Briefing Note			
Prepared For :	Aviation Forum		
Contact Officer:	Chris Nash	**Extension:**	3645
Unit:	Public Protection	**Date:**	27th August 2013
Subject:	WideNoise Review		

1.0 Background

1.1 Following cabinet approval of WideNoise in January of this year, the Council has been rolling out the application across the Borough. This has included presentations to the Parish Conference, Aviation Meeting at Windsor Boys School (attended by Nigel Milton) and to the Borough's Aviation forum. The aim of these presentations was to ensure that the capabilities of WideNoise were spread as widely as possible.

1.2 Further notifications and publications have also been released on social media (Facebook / twitter etc.), the Borough's website, Around The Royal Borough magazine and via e-mail to around 8,000 residents (across the borough) through the existing Recyclebank Scheme.

1.3 In April Chris Nash (RBWM) together with Christian Nold & Louise Francis (UCL) ran two WideNoise Champion sessions, attended by around 10 members of the public & representatives of this forum. These provided the opportunity for residents to come forward to receive specialist training in the use of the WideNoise application. The aim was then for these residents to cascade their knowledge to other potential participants in their neighbourhoods.

1.4 A number of free 'loan phones' were distributed by UCL for those residents who did not have access to a compatible smartphone.

2.0 Results

2.1 From the graph below (figure 1) we can see that following the approval of the WideNoise cabinet report in January 2013 the participation in the WideNoise scheme escalated significantly, with a significant increase in users in February to April 2013. Following the roll-out to the community champions in April, a large 'spike' in the number of recordings made can be observed throughout June & July 2013.

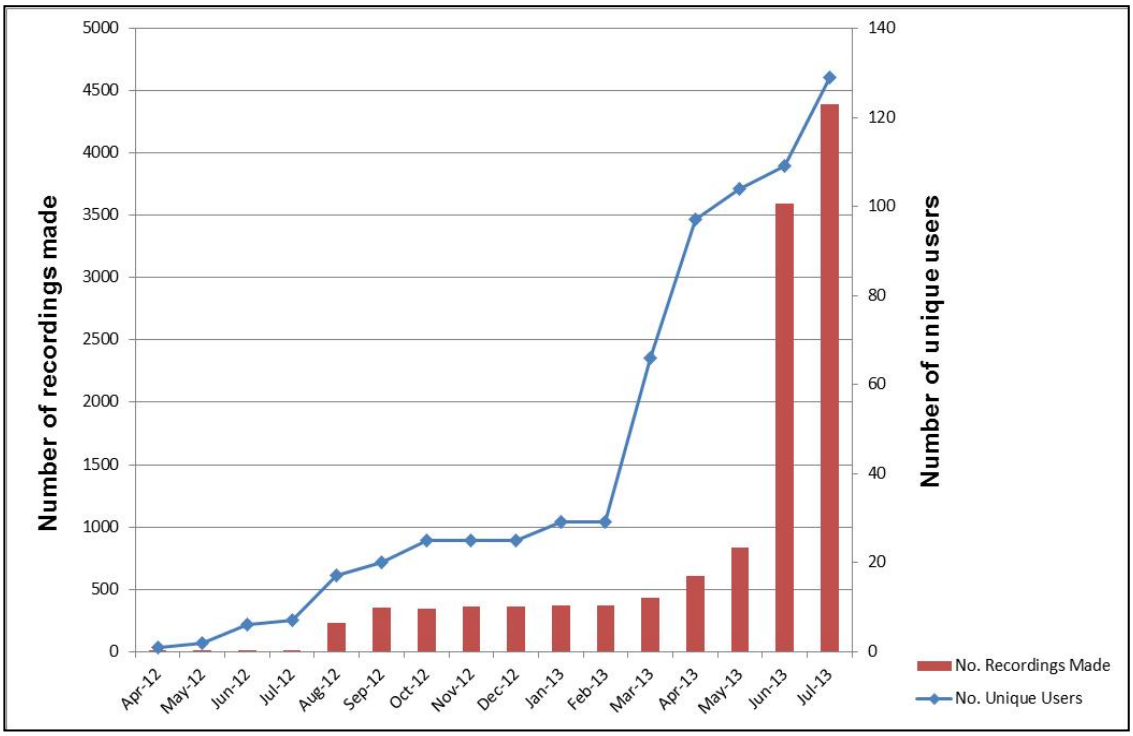

Figure 1: Graph depicting number of WideNoise Users & recordings (Jan - July 2013)

2.2 We can see that currently the number of residents engaging in the project is around 129, with around 4,500 recordings being captured on smartphone devices.

