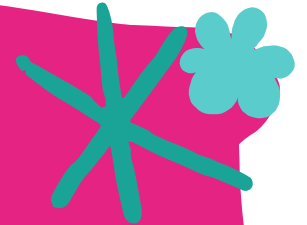


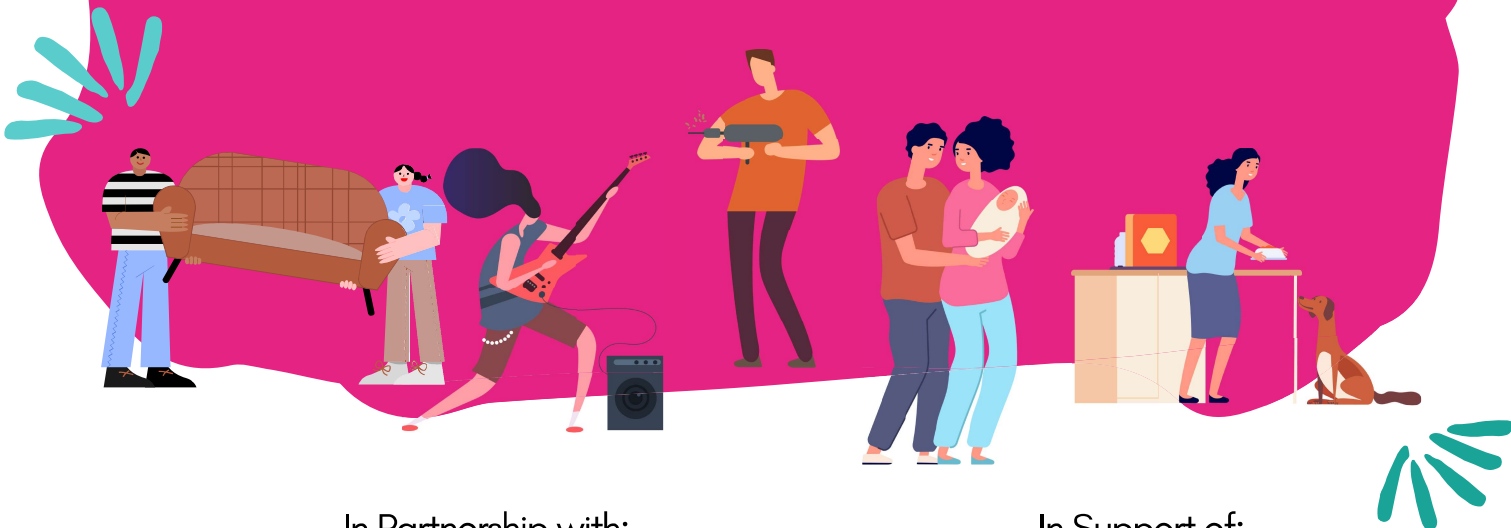


Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Neighbourhood Noise



Proposals to Manage Neighbourhood Noise

A summary of recommendations by the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Neighbourhood Noise



In Partnership with:



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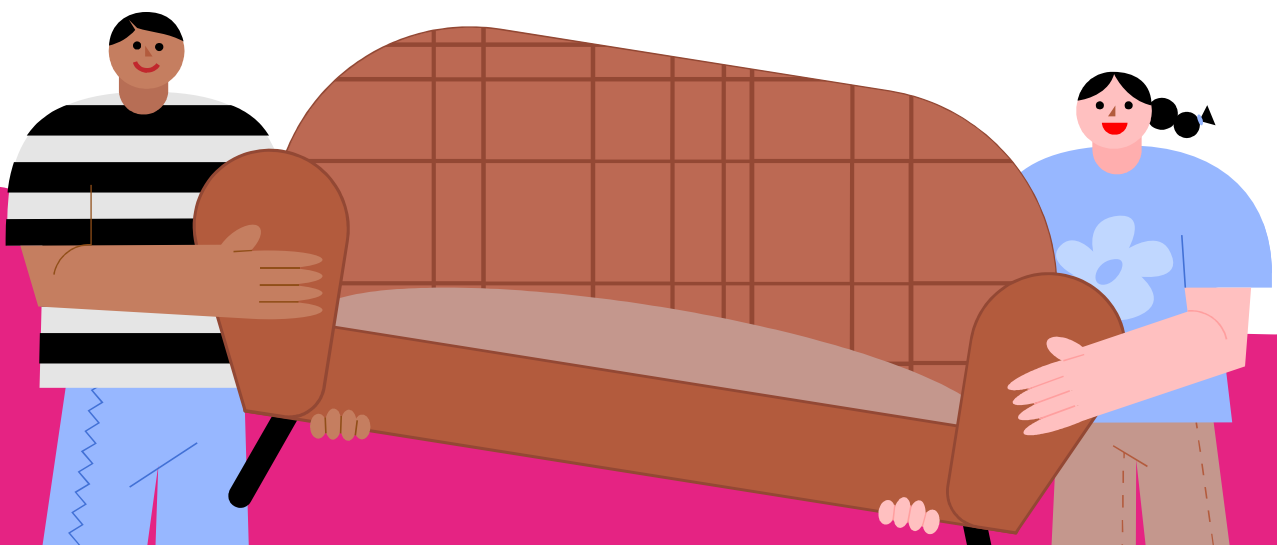


