MARTIN
ENVIRONMENTAL
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Acoustic Survey and Assessment for Proposed extension to operating hours at Stage Door, Stanley Street, Longridge, PR3 3EB.

Prepared for:

The Stage Door
The Old Corn Mill
Warwick Street
Longridge
PR3 3EB

April 2024

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1. Martin Environmental Solutions has been commissioned to undertake an acoustic assessment to support a planning application for the extension of operating hours at the Stage Door Micro-bar at Stanley Street, Longridge.

Site Location and Context

1.2. The development site is situated sandwiched between Stanley Street and Warwick Street. The first floor is utilised as offices for a separate business owned by the applicant and operator of the bar. The rear section of the ground floor onto Stanley Street becoming the micro bar.

1.3. To the south and east are industrial units, to the west residential properties adjoining the rear section of the building not used by the bar. On Stanely street a residential property adjoins the bar to the east and to the west a commercial unit and first floor apartment, along with another bar on the far side.

1.4. An aerial Photograph is enclosed in Figure 1.

1.5. Concerns have been raised over the potential impact from the extended hours on neighbouring land use hence the request for this report.

2. Policy and Guidance

2.1. The impact of noise can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The planning system has the task of guiding development to the most appropriate locations. It is recognised that on occasions it will be difficult to reconcile some land uses, such as housing, hospitals, or schools, with other activities that generate high levels of noise. However, the planning system is tasked to ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise (such as road, rail and air transport and certain types of industrial development).

2.2. The Government's publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in July 2021, states that planning policies and decisions should prevent new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, of being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of noise pollution.

2.3. The Government have also issued the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE). The NPSE clarifies the Government's underlying principles and aims in relation to noise and sets a vision to promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise while having regard to the Government's sustainable development strategy. The NPSE aims to mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise.

2.4. The NPSE introduces the following terms, although no sound levels are given to represent these, many authorities have identified the sound level criteria in line with the World Health Organisation, BS8233:2014 and BS4142: 2014 levels. The terms introduced by the NPSE are:

NOEL – No Observed Effect Level (<30dB(A)inside <50dB(A) outside, 10dB below background)
LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (30-35dB(A) inside 50-55dB(A) outside, background to +5dB)
SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (>35dB(A) inside, >55dB(A) outside, >+10dB above background)

2.5. The sound levels within the brackets of the previous paragraph are those determined as appropriate levels to indicate the relevant effect levels represented by the NPSE.

2.6. Other commonly used examples of standards utilised by Local Planning authorities for the consideration of noise impacts include comparison of the likely noise levels to be experienced at a development, with levels that have been recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Guidelines for the prevention of Community Noise Annoyance and within BS8233: 2014.

2.7. The WHO recommended noise levels for outdoor amenity areas (gardens) that should not be exceeded are 55dB(A) $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ in order to avoid 'Serious Community Annoyance or 50dB(A) $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ to avoid 'Moderate Community Annoyance' during the day. For indoor levels WHO set 35dB(A) $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ during the day to prevent Moderate Annoyance and 30 dB(A) $L_{Aeq,8hr}$ at night to prevent sleep disturbance.

2.8. The WHO guidance also recommends that maximum sound levels at night should not regularly exceed 45dB(A) within bedrooms to prevent sleep disturbance. Regularly is considered to be more than 10 times during any 8-hour night-time period.

2.9. BS 8233:2014 'Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings' also specifies desirable noise levels to be achieved inside dwellings.

2.10. BS 8233:2014 'Sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings – Code of Practice' also specifies desirable noise levels to be achieved inside dwellings. BS 8233 presents two levels, the first between the hours of 07:00 – 23:00 and the second between 23:00 -07:00.

2.11. The daytime period suggests internal noise levels of 35dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$, for resting in living rooms and bedrooms while for night-time a level of 30dB LAeq,8hr is recommended. Criteria for external areas mirrors that within the WHO guidance.

2.12. In addition, the 'ProPG Planning & Noise, Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise, New Residential Development' provides a 4-staged approach to undertaking a risk assessment in relation to anticipated sound levels at new residential development and the provision of mitigation measures. The guidance is principally aimed at sites exposed predominantly to noise from transportation sources.

2.13. The first stage consists of an initial noise risk assessment, based on indicative day and night-time *noise* levels. Simply put, the higher the ambient noise in an area the greater the impact. The levels given are shown below although it should be noted that these are in excess of both the Lancashire guidance, WHO and BS 8233: 2014.

