



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**Eight areas nominated to the Minister for
Environment, Community & Local Government
in Dublin City, for the delimiting as ‘Quiet Areas’**

Designation of Quiet Areas within the Dublin City Council Region

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Most people are affected to some extent by noise as they go about their daily routine. It is an inevitable consequence of a society, engaged in day to day activity. People's reaction to certain sounds, are based not only on sound levels but also to a large extent on how they perceive sound. At its simplest, noise is unwanted sound. The type, the level, and time of the sound occurrence, plays a major role in how people perceive the impact of sound. For example, 30,000 people could attend a rock concert and enjoy the music, while residents in the vicinity may consider the music 'noise' as it may occur at, what they may consider, an unreasonable time, at an inappropriate venue or the music maybe of such a volume as to impinge on their enjoyment of their favourite TV programme or even sleep.
- 1.2. People can become accustom to noise from certain sources and blot it out. However this is becoming increasingly more difficult in modern society as sound levels all around us are increasing all the time. Noise can disrupt people's conversations, interfere with rest and sleep thus increasing stress levels, disturb concentration and impinge on all kinds of daily activities.
- 1.3. It is apparent that people's perceptions may differ in distinguishing between sounds. Some people may like the 'hustle, bustle' and 'buzz' of a noisy, energetic city. Others can become accustom to certain levels of noise, which may then become acceptable to them. But for some, noise is an unwanted disturbance that negatively impacts on their quality of life and may have an effect on their health and well being. For this reason one of the aims of the Dublin Agglomeration Action Plan relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise is *'to prevent and reduce environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health and to preserving environmental sound quality where it is good'*. The Action Plan also sets out *'To aim to protect relatively quiet areas against an increase in noise.'* The Implementation Plan also commits the local authorities to identifying Quiet Areas and preparing submissions for their approval by the Minister for Environment.

2. Quiet Areas – Legislative Scope

2.1. The Environmental Noise Directive (END) makes a distinction between Quiet Areas ‘within an agglomeration’ and ‘open country’. In Dublin City Council’s case it is proposed to exclude consideration of the latter. Defining a Quiet Area may seem to be a very straight forward task. Some might say it is an area with an absence of noise. However, as indicated above, perception of what is noise can differ greatly. A Quiet Area could be an area with low sound levels or an area, which should not be exposed to high sound levels due to the type of area or the nature of the activities that take place within it. An area may also be perceived to be quiet although the sound levels may be relatively high. For instance sound levels on St Stephens Green East exceed daytime levels of 70 decibels, while sound levels in the centre of the Park, range from 57– 60 decibels. Whilst still relatively high, people use this park at lunch and other times to recreate, relax and escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

2.2. The Environmental Noise Directive (END) and the Irish Regulations transposing the directive do not give precise guidance as to how to define a quiet area within an agglomeration. The Irish regulations merely state:-

“quiet area in an agglomeration” means an area, delimited by an action planning authority following consultation with the Agency and approval by the Minister, where particular requirements on exposure to environmental noise shall apply; (S.I. No. 140 of 2006 -Environmental Noise Regulations 2006).

The ‘END’ under its objective and scope indicates that *“These Regulations shall apply to environmental noise to which people are exposed, in particular in built up areas, [in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration](#), in quiet areas in open country, near schools, near hospitals, and near other noise-sensitive buildings and areas”*. It also provides a definition - *‘quiet area in an agglomeration’ shall mean an area, delimited by the competent authority, for instance which is not exposed to a value of L_{den} or of another appropriate noise indicator greater than a certain value set by the Member State, from any noise source’*. From these definitions it can be concluded that when defining a quiet area within an agglomeration, 1) some form of sound level should be invoked, 2) the noise under consideration is ‘environmental noise’ and 3) emphasis is place on the use to which the locations are put - areas such as public parks, areas near schools, hospitals and noise sensitive areas and buildings. Although not explicit, private residential property such as suburban gardens would seem to be excluded from the definition.

