



Applications:

**20/03079/FUL** | Installation of 1no. heat pump air conditioning unit and associated works to the north west elevation. | 6 St Andrew's Lane Oxford OX3 9DP

**20/03080/LBC** | Conversion and extension of existing garage to south west to create guest accommodation. New external steps. Formation of access gate in boundary wall to north east. New rooflights to east roof slope. Installation of 1no. heat pump air conditioning unit with enclosed screening and associated works to the north west elevation. | 6 St Andrew's Lane Oxford OX3 9DP

The comments of the Friends of Old Headington are

The records on the city planning site are confusing: item 20/03080/LBC has included the title of a withdrawn planning application from 2020 (ref. 20/01097/LBC), while application 19/00966/LBC (approved) has had its title changed to refer to the current heat pump application, giving the superficial impression that the application has been approved already.

We strongly recommend that the city planning department corrects the records for this property on the planning applications database.

That said, we note that the plans for the present application correctly refer to the approved plans from 2019 as the basis for considering this matter.

Some concern has been expressed about possible noise levels from the ACU. The specified unit should be assessed for external noise levels, and approval for its use might be subject to a reasonable maximum dB external noise limit.

The Oxford city website does not provide guidance in this instance, but searches suggest that in some places noise levels should not exceed 5 dB ambient background levels. In York, approved applications include terms which control noise.

We have no objection to the pump and its screening provided concerns about possible noise levels are addressed.

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The Friends of Old Headington (FOH) was formed by a group of local residents in 1959 to protect the special character of Old Headington village, what is now the Old Headington Conservation Area. FOH is an active membership organisation with elected trustees which meet regularly to promote our aims, organise local community events, including an annual AGM.

The Aims of the Friends of Old Headington include

- retaining Old Headington as a village, with special emphasis on preserving its lanes, walls, grass verges, and trees;
- ensuring that new buildings and alterations are in keeping with the existing character of the village;
- co-operating with the Oxford Preservation Trust and the City Council in their declared policy of preserving the village; and
- involving as many as possible to achieve these aims successfully