2.3 The chart below (figure 2) represents the proportion of recordings made with in defined decibel levels. We can see that around one third of the results obtained were over 80dB. Even with the calibration factors (figure 3) taken into account, this level of noise recorded brings into question the appropriateness of the current noise mitigation contours specified.

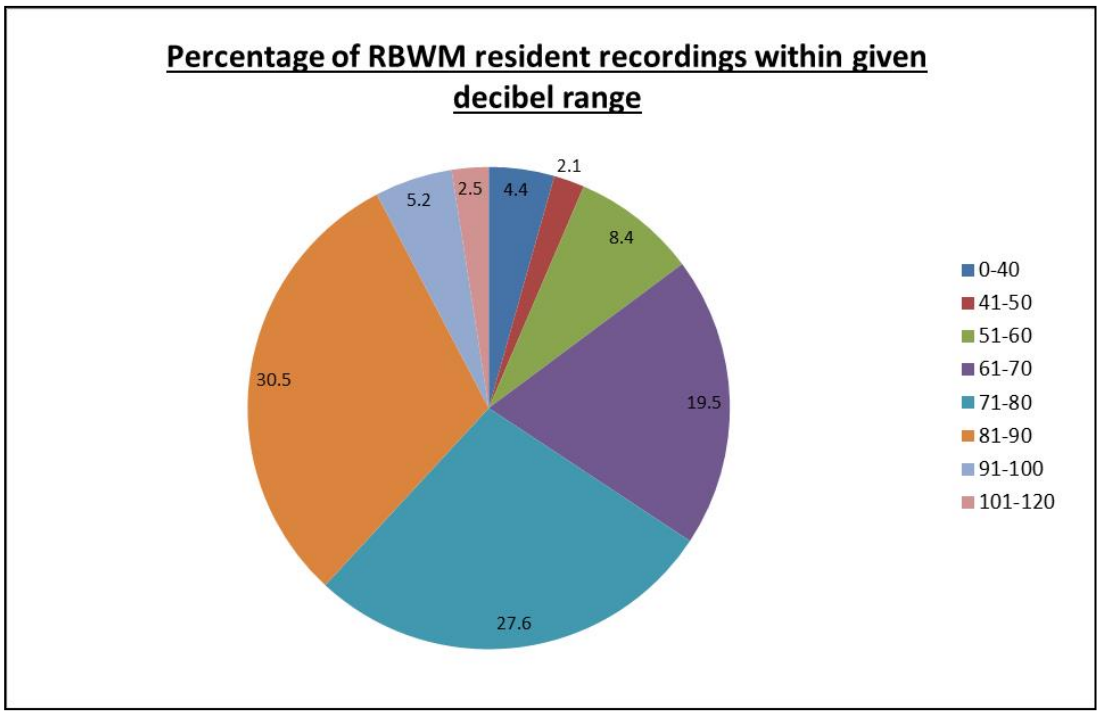

Figure 2: Graph depicting percentage of recordings made within defined decibel ranges

