

## ARE YOU A GOOD NEIGHBOUR?

### What you can do to avoid causing a disturbance to your neighbour's

Current nuisance law is intended to protect people from a significant interference with the use and enjoyment of their property. Playing loud music, letting your dog bark incessantly or burning your garden waste when your neighbour has washing out may do just that. Show some common sense and courtesy by respecting your neighbour's circumstances, and behave towards them as you would expect them to behave towards you. The law is not intended to be totally restrictive, and recognizes that in certain circumstances our actions may well encroach upon our neighbours.

### Loud Music - Radios, TV's, Stereos

- Keep the volume as low as possible, especially late at night. Use headphones, or listen to music on a personal stereo.
- When not using headphones, the bass control should be set at a low level as the "bass beat" can be particularly irritating. If you are having a party or barbecue, remember the neighbour's - let them know beforehand or better still invite them. See 'Parties' below.
- Most people are willing to accept more noise occasionally if they know when the noise will end and they will be able to get some sleep.

### Parties

- If you are having a party then your neighbour's are far more likely to be understanding if you warn them well in advance that you are having it and give them an indication of when it is likely to end.
- On the actual night try and contain the party as much as possible within your home keep guests within the house or flat rather than in the garden and keep windows closed if at all possible.
- Keep a check on the volume, particularly the bass level
- Finish the party, or at least turn down the music, when you said you would and ask your guests to be considerate, we receive just as many complaints about guests leaving the premises or being outside as we do from loud music.

### DIY

- Carry out noisier operations during the day keeping the evening for less noisy work.
- Complete the work as quickly as possible - don't let it drag on for months.
- Let your neighbour's know beforehand if you are carrying out potentially noisy operations, using power tools or working on party walls or floors. Use hand tools if possible.

### Barking Dogs

- Don't let your dog bark or whine for long periods.
- Keep your dog indoors if it barks constantly when unattended or disturbed.
- If your dog still barks when indoors make arrangements to leave it with a neighbour or friend or get someone to call in - leave its favourite toy or put the radio on at very low volume.
- Move the kennel or erect a fence so that your dog is disturbed less often by passers-by.
- Attend a dog training class to retrain your dog and change his / her behaviour.

## Cockerels Crowing

We can investigate complaints alleging noise nuisance from a cockerel crowing.

In considering whether a Statutory Nuisance exists, an Environmental Health officer will consider the following factors:

- Source of noise
- Environment of noise
- Duration of crowing
- Time of day of crowing
- How often it occurs

There are several measures that you can adopt in order to minimise a cockerel crowing:

1. Location of the cockerel- it is important to ensure that the cockerel is located as far away as practicable from neighbouring residential properties
2. Competition- Other cockerels in the area will cause them to compete with each other and may result in excess crowing
3. Housing- Keep the coop as dark as possible to minimise early morning crowing as a cockerel will crow when light enters the coop. The coop ceiling can also be lowered to prevent the cockerel throwing back its head and crowing.

## Domestic Disturbance and Being a Good Neighbour

- Site fridges, freezers, washing machines and loudspeakers well away from party walls.
- Stand washing machines/spin dryers on a solid floor or place on a carpet/rubber mat to reduce vibration.
- If people live below you fit carpets and underlay.
- Close doors gently, don't slam them.

## Intruder Alarms

- It is free to register a keyholder for your burglar alarm with us, this can be a friend, family member or neighbour we can contact to switch off your alarm if it malfunctions whilst you are out. Please complete the Audible Intruder Alarms Notification Form.
- In the event of an alarm going off continuously and there being no keyholder registered for the building, we would disconnect the alarm by forced entry if necessary and a charge would be incurred by the owner.
- As a safeguard you should fit a 20-minute cut-out to the alarm sounder but you should consult your insurers before doing this.
- The alarm should be regularly maintained by a competent company.

If you would like any further information, please contact:

### **Environmental Protection**

88-90 Pier Avenue

Clacton on Sea

CO15 1TN

[Environmental.services@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:Environmental.services@tendringdc.gov.uk)

01255 686767