

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL

The Town and Hundred of Tenterden



A Corporate Member of the Cinque Ports

Ms. V. Couper-Samways
Property Building Services & Facilities Manager
Ashford Borough Council

20th April 2023

Dear Victoria,

Re: ABC Planning Applications for Air Source Heat Pumps at Tenterden Leisure Centre

Thank you for your letter dated 19th April 2023, which was sent to me in response to our letters to Tracey Kerly regarding concerns over the air source heat pumps at the rear of Tenterden Leisure Centre.

You have stated in your response that neither planning application require ENV10 compliance which we find astonishing. It is good practice in the spirit of any application made to consider this policy, especially when as a Borough Council it is a policy contained within your own Local Plan. Interestingly, in the surveys provided by Clarke Saunders they make reference on four occasions to ENV10 and even state the full criteria (Section 5.2) which includes the statement: (d) Evidence is provided to demonstrate effective engagement with the local community and local authority. We do not believe this has adequately taken place.

We recognise that ASHPs fall within permitted development, but our argument is focused on the quality and design of the proposed acoustic barriers and the lack of consultation with the community. It is a great shame that the planning portal was not kept up to date with important information such as the revised acoustic survey; we only received the survey dated February 2023 on the day of our planning meeting and purely by mistake after requesting a different version that was produced in April 2022. We were unaware at the time that there was in fact a revised survey dated February 2023 and the community had at that point not had sight of the survey/s.

We are not disputing that ABC emailed us on 23rd January 2023 mentioning the relocation of the two ASHPs from the North side, however, the email seemed to focus more on the removal of trees and gaining our permission. No other documentation was, or subsequently, provided to the Town Council until the planning application was submitted; an application which did not contain the acoustic survey by Clarke Saunders.

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In conclusion, given that the acoustic barriers have now been installed around the two units, it would be desirable if an up-to-date physical (not desktop) acoustic survey is carried out to ascertain the noise impact of the two units on nearby residents. These results should be shared with the residents to allay their fears and demonstrate the mitigation meets the necessary standards.

As a matter of courtesy, I wish to inform you that both your letter of 19th April 2022 and our response will be shared with Tenterden residents.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

D. Baines

Debbie Baines
Town Clerk

c.c. Tracey Kerly, Ashford Borough Council
Tracey Butler, Ashford Borough Council
Cllr. John Crawford, Tenterden Town Council