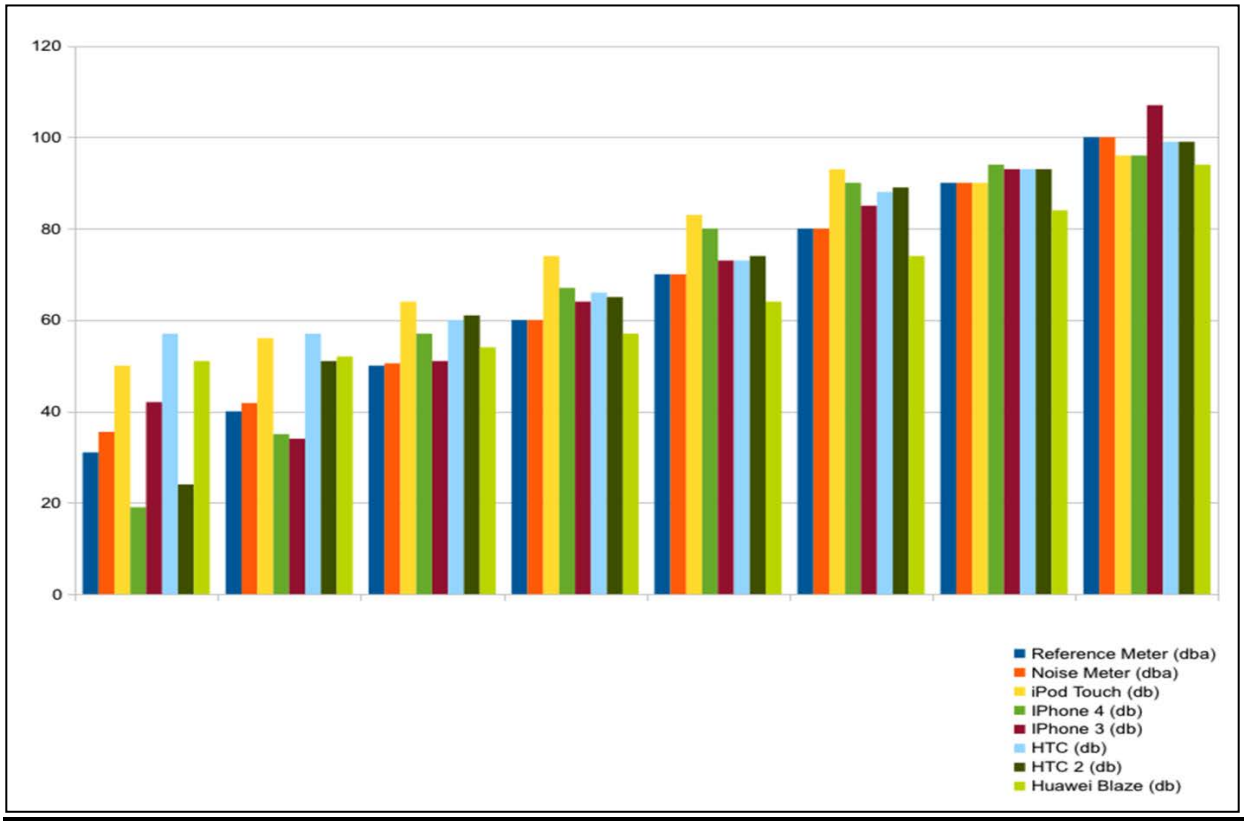

Figure 3: UCL WideNoise calibration study undertaken; comparing levels obtained using a 'Type 1' noise meter to levels obtained using 6 market leading devices.

Perception Results

2.4 Within the WideNoise application residents were asked to both quantify and qualify their experience by using sliders to indicate the effect of the noise and by inputting tags to describe the noise.

2.5 The 'TagCloud' below (figure 4) demonstrates some of the most frequently used descriptors of the noise experience. With some residents describing the planes "grinding across the sky", and spoiling conversations, use of gardens, picnics and their evenings.

Figure 4: 'TagCloud' obtained from WideNoise participants demonstrating descriptors used by residents.

2.6 The results obtained from residents using the sliding scales (figure 5) within the application can be used to demonstrate the emotions attached to the plane noise capture. It must be noted that the value “0.5” has been removed from this analysis due to the fact that this result has the potential to represent RBWM residents who have often not touched the ‘slider’ within the WideNoise application & therefore not actually rated the noise experienced.

2.7 From the graphs below, we are able to determine that the RBWM residents (who participated within the study), rated the noise between 0.8 and 0.9 - in the majority of samples taken. The residents participating can therefore be described as *“hating the man-made noise (principally avia*tion) within a social setting, resulting in the noise making them feel hectic”.

