

NEIGHBOUR NOISE

Noise from neighbours is a common source of disturbance. Everyone can expect some noise from the people who live around them. This could include any of the following reasons:-

- The neighbours are behaving unreasonably
- The neighbours are behaving normally, but sound insulation in your home is not good enough to cut out the sounds of normal everyday living
- The sensitivity of people to different types of noise varies – sounds that some enjoy may annoy others

First, approach your neighbour and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise. You may find this difficult but often people are unaware that they are causing a problem. However, approach the matter carefully if you think your neighbour may react angrily to a complaint.

If the problem continues, start a diary recording dates, times and cause of the noise and the effect it has on you. Diary record sheets can be downloaded here or by calling Environmental Services on (01926) 456725 or 456734.

When you believe you have sufficient evidence on the record sheet, please send it either by email to ehpollution@warwickdc.gov.uk or by post to Warwick District Council, Environmental Services, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Royal Leamington Spa CV32 5HZ. You will then be contacted by a member of the Environmental Services team to discuss what action can be taken.

We will consider the type of noise, how often and at what time it occurs. When you first contact us, we will also contact the source of the alleged nuisance to make them aware of our involvement. Whilst we would not release your details at this stage, you need to be aware that if the matter ultