer any break, from the noise generated, to surrounding neighbours.
11. In conclusion I can foresee a number of problems with this proposal and would recommend that the application be refused.

If you have any questions regarding the points outlined in this email, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

Toby Zorn

Swyddog Arbenigol (Iechyd yr Amgylchedd a Tai)

Specialist Officer (Environmental Health and Housing Standards)



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