2.3. Taking these criteria into consideration the second Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan, which was adopted by the City Council in 2008, sets out an absolute value of below 55 decibels daytime and below 45 decibels at night time as one criterion for defining a Quiet Area. A second criterion to cover what are perceived as ‘Relatively Quiet Areas’ was also proposed. These types of locations are

defined by their proximity to areas of high sound levels, and which provide a perceived area of tranquillity. Both quantitative and qualitative assessments are used to identify these types of locations.

3. Why delimit Quiet Areas?

- 3.1. The use and enjoyment of many natural resources, such as our green spaces and sea frontage can be further enhanced through the preservation of low sound levels or the reduction in undesirably high levels, thus providing respite from the noisy 'hustle and bustle' often experienced in the busy urban environment.
- 3.2. 'Quiet Areas offer many opportunities for public recreation. They are thus not only of value to their residents, but can also improve the quality of life of people living in adjacent but noisy roads, by affording opportunities for peaceful recreation from time to time. Hence, it is very important that existing Quiet Areas be preserved, and that new ones be created where possible. While one aim of the noise action plan is to reduce human exposure to high sound levels, another important goal is to preserve areas, which are still 'tranquil' or quiet and offer an escape from exposure to high sound levels. In delimiting areas as quiet, there is an acknowledgment and recognition that there is an extra value place one these areas, in terms of environmental quality and the consequential positive impact on quality of life and health, due to low sound levels and the absence of noise

4. Requirements of a Quiet Area

- 4.1. Designating a Quiet Area does not mean there should be an absence of sound, let alone noise, in that area. However, within a quiet area natural occurring sounds should be the dominant sound source. Whilst the rumble of traffic may be heard in the background, it should not be the dominant source. The rustle of leaves, bird song, running water and other natural occurring sounds should not be drowned out by manmade noise.
- 4.2. Small green spaces with no infrastructure or spaces predominantly comprising of football pitches are excluded from consideration. It is not envisaged that areas containing children's play grounds, football and other sporting and recreational facilities, will be automatically excluded from quiet areas as long as these areas are not the primary used to which the area is being put. Other activities such as music concerts, food fares, flower shows, motor car racing etc. are not automatically excluded either, but before permission is granted for such events, consideration should be given to the nature and extent of the proposed event and it's likely impact on sound levels in the whole of the Quiet Area i.e. will it dominate the total soundscape within the area or just a small portion of the area or for a limited time period.

4.3. The single figure parameter LDEN (Sound Level for the **Day, Evening, Night** time) is to be used for quantifying the sound levels within a Quiet Area. This is made up of the sum of the average yearly daytime sound levels, the evening time sound levels plus 5 decibels, and the night time sound levels plus 10 decibels. Therefore using the LDEN parameter, the sum of a day time level of 55dB(A), an evening time level of 50dB(A) and a night time level of 45dB (A) is equivalent to an LDEN value of 55dB(A).

4.4. It is considered that a Quiet Area should, as a minimum, have a pathway infrastructure, in order to make the area accessible to all the public. Special Amenity Areas may be excluded from this requirement.

4.5. Therefore the criteria used for identifying the first tranche of candidate Quiet Areas within the Dublin City Council Area were as follows:-

- a) Public parks, with pathways, to which the public have right of access and which are maintained by Dublin City Council.
- b) The Lden for environmental noise within the area was equal to or below an LDEN of 55dB(A), as indicated by the Dublin City Council Noise Maps (2011) of all road sources.
- c) A relatively Quiet Area was considered if the difference between the LDEN levels outside and within an area was at least 10-15decibels or greater

5. Process for identifying Quiet Areas

5.1. In drafting up a list of likely candidate areas for the first tranche of Quiet Areas, the LDEN (24Hour Sound Levels) parameter was used. LDEN contour bands from traffic source, produced for the 2nd round of noise mapping (2011) were overlaid on a map of Dublin. From this map, all public parks that were seen to be below an LDEN of 55dB (A) were identified. Relative quiet parks were identified in relation to the sound levels within the park and those on the boundary. If the difference was at least between 10 and 15dB (A) or greater, then the parks were considered to be 'relatively quiet'. An assessment as to the use to which the park was being put, was used as a final criterion, i.e. whether it is purely a green space, primarily football pitches, etc. The main reason for designating Quiet Areas is to, provide and protect locations where people can go to escape high sound levels, relax and recreate. Therefore it is expected – although not critical, that the area should have some infrastructure such as pathways so as to facilitate access by all, to all parts of the Quiet Area.