Background



The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on Neighbourhood Noise was set up in April 2022 as part of an integrated response to look into addressing noise from neighbours and congregation noise in common areas.

Comprising community stakeholders with relevant experience and expertise, the Panel looks at defining acceptable or unacceptable noise and positive community norms residents should adopt to address noise disturbances.



Foreword

We all experience noise disturbances in our daily lives. In most cases, the noises can be tolerated, or addressed through communication with our neighbours. However, there are serious cases where noise disturbances have impacted residents' physical and mental health in very harmful ways. Noise disturbances can be the subject of conflicts between neighbours and affect relationships in the community.

Close to 4,400 members of the public participated in our engagements. A study trip was also made to Seoul to learn how the city has been managing the issue. Drawing from the inputs gathered, the Panel is now putting forth our proposals to the Government to manage neighbourhood noise.



Recommendations on Community Norms to **Manage** Neighbourhood Noise

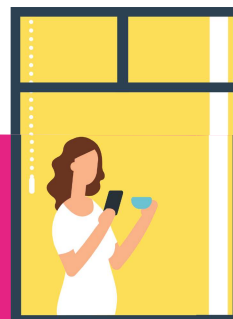
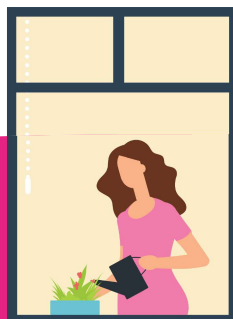
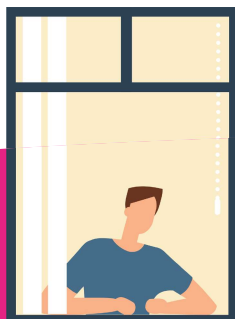
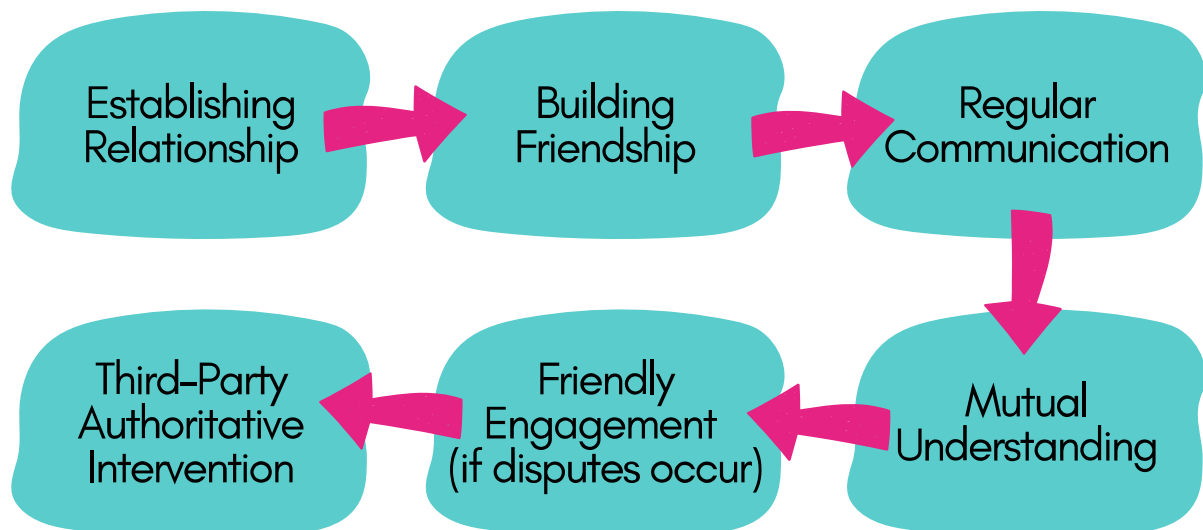
Recommendation 1

Conflict resolution through informal engagement as the first recourse.