Noise Risk Category*	Potential Effect if Unmitigated	Pre-Planning Application Guidance
0 – Negligible $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ **<50dB** $L_{Aeq,8hr}$ **<40dB**	May be noticeable but no adverse effect on health and quality of life	In this category the development is likely to be acceptable from a noise perspective, nevertheless a good acoustic design process is encouraged to improve the existing environment and/or safeguard against possible future deterioration and to protect any designated tranquil areas. A noise assessment may be requested to demonstrate no adverse impact from noise. Application need not normally be delayed on noise grounds.
1 – Low $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ **50-63dB** $L_{Aeq,8hr}$ **40-55dB**	Adverse effect on health and quality of life	In this category the development may be refused unless a good acoustic design process is followed and is demonstrated via a Level 1 Acoustic Design Statement which confirms how the adverse impacts of noise on the new development will be mitigated and minimised and that a significant adverse impact will not arise in the finished development. Planning conditions and other measures to control noise may be required.
2 – Medium $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ **63-69dB** $L_{Aeq,8hr}$ **55-60dB** L_{AFmax} **>80dB****	Significant adverse effect on health and quality of life	In this category the development is likely to be refused unless good acoustic design process is followed and is demonstrated via a Level 2 Acoustic Design Statement which confirms how the adverse impacts of noise on the new development will be mitigated and minimised, and clearly demonstrates that a significant adverse noise impact will not arise in the finished development. Planning conditions and other measures to control noise will normally be required.
3 – High $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ **>69dB** $L_{Aeq,8hr}$ **>60dB** L_{AFmax} **>80dB****	Unacceptable adverse effect of health and quality of life	In this category the development is very likely to be refused on noise grounds, even if a good acoustic design process is followed and is demonstrated via a Level 2 Acoustic Design Statement. Applicants are advised to seek expert advice on possible mitigation measures. Advice on the circumstances when the refusal of a new housing on noise grounds should normally be anticipated is included in the ProPG.

2.14. Stage 2, consists of a full assessment of the prevailing ambient noise and requires 4 elements to be considered:

I. Element 1 – Good Acoustic Design
II. Element 2 – Internal Noise Level Guidelines
III. Element 3 – External Amenity Area Noise Assessment
IV. Element 4 – Assessment of Other Relevant Issues

2.15. A good acoustic design is implicit in meeting the requirements of the NPPF and can help to resolve many potential acoustic issues.

2.16. Details of the criteria considered suitable are provided above for both internal and external sound levels. Element 4 includes such issues as local and national policy, likely occupants, wider planning objectives.

3. The Assessment

The Development

3.1 The bar currently operates between 2pm and 11pm through the week and due to other late-night licenses in the area wish to increase the operating hours into the standard "night-time" period. As such an assessment of the potential impact on the neighbouring properties has been requested.

3.2 A site visit was made on the 29th March 2024 to undertake the assessment. This included monitoring of internal sound levels within the bar with recorded music playing, while simultaneously monitoring at the adjacent residential property.

3.3 The bar has been fitted with a carefully designed speaker system to enable suitable internal sound levels while reducing to a minimum any potential for sound transference outside or to adjacent properties. All of which are built from solid stone walls. Any acts playing at the site are also instructed to play through this system which can control all sound levels.

3.4 Internal sound levels within the bar were recorded throughout the evening at levels of 80-81dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$.

3.5 During the same period monitoring was untaken within the adjacent residential property. Average sound levels over the evening were recorded at 28-29dB $L_{Aeq,1hr}$.

3.6 Within the adjacent commercial unit sound levels were recorded at 24-25dB(A).

3.7 Review of the audio recordings confirm no sound could be heard from the venue. Although car horns on Berry Road were observed.

3.8 Sound levels from the venue will be below those recommended for night-time hours by the World Health Organisation and within BS8233:2014 indicating no adverse impact will be observed.

3.9 There is also a potential for noise to be generated from people leaving the site and passing the adjacent properties. As such the current practice of asking guests to leave the venue via the rear entrance on Warwick Street, moving people away from the immediate neighbours into a largely industrial area.

3.10 The previous report undertaken for the initial planning application confirms that the noise from patrons leaving the venue along Stanley Street, a narrow cannon of a street, would not result in any adverse impact on the neighbouring residents with sound levels below the night-time guidelines.

3.11 The on-site monitoring confirms these guideline levels were not exceeded during the monitoring period at the adjacent property, right next to the entrance door of the venue. Dispersing people through the rear of the building onto Warwick Street would have a similar impact with more dispersion in the wider area and people travelling in multiple directions.