6. Implications for Dublin City Council in designating Quiet Areas

6.1. It is considered that there should be minimal or no financial implications in relation to the first tranche of candidate areas. There are implications in relation to future development in and around

Quiet Areas. Any proposed development will have to be controlled through the planning process such that the proposal does not impinge on the criteria used for the designation of the Quiet Area.

7. Candidate Quiet Areas nominated for approval by the Minister.

7.1. Based on the criteria outlined in para. 4.5 above, the following is a list of candidate Quiet Areas which was recommended to be put forward for approval by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government to be delimited as a Quiet Area.

1. Blessington Basin, Blessington St.
2. Edenmore Park, Raheny.
3. Mount Bernard Park, Shandon Park, Phibsborough.
4. Dollymount SAA – Terrestrial Area Only(excluding sloblands)
5. St. Annes Park, Raheny
6. Palmerston Park, Dartry, (Relatively Quiet Area)
7. Ranelagh Gardens, Ranelagh (Relatively Quiet Area)
8. The Cabbage Gardens, Cathedral Lane, D2, (Relatively Quiet Area)

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Edenmore Park, D.5. - Public Park maintained by Dublin City Council. Located to the North East of Dublin. Mixed amenity use -this neighbourhood park provides sports pitches, a Pitch and Putt facility, and a network of pathways for walkers. Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.094KM² in area.</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
<p>Current noise level at the site:</p>	<p>Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN</p>
<p>Description of the level of protection to be afforded to the site (e.g., <i>preserve the current noise level/reduce the current noise level</i>):</p>	<p>Preservation of current environmental sound levels.</p>
<p>Description on how this level of protection is to be delivered (e.g., whether future noise reduction measures are proposed or whether planning controls will be exercised to prevent any increase in the noise environment):</p>	<p>Planning controls will be used to maintain the current environmental sound levels where possible.</p>

Details of any public consultation conducted including how responses were addressed or incorporated. In addition, please provide details regarding any planned public consultation:	Method for identifying 'Quiet Areas' was included in DCC Noise Action Plan, which was agreed after public consultation. No comments were received on the proposed method of identifying 'Quiet Areas'. Advert requesting comments on proposal, placed in national paper referring to 'Quiet Area' proposal report and on DCC website
Description of the assessment /monitoring that will be undertaken to ensure that the objectives for the site in terms of noise are being achieved:	Quiet areas will be reviewed every 5 years when the Noise Action Plan is reviewed.
Local Authority Name:	Dublin City Council
Date:	
Contact Person:	Brian Mcmanus
Telephone Number:	+353 1 2223847
E-mail Address:	brian.mcmanus@dublincity.ie



Edenmore Park

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):	Bull Island, D.3. - Nature Reserve, SAA. Maintained by Dublin City Council. Located to the North East of Dublin. Mixed amenity use – Historical, Leisure, Walks, public toilets, Sea, Shelter, Swimming, Visitors, Interpretive Centre, Wildlife. Approximate area 5.477KM ² in size.
Description of the criteria used to select the site:	<p>Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
Current noise level at the site:	Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN
Description of the level of protection to be afforded to the site (e.g., <i>preserve the current noise level/reduce the current noise level</i>):	Preservation of current environmental sound levels.
Description on how this level of protection is to be delivered (e.g., whether future noise reduction measures are proposed or whether planning controls will be exercised to prevent any increase in the noise environment):	Planning controls will be used to maintain the current environmental sound levels where possible.

