

PRESS RELEASE *for immediate release: 25th October 2018*

Winners of 'The Noise Oscars'

John Connell Awards 2018, Palace of Westminster, 24th October 2018

The John Connell Awards 2018 took place at the Palace of Westminster on the evening of 24th October 2018, kindly hosted by Colonel Bob Stewart DSO MP, Member of Parliament for Beckenham and the awards presented by Sonia Phippard CBE, Defra's Director General of Environment, Rural and Marine.

The awards are named after NAS's far-sighted founder John Connell OBE, who lobbied the Noise Abatement Act through Parliament in 1960 when noise became a statutory nuisance in the UK for the first time. These unique annual awards, known as the 'Noise Oscars', are now in their 17th year. They acknowledge the importance of the quality of sound in our lives, and champion vital advances in reducing the negative impact of unnecessary noise for the public benefit. Over 250 recipients from local authorities, industry, organisations and individuals have now been honoured for the significant impact they have made to improve the aural environment.

The **Noise Abatement Society (NAS)** is a dynamic UK charity whose aim is to share a better understanding of what sound is, how it affects us and how we can solve noise problems in a pragmatic and sustainable way. Its internationally respected work helps to relieve the physical and mental distress caused by excessive noise which profoundly affects health and wellbeing, learning, productivity and social cohesion <http://noiseabatementociety.com/>.

The eleven recipients of the John Connell Awards 2018 are as follows:

1. John Connell Local Authority Award – sponsored by ROCKWOOL UK

Controlling excessive and unwanted noise in the community is one of the many tough responsibilities of Environmental Health Practitioners. Local Authorities are continually challenged to demonstrate imaginative and sustainable initiatives in the management of noise issues. The John Connell Local Authority Award recognises services, campaigns and programmes that are shining examples of community cooperation, education and creative solutions to solving noise pollution problems.

John Connell Local Authority Award, Winner: London Borough of Ealing Council and National Grid for the redevelopment and co-created noise abatement and management solutions for Almond Avenue Substation. This substation is critical, both locally and nationally, supplying electricity to over 200,000 homes. However, loud intrusive humming

noise was causing widespread disturbance to residents and threatened the plant's ongoing viability. Taking the strategic decision to avoid enforcement action and prolonged court proceedings, this local council worked collaboratively with operators and residents to achieve a sustainable solution: a co-designed visually appealing noise barrier erected around the 15,000 square meters site, successfully mitigating the noise whilst working in an extremely challenging high voltage environment.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said: *'NAS salutes this year's worthy winner of the John Connell Local Authority Award for employing pragmatic collaboration to solve what appeared to be a major insurmountable noise disturbance challenge.'*

John Connell Local Authority Award, Highly Commended: Westminster City Council for their advanced Code of Construction Practice. This densely populated council is the busiest planning authority in the country. *'Noise from building and construction was cited by 36% of its residents as having bothered them, with 19% considering it the most annoying noise they experienced - compared to 3% nationally'*. Their advanced Code of Construction Practice takes a risk-based approach to managing development, to include making contractors more accountable to the local community and collaborative works programme to improve residents' amenity. This significantly reduces noise complaints and maximises council resources.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said: *'NAS welcomes the introduction of a Code of Construction practice that gives a clear message to contractors about responsibility to the community to reduce noise disturbance when managing new developments.'*

2. John Connell Soundscape Award

This award recognises the advancement of Soundscape principles in line with the international standard BS ISO 12913-1:2014 and the practical 'real-world' application of the standard. As a member of the ISO Soundscape standard committee since 2009 the NAS is helping to develop research and evidence new acoustic measurement and assessment methods which more accurately reflect what the listener hears. Soundscape solutions manage sound in a more positive way to benefit our communities, health and wellbeing.

John Connell Soundscape Award, Winner: the Welsh Government for their world-leading integrated Planning Policy Edition 10 and Noise and Soundscape Strategy 2018-2023. This national government is the first to explicitly embed the requirement of good acoustic design and soundscape management at the heart of all development and noise policy. Their aim is to: create appropriate and varied soundscapes, meaning 'the right acoustic environment at the right time and place'; ensure truly sustainable development through aligning soundscape

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and air quality aims; drive innovation; and safeguard future generations through the development of quieter technologies and promoting standards developed in the UK.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said *'By pioneering the inclusion of Soundscape management within its planning and environmental policies, NAS applauds the Welsh Government for setting a superb example for others to follow.'*