4 Conclusion

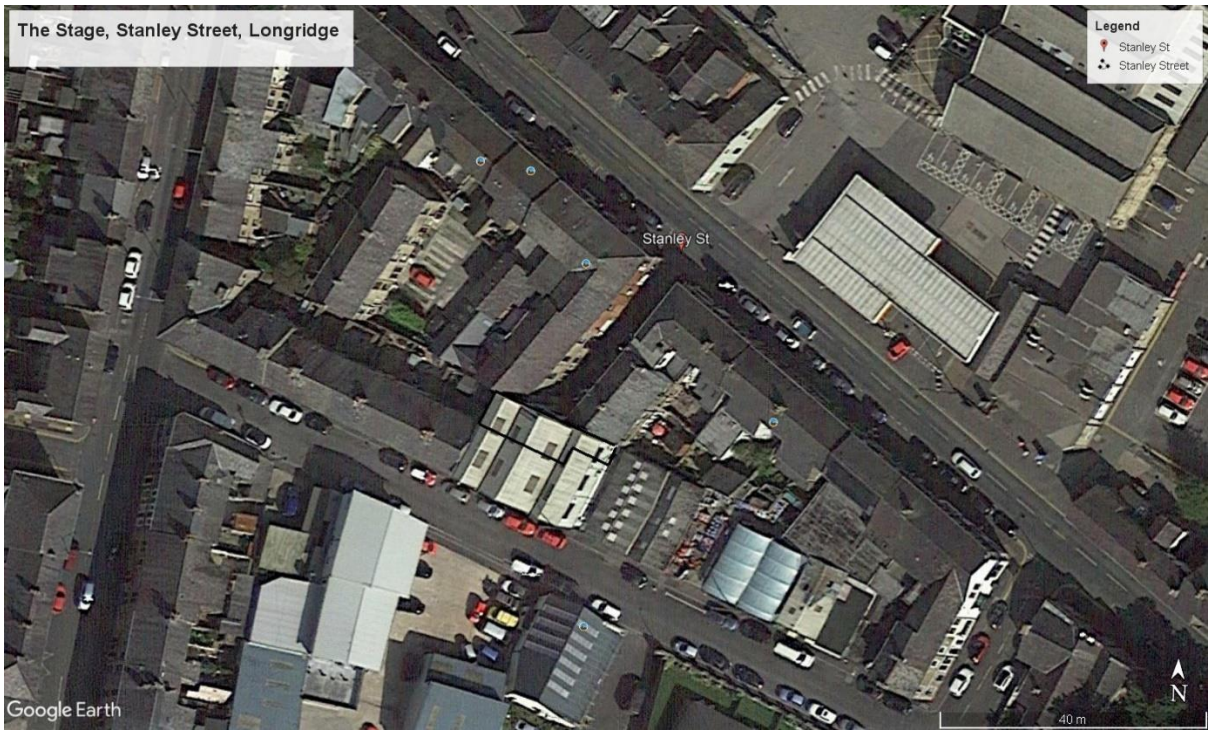
4.1 An assessment of the typical sound levels to be experienced both within the venue and in the adjacent properties has been undertaken and has confirmed that the night-time recommended sound levels by the World Health Organisation and contained within BS8233:2014 will not be exceeded.

4.2 As such the current controls over the operation of the business are adequate to ensure a No Observe Effect on the neighbouring land uses will occur with extended opening hours in line with the Noise Policy Statement for England.

4.3 A consideration of patrons leaving the site has also been undertaken and current measures will avoid any impact to the immediate neighbours through the use of the rear exit.

4.4 As such the development will meet the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework in ensuring that no significant adverse impact is experienced by the future residents. The development is therefore considered to be acceptable in terms of noise.

Figure 1 – Aerial Photograph



Appendix A – Monitoring Results

Inside the bar

Time	Duration	L_{Aeq} (dB)	L_{AMax} (dB)	L_{A90} (dB)
29/03/2024 18:21	00:38:47	73.5	91.1	65.8
29/03/2024 19:00	01:00:00	80.2	101.4	73.6
29/03/2024 20:00	01:00:00	80.7	98.7	74.4
29/03/2024 21:00	01:00:00	80.1	93.2	74.6
29/03/2024 22:00	01:00:00	81.3	92.0	75.3
29/03/2024 23:00	00:52:52	80.3	92.7	58.9

Inside the residential Property

Time	Duration	L_{Aeq} (dB)	L_{AMax} (dB)	L_{A90} (dB)
29/03/2024 18:33	00:26:45	55.8	78.4	27.5
29/03/2024 19:00	01:00:00	29.9	60.5	27.3
29/03/2024 20:00	01:00:00	29.1	51.1	27.3
29/03/2024 21:00	01:00:00	28.2	41.8	27.3
29/03/2024 22:00	01:00:00	27.9	45.7	27.1
29/03/2024 23:00	01:00:00	28.1	47.1	27.1

*includes noise from set up