Details of any public consultation conducted including how responses were addressed or incorporated. In addition, please provide details regarding any planned public consultation:	Method for identifying 'Quiet Areas' was included in DCC Noise Action Plan, which was agreed after public consultation. No comments were received on the proposed method of identifying 'Quiet Areas'. Advert requesting comments on proposal, placed in national paper referring to 'Quiet Area' proposal report and on DCC website
Description of the assessment /monitoring that will be undertaken to ensure that the objectives for the site in terms of noise are being achieved:	Quiet areas will be reviewed every 5 years when the Noise Action Plan is reviewed.
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Bull Island

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>St. Anne's Park, Raheny, D.5 - Public Park maintained by Dublin City Council. Located to the North East of Dublin. Mixed amenity use - Band Performances, Floral Schemes, Golf/Pitch and Putt, Historical, Leisure Walks, Pavilion, Pond, Shelter, Sports Fields, Tennis, Wildlife. Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 1.276KM2 in size.</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
<p>Current noise level at the site:</p>	<p>Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN</p>
<p>Description of the level of protection to be afforded to the site (e.g., <i>preserve the current noise level/reduce the current noise level</i>):</p>	<p>Preservation of current environmental sound levels.</p>

Description on how this level of protection is to be delivered (e.g., whether future noise reduction measures are proposed or whether planning controls will be exercised to prevent any increase in the noise environment):	Planning controls will be used to maintain the current environmental sound levels where possible.
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St. Anne's Park

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Palmerston Park, Dublin 6. Historic and Heritage Park. Floral Schemes, Historical, Leisure Walks, Playground, Pond</p> <p>Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.025Km² in size.</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access.</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
<p>Current noise level at the site:</p>	<p>Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN</p>
<p>Description of the level of protection to be afforded to the site (<i>e.g., preserve the current noise level/reduce the current noise level</i>):</p>	<p>Preservation of current environmental sound levels.</p>
<p>Description on how this level of protection is to be delivered (e.g., whether future noise reduction measures are proposed or whether planning controls will be exercised to prevent any increase in the noise environment):</p>	<p>Planning controls will be used to maintain the current environmental sound levels where possible.</p>

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Palmerston Park

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Cabbage Gardens, Kevin Street, Dublin 8.</p> <p>Local Inner City Park and former cemetery.</p> <p>5-a-side all weather football pitch, Floral Schemes, Historical, Leisure Walks.</p> <p>Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.005Km² in size</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access.</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
<p>Current noise level at the site:</p>	<p>Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN</p>
<p>Description of the level of protection to be afforded to the site (<i>e.g., preserve the current noise level/reduce the current noise level</i>):</p>	<p>Preservation of current environmental sound levels.</p>
<p>Description on how this level of protection is to be delivered (e.g., whether future noise reduction measures are proposed or whether planning controls will be exercised to prevent any increase in the noise environment):</p>	<p>Planning controls will be used to maintain the current environmental sound levels where possible.</p>

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Cabbage Gardens

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Mount Bernard Park, Dublin 7, Northside Neighbourhood Park. The main entrance to Mount Bernard Park is located at Liam Whelan Bridge, Connaught Street with another entrance at Shandon Park. Provides a playground, tennis court and pathway for walkers. Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.0184Km² in size</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
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Mount Bernard Pk.

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Ranelagh Gardens, Dublin 6. Historic and Heritage Park, Floral Schemes, Historical, Leisure Walks, Pond,</p> <p>Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.007Km² in size.</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access.</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
<p>Current noise level at the site:</p>	<p>Environmental Sound Level < 55dB(A) LDEN</p>
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Ranelagh Gardens

Consultation Form for Designation of Quiet Areas under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006.

<p>Description of the proposed Quiet Area (e.g., location, size, amenity use etc):</p>	<p>Blessington Street Basin, Dublin 7. Historic and Heritage Park. Pond. Water feature, and fountain, Floral Schemes, Historical, Leisure Walks, Wildlife. Approximate area bounded by park fencing\wall is 0.01KM² in area.</p>
<p>Description of the criteria used to select the site:</p>	<p>Public Park.</p> <p>Environmental Sound Levels (LDEN) <55dB(A)</p> <p>Public have right of access</p> <p>The park should not be used predominantly for one particular activity i.e. – football.</p> <p>Has infrastructure that makes it accessible</p>
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Blessington Basin