

Environmental Health Consultee Comments for Planning

Application Number: UTT/24/1732/PINS

Consultee

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Comments

Noise

I have reviewed the Noise Impact Assessment Reference: LR01-24294-R0 Dated: 25 June 2024, and make the following comments:

The updated noise assessment uses The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) guidance document 'Clay Target Shooting: Guidance on the Control of Noise' (2003) to assess noise from the Skatepark inline with recommendations from Environmental Health. An unattended noise survey was carried out between 21st June to 24th June 2024.

The report determines the SNL to be 51 dBA. The Clay Pigeon guidance states that "Annoyance is less likely to occur at a mean shooting noise level (mean SNL) below 55 dB(A), and highly likely to occur at a mean shooting noise level (mean SNL) above 65dB(A). The likelihood of annoyance at levels within this range will depend upon local circumstances..." Therefore, as 51 dB is below the threshold set out in the guidance and therefore indicates that there should be a low impact on future residents.

Overall, the additional survey does address some points raised in my previous comments. However, I would like to raise the following concerns:

I appreciate the longer measurement period, but as I said in my original response the information is still vague. Due to the fact the measurement is completely unattended there is still no data on how many users were in attendance of the park, general age of the users (the older the children are the more likely they are to engage in tricks etc) and there is no information about typical uses and the intensity of use of the skatepark at Saffron Walden.

The report states that the park is mainly used by school aged children so would be quiet during school hours which I agree with. However, the assessment was carried out on a weekend in June. I believe it would've been

more appropriate to carry out the assessment during the school summer holidays to obtain a more robust assessment.

To gain a better understanding of the noise environment at the Skatepark, I visited on the 2nd August 2024 from 14:00 – 18:00, it was a sunny day with warm weather. Throughout the visit the park was busy and in use by children of a range of ages. I listened from different points in the park, particularly close to the boundary of the development site. The majority of the users on the day I attended were Scooter users and used the bowls to engage in tricks. The noise environment includes a rolling sound from the scooters in the bowls, impact of the scooters landing, talking between the users, and it was particularly noisy when the users 'failed' a trick.

Due to the fact the survey was unattended, there is insufficient information to determine whether use across the measurement weekend was representative of 'typical use'.

Due to the uncertainty in the assessment, we are unable to change our decision. I would recommend that further assessment is completed. Further assessment should include an attended measurement is carried out, ensuring to include evening use as well as daytime use. I would also recommend the acoustician discusses the best time to take measurements with the former secretary/ or another member of the Skatepark to better understand busiest times, typical use etc.