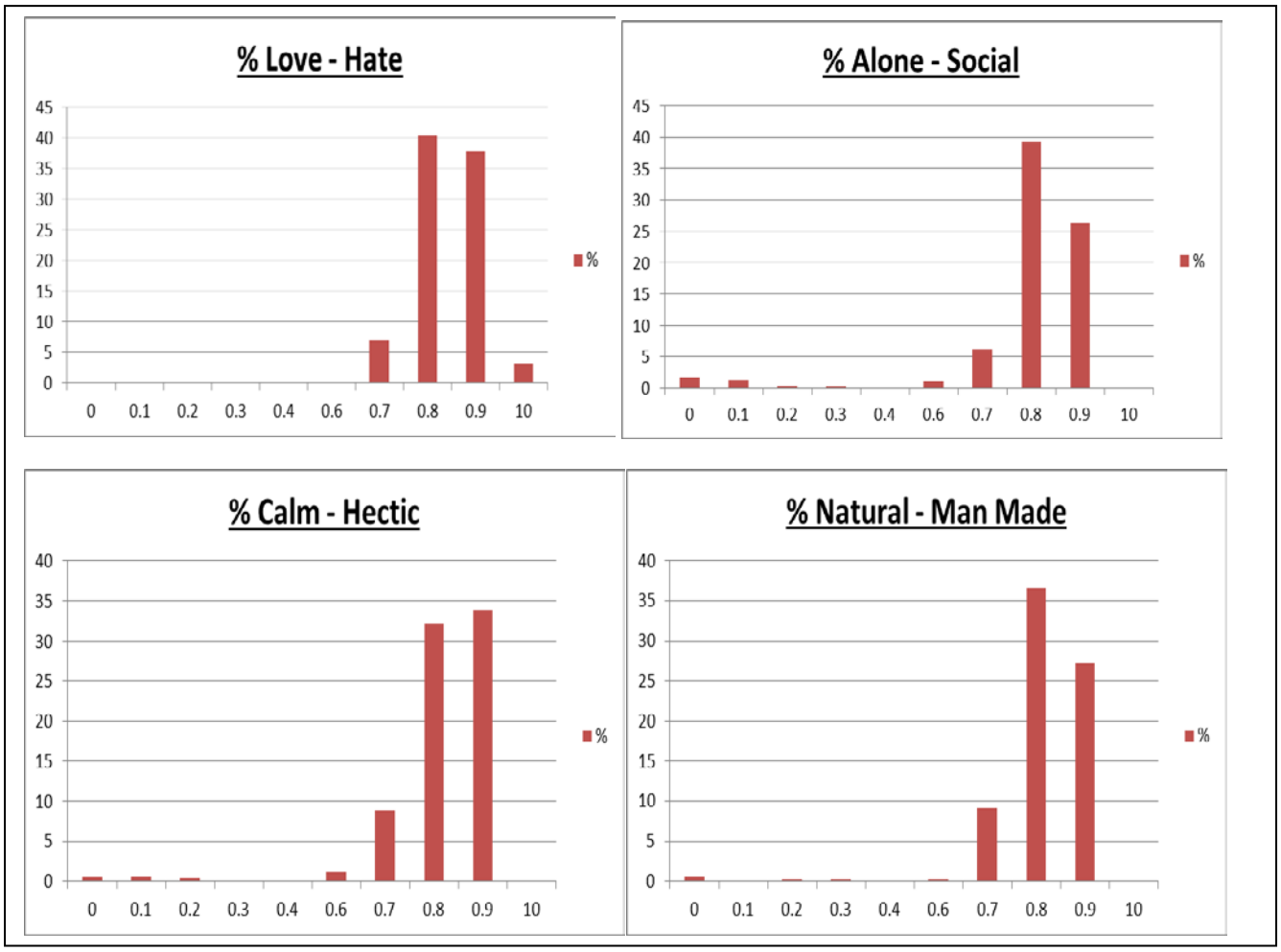

Figure 5: Emotive Data obtained by RBWM residents using the WideNoise application.

2.8 The spatial distribution of residents using the application is uploaded instantly to http://cs.everyaware.eu/event/widenoise/map (or http://tinyurl.com/WindsorMaidenhead). A current snapshot of this distribution can be seen below (figure 6).