John Connell Soundscape Award, Highly Commended: Ghent University for the innovation and development of "AcustiCare - the use of soundscapes in elderly care". Those with dementia may also suffer from a range of behavioural and psychological disorders greatly impacting on their quality of life and the work of health professionals. A multi-disciplinary team of experts led co-creation sessions with staff, selected residents and family members to research and manage residents' exposure to the acoustic environments in their bedrooms and living rooms. The resulting solutions included noise control measures to reduce reverberation times and unwanted sound propagation, also, co-designed soundscapes to promote calm, enhance feelings of safety, and improve the perceived pleasantness of the indoor environment.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said *'NAS congratulates Ghent University for its practical application of Soundscape management to improve quality of life for the elderly.'*

3. John Connell Innovation Award - sponsored by the Institute of Acoustics

Innovation is the key to successfully solving noise issues for the benefit of all. This award recognises original thinking when faced with particularly challenging acoustic issues, whether through noise control or reduction programmes, management, technology or good acoustic design.

John Connell Innovation Award, Winner: AECOM for the development and use of pioneering immersive sound demonstrations for the first time in a UK major road scheme statutory public consultation. Planned upgrades to the A303 - Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme - include junction improvements and a tunnel under Stonehenge that will reduce traffic congestion, noise and the visual impact of traffic from the World Heritage Site. Working together with Highways England this consultancy produced a pioneering and innovative solution. Setting a new engagement benchmark for highways infrastructure bodies, immersive sound demonstrations were used for the first time in a UK major road scheme statutory public consultation, making noise and visual impact intuitive to understand, accessible to a wider demographic while helping to allay fears, and communicate the facts about the scheme to stakeholders.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said '*NAS congratulates AECOM on its use of innovative acoustic tools to greatly improve public dialogue and understanding about the impact of future infrastructures.*'

John Connell Innovation Award, Highly Commended: Temple Group & FLO (Ferrovial Agroman and Laing O'Rourke) for the use of complex Auralisation Animations and Community Engagement to maximise public resources and minimise disruption for residents during the Northern Line Extension. The Northern Line Extension in central London has required major construction sites close to residential properties, with works taking place during the evening, night and weekends. Through proactive engagement with Community Liaison Group meetings, drop in sessions and investment in complex Auralisation Animations, buy-in from stakeholders was able to be achieved for the use of Acoustic Sheds to mitigate some of the noisiest works. This meant costlier options to the public purse could be avoided and greater disruption to residents minimised by avoiding fitting extra insulation, secondary glazing, or temporary re-housing.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said '*NAS welcomes the practical and cost effective approaches taken by Temple and FLO to solve noise disturbance from major building works.*'

4. John Connell Quiet Logistics Award – sponsored by Freight Transport Association

This award recognises advances in low noise technology, equipment and operations to facilitate safe, lower noise and efficient urban delivery services. Past awards have been won by operators, vehicle manufacturers, trailer makers, body builders and ancillary equipment suppliers who've created quieter products, services and programmes to reduced environmental noise impacts.

John Connell Quiet Logistics Award, Winner: Thermo King and Frigoblock for their innovative suite of quiet, hybrid, low-emission, multi-platform, full-scale transport refrigeration solutions. Noisy vehicle refrigeration units are disturbing to residents, thus limiting operators' delivery profiles and increasing congestion. These manufacturers have introduced a new suite of quiet and clean solutions including: unique Geo Fencing and noise abatement features enabling customers to remotely programme their refrigeration units to automatically transition to quieter operation once the vehicle enters a pre defined geographic area while protecting the coldchain; and provided new quiet hybrid solutions allowing easier access to restricted, low-emission urban areas while lowering their environmental footprint and operating costs in the same time.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said *'NAS applauds Thermo King and Frigoblock for supporting clean and quiet delivery solutions through its advanced technology.'*

John Connell Quiet Logistics Award, Highly Commended: [e-cargobikes.com](https://www.e-cargobikes.com) for their ground-breaking silent, zero emission, multi-platform last mile delivery solution. Last-mile delivery accounts for a growing proportion of transportation journeys in urban centres as a result of the boom in online shopping. However, predominantly van-based last-mile deliveries are a major contributor to air and noise pollution and consequently have a negative impact on the environment, health and wellbeing of local communities. This innovative silent, zero-emission last mile delivery solution gives retailers confidence to move from current 'proven but dirty' van delivery platforms to a scalable, robust, multi-hub, clean alternative.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said *'NAS heartily welcomes e-cargobikes clean quiet operation for last mile delivery as another practical option for distribution.'*

5. [John Connell Silent™ Approach – sponsored by Brigade Electronics UK](#)

This award recognises significant advances in industry awareness and best practice to reduce noise from operations and logistics. This award is for organisations which have developed proven noise reduction programmes, whether through the adoption of quieter transport modes, low noise ancillary equipment, staff training or other pro-active noise awareness initiatives.

