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Noise, Sound & Vibrancy 2022 (Part 4)

Peter Rogers FIOA MIOL Sustainable Acoustics

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#NTC2022

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Introduction

Peter Rogers, FIOA MIOL, Managing Director and Owner, Sustainable Acoustics Ltd.

Fellow of Institute of Acoustics
Trustee of IOA & lead on Sustainability
Member of Institute of Licensing
Member of Parliamentary Scientific Committee representing the Institute of Acoustics
A practitioner using acoustics - to solve problems positively (over 30 years experience)
Active registered expert witness on noise (if it comes to it)

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A - What's our theme ?

We will cover

- Recap post covid – did we recover ?
- Focus for 2022 and beyond – what the theme ?
- Acoustic Concepts – things you need to know to make sense of noise and vibrancy and making it work
- A practitioner approach (with venue focus)
- Conclusions & Recommendations

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A - Getting the basics right

Winds of change

The world is getting warmer
Annual mean land and ocean temperature above or below average, 1850 to 2020

1°C
0.8°C
0.6°C
0.4°C
0.2°C
0°C
-0.2°C
-0.4°C
-0.6°C

Inflation forecast

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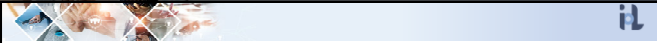
DON'T PANIC... DON'T PANIC!!!

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Drivers of Change – new PM’s In Tray

- **War** : Peace & Risk of Nuclear strikes
- **Disease** : Minimising risks of covid – acoustics can help
- **Climate Crisis**: Making progress with Climate Change (8 years left to 2030 – UK’s commitment) – what are the priorities : Pollution, CO2 to name a few)
- **Energy Poverty**: Tackling Energy Costs & Security and Cost of Living Crisis
- **Economy**: Stabilising & tapping into the night-time economy
- **Healthy homes**: Tackling the need to build homes and update housing stock
- **UN** : Improving City Soundscapes for health & wellbeing (Noise top pollutant 2022)
- **Health** : Sleeping well at night (need at least 5 hours of restorative sleep as min)
- **Place**: How should planning and licensing, and business work together ? Reforms.

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Health & Wellbeing:
 Sleeping well at night (need at least 5 hours of restorative sleep as min) to avoid at least 1 serious health affect for those aged 50:
<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1004109>





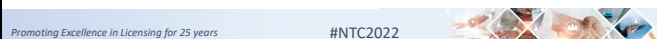
Context is everything :
 so my theme for 2022 is **embracing change !**
 ... And how managing noise and vibrancy can help us get through this.... As an asset ..





Recap from 2021 on Noise & Vibrancy

- Pavement licenses & Marquees in car parks** – some have gone, some have stayed.
- A shift of thinking needed** - from noise pollution to sound quality of soundscape needed (now supported by UN Frontiers Report 2022) : <https://www.unep.org/resources/frontiers-2022-noise-blazes-and-mismatches>) ✓
- Vibrancy is a positive** – People appreciating outside areas & sense of life returning ! ✓
- Minimising risks of covid** – better acoustics inside means less vocal effort = less risk ! ✗
- Reopening will be noisy:** Manage Sound carefully – Best Practice ✓/✗
- It was ! ✓









What are the tools for 2022 ?

- Resilience
- Embedding good practice
- Value Vibrancy & Night Economy to restart Economy
- Recognise Residents need to sleep – the tension will continue
- Watching out for permitted development and creeping housing proactively

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Big 4 for 2022
Sound, Noise & Vibrancy

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Agent of Change

HOW TO OBJECT
to a planning application
or planning appeal

STEP BY STEP
GUIDE
to getting your
opinions heard

ESSENTIAL
to maximise
your chances of
success

PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Object to residential permitted development

Residential creep is coming with a push to build homes:

1. Put planning alerts in area around your premises
2. Watch for vacant commercial units nearby
3. Object on basis of "Unreasonable Restrictions to existing business"
4. Seek specialist input to check what they produce
5. Seek a package of mitigation to protect the business
6. Seek a Deed of Easement on occupiers to maximise protection

WARNING – IF YOU DO NONE OF THESE THINGS YOU COULD END UP WITH RESIDENTS WHO CAN NOT SELL THEIR HOMES AND YOUR BUSINESS BEING MADE VERY QUIET

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Conclusions – Embracing change in 2022 to maintain Noise & Vibrancy

1. Hospitality is now under huge pressure & Covid is still here - plan for use of outside areas and improve acoustics inside to make them safer too.
2. Vibrancy is a huge assess for society & the economy ; but balance with residents being able to sleep is essential
2. Get your Best Practice in place, to minimise risk of complaints and Review
3. Take and Acoustic baseline of operations to protect businesses against creeping residential - (Agent of Change argument)
4. Stay alert to planning applications / permitted development changes from commercial – planning alerts in your area and **OBJECT**. You need to be assured the business will not suffer "unreasonable restrictions" and future residents will be saved nuisance.
5. Seek expert advice before you think you need it – it is easier to deal with the issues before they become chronic.

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Thank you ...

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