We should proactively build a relationship with neighbours from the onset, which would help us reach a mutual understanding in a friendly manner. Where possible, issues should be addressed amicably among residents instead of immediately resorting to interventions from authorities.

We should normalise amicable engagements between neighbours to address any disputes or mismatched expectations.

Here are the proposed steps for conflict resolution between neighbours:





Recommendation 2

Extend quiet hours to 10pm to 8am.

Quiet hours are an existing norm in Singapore. Most people agree that noisy activities during this period are unacceptable.

The CAP has considered the overall needs of the community and the strong views from those affected by noise, and proposed for an extension of the quiet hours from 10 pm to 8 am.



Recommendation 3

Adopt more considerate behaviours.

Residents should practise civic mindedness even outside of quiet hours. The timings outside of quiet hours should not be seen as “noisy” hours, where residents can disregard one another's needs and make excessive noise.

Examples of considerate behaviours to manage noise:



Movement-Related

- Use relevant items to absorb noises from movement.



Renovation-Related

- Keep DIY works to the daytime, and within a 30 min window



Activity-Related

- Lower your TV volume and avoid playing musical instruments during quiet hours.



Pet-Related

- Train your pets or move them to an enclosed room if necessary.

Recommendations to **Review Approach** in Managing Neighbourhood Noise

The Panel recognises that **norms alone are insufficient to tackle the issue.**

Acts of “weaponising noise” i.e. creating noise intentionally to irritate neighbours, are unacceptable. **We should take strong action and have laws to deter them.**

The Panel is of the **view that the Government needs to establish a dedicated process, appropriately and efficaciously supported by enforcement powers.**





Recommendation 1

Designate an agency empowered with legal levers to respond to and enforce against unacceptable noise

Considering that we have been depending on moral suasion and/or mediation and that there is a lack of legal levers for the Government to effectively manage egregious cases involving recalcitrant offenders, there is a need to **designate an agency to take ownership of neighbourhood noise.**





Recommendation 2

Review the process of mediation and collection of evidence

The Government should consider making mediation mandatory and review the process to make it easier for residents to collect evidence, with greater clarity on the evidence required, in the process of resolving their disputes.



Recommendation 3

Adopt a quantitative noise threshold to assess egregious cases of neighbourhood noise

Establishing quantitative thresholds would provide a more objective assessment in cases where noise disputes remain unresolved, and further investigation is needed to validate claims from either party.



Conclusion

While many have highlighted the need for enforcement actions against recalcitrant offenders, community norms remain crucial as they establish a common understanding among residents of what is acceptable or unacceptable.

As members of the community, we should continue to be more considerate of one another, and avoid an overreliance on enforcement to address neighbour disputes.

Recommendations

1

Proactively build a relationship with neighbours from the onset, which would help in reaching a mutual understanding in a friendly manner.

4

Designate an agency empowered with legal levers to respond and enforce against unacceptable noise.

2

Extend our quiet hours from the current 10.30 pm to 7 am, to 10 pm to 8 am. Residents should be considerate and observe the extended quiet hours.

5

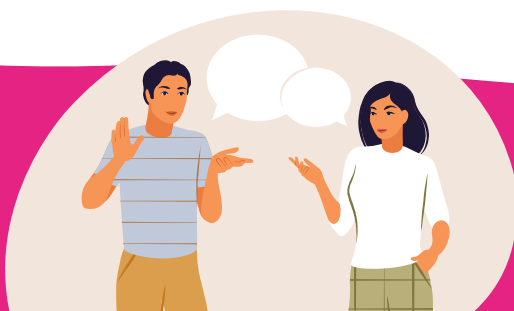
Review the process of mediation and collecting of evidence to better manage community disputes over neighbourhood noise.

3

Practice considerate behaviours to create a peaceful and harmonious living environment within and outside the quiet hours.

6

Adopt a quantitative noise threshold in the form of a decibel limit to assess egregious cases of neighbourhood noise.





CAP would like to thank the members of the public who have contributed to this report by sharing their experiences with us, as well as the stakeholders and agencies who have supported the work of the Panel with their time and knowledge.

CAP hopes that the Government will consider our proposals seriously. The full report can be found on go.gov.sg/communityadvisorypanel.



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Advisory Panel
(CAP) on
Neighbourhood
Noise**

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