John Connell Silent Approach™ Award, Winner: [Highways England](#) for their integrated, comprehensive and complex noise mitigation and management scheme for 800 Noise Important Areas. This authority is responsible for motorways and major (trunk) roads in England, forming the Strategic Road Network, totalling around 4,300 miles. While this represents only 2% of all roads in England by length, these roads carry a third of all traffic by mileage and two thirds of all heavy goods traffic. Since 2015 the comprehensive and complex noise mitigation programme has mitigated over 800 Noise Important Areas (as defined by Defra) and benefitted over 40,000 people including through the following measures: major schemes including re-routing traffic flows away from population; low noise road surfacing; innovative noise barriers; bespoke insulation packages; and novel community engagement methods.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said *'NAS applauds Highways England for employing many strategies to tackle the problems of road noise disturbance.'*

6. Quiet Mark™ Campaign Award - sponsored Salamander Pumps

Quiet Mark is the international mark of approval for excellence in quiet technology and solutions initiated by the Noise Abatement Society. The Quiet Mark Campaign Award is given to a company which has shown outstanding use of its Quiet Mark to increase market awareness.

Quiet Mark™ Campaign Award Winner: Vaillant Group This company has chosen to incorporate the Quiet Mark within its multi-million spend, UK wide, consumer facing TV advert showing this Autumn and into Spring next year. This not only demonstrates this company's priority for low-noise, high performance technology, but also its skill in communicating a calm counter-cultural creative to many millions of TV viewers conveying the powerful message that a warm, quiet comfort zone is good for health and well-being in the home.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said '*NAS salutes Vaillant for its skilled use of the Quiet Mark within its TV advertisement to convey the positive health message to millions of viewers.*'

7. Quiet Mark™ Commercial Sector Award – sponsored by Anderson Acoustics

The Quiet Mark Retailer Award is given to a company which has shown outstanding commitment to customer care and values that align with Quiet Mark objectives.

Quiet Mark™ Commercial Sector Award Winner: John Lewis Partnership This retailer has responded positively to the sustainable delivery challenge by creating a high benchmark for very clean, very quiet trucks. It has purchased 61 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks - fuelled by sustainable, clean and quiet bio-methane and featuring game-changing technology developed with Scania. Six of these have ground-breaking inverter technology developed by Frigoblock, which enable the use of engine-free refrigerated trailers.

In addition to adapting its fleet, it has implemented best practice guidance for quiet logistics from Transport for London and the NAS - for example, installing quiet floors and noise absorbing equipment at sites, ensuring that radios are turned off and that staff show considerate behaviour. It has shown great commitment to reducing the noise impact of its delivery operations, part of its customer care programme and in perfect alignment with its Quiet Mark Award - a great example for other retailers and distributors to follow.

Gloria Elliott, Noise Abatement Society Chief Executive, said '*NAS congratulates John Lewis Partnership on extending its customer care package to cover thoughtful, quiet deliveries to reduce disturbance to residents.*'

Noise Abatement Society Initiatives

www.noiseabatementandsociety.com/campaigns/

- **Helpline** The UK's unique helpline offering free advice to empower those suffering noise nuisance at home, work and in the community.
- **Silent Approach™** The protocol of quiet delivery and servicing practices, used as the basis for the UK government backed Quiet Deliveries Demonstration Scheme and Transport for London's London 2012 retiming trials and the ongoing Retiming Delivery Programme, and recommended in the London Mayor's Healthy Streets programme and by other cities as part of sustainable logistics programmes.
- **Quiet Mark™** International Award for excellence in low-noise technology, launched by the Noise Abatement Society in 2012 and now an independent company working closely with the NAS, is given to manufacturers of the quietest products and solutions. Quiet Mark gives consumers more informed choice whilst providing a new marketing platform for industry, www.quietmark.com
- **Soundscape** As a member of the ISO Soundscape standard committee since 2009, NAS is helping to support the design and adoption of new acoustic measurement and assessment methods which more accurately reflect what the listener hears. Soundscape science opens up the possibilities of managing sound in a more positive way to benefit communities.
- **Future Sound Foundation** NAS' programme of education and outreach, research and consultancy to further multi-disciplinary soundscape research, practice and evidence to support policy makers and practitioners and help equip the next generation of acousticians, designers and urbanists.
- **Love your Ears™** A campaign aimed at school age children to raise awareness of premature hearing loss through continuous exposure to loud music.

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For John Connell Awards 2018 sponsors please contact:

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