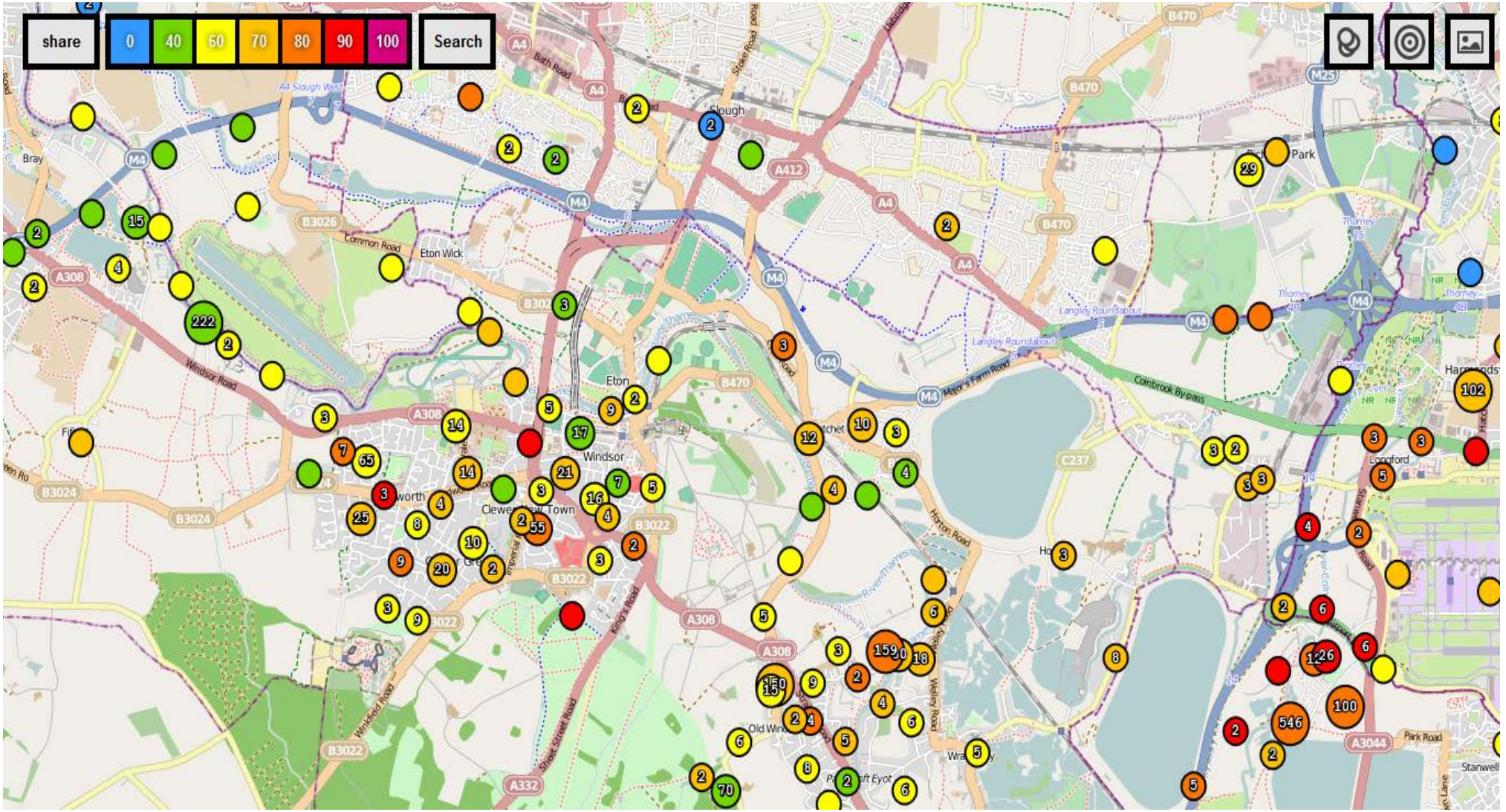

Figure 6: WideNoise Map (Spatial distribution of users in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead).

3.0 Analysis

3.1 The results obtained within this study cannot be described as surprising. However the response from residents has been overwhelming. From the 129 residents participating we have seen a consistent message returned, in that the noise from planes overhead do cause a significant disturbance to their enjoyment of their property.