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10 Summerhill Avenue, Newport, NP19 8FP
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Development Management
Regeneration, Investment and Housing
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4UR

Application for Planning Permission – Installation of Air Source Heat Pump and Acoustic Fence

Dear Planning Officer,

I am submitting this application for planning permission for the installation of a Daikin Altherma 3 9kW air source heat pump on the side elevation of my property at 10 Summerhill Avenue, Newport. The unit will be positioned directly below the ground floor window and screened with a 1.8 m high acoustic fence panel, located parallel to the neighbouring property, to minimise noise impact.

This application is necessary because, under current permitted development rights in Wales (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2012, Part 40 Class G), no part of an air source heat pump may be installed within three metres of any property boundary. As the proposed location falls within this 3-metre limit, planning permission is required.

The proposal supports Newport City Council's net zero and decarbonisation objectives by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and improving the property's carbon efficiency. While the system does not pass the MCS 020 noise assessment due to modelling criteria, the actual noise impact will be significantly reduced through the installation of a high-performance acoustic fence panel tested to BS EN 1793-2:2012 Category B3.

In addition, the proposal will deliver biodiversity enhancements including pollinator-friendly planting, two bat boxes and two bird boxes to be installed in suitable locations within the garden, in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

I trust that these measures demonstrate a balanced and responsible approach to delivering a low-carbon heating solution while protecting neighbouring amenity and supporting local biodiversity. I look forward to your positive consideration of this application.

Yours faithfully,

Paulo Vasques

PLANNING STATEMENT

Proposed installation of Daikin Altherma 3 Monobloc 9 kW air source heat pump and associated acoustic fencing

Address: 10 Summerhill Avenue, Newport

1. Introduction

This Planning Statement is submitted in support of a householder planning application for the installation of a Daikin Altherma 3 Monobloc 9kW air source heat pump (ASHP) at 10 Summerhill Avenue, Newport. The proposal includes the installation of an acoustic fence to minimise noise impact on the neighbouring property and biodiversity enhancements to meet statutory duties and local planning policy requirements.

2. Site and Proposal

The application site is a three-storey semi-detached Victorian property with existing double-glazed windows, wall cavity insulation, and loft insulation. The proposed ASHP will be located externally on the rear-side elevation, beneath a window, and directly below the internal location of the hot water cylinder and associated system components. This location minimises the distance between the ASHP and the cylinder, thereby maximising operational efficiency and reducing energy consumption.

A Forest Garden Decibel Noise Reduction Fence Panel, meeting BS EN 1793-2:2012 Category B3 (up to 30 dB noise reduction), will be installed parallel to the property boundary on the side of the ASHP, providing effective noise mitigation for the adjoining neighbour.

3. Legislative Context

Under current permitted development rights, no part of an ASHP may be located within 3 metres of the property boundary. The proposed siting falls within this limit, necessitating formal planning approval.

4. Planning Policy Context

National Policy

- **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 – Policy 9** requires that all development proposals secure the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and demonstrate resilience to climate change through innovative, nature-based design approaches.
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Resilient Wales Goal** seeks a biodiverse natural environment with healthy ecosystems that support social, economic, and ecological resilience.
- **Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 6 Duty** places a legal duty on public bodies to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience in the exercise of their functions.

Local Policy

- Newport City Council's climate objectives aim to support renewable and low-carbon technologies in order to contribute to the city's net zero targets and the climate emergency declared by the City Council in November 2021.

The proposed development directly supports these policy aims by replacing fossil-fuel-based heating with a renewable low-carbon system and by incorporating biodiversity enhancements.

5. Justification for the Proposal

5.1 Sustainable Energy Transition

The installation of the ASHP will replace a conventional gas boiler heating system with a low-carbon alternative, contributing to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with local and national climate change targets.

5.2 Optimal Location for Performance

The selected location for the ASHP, directly below the hot water cylinder, reduces pipework distance and heat loss, improving energy efficiency and operational performance.

5.3 Noise Mitigation Measures

While the Daikin Altherma 3 Monobloc has a manufacturer's sound power level of 62 dB(A) and does not meet the MCS 020 Permitted Development noise limits, the applicant is taking proactive steps to protect neighbour amenity by:

- Installing a Forest Garden Decibel Noise Reduction Fence Panel parallel to the property boundary.
- Positioning the ASHP to face away from the neighbour's property.

5.4 Biodiversity Enhancements

In compliance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Newport City Council's guidance, the applicant will:

- Plant pollinator-friendly species in the garden.
 - Install two bat boxes and two bird boxes in suitable locations, retained for the lifetime of the development.
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6. Conclusion

The proposed development supports the Welsh Government's and Newport City Council's policies for decarbonisation, renewable energy adoption, and biodiversity enhancement. The design carefully considers residential amenity through the inclusion of high-specification noise mitigation measures. The proposal is therefore consistent with both national and local planning policy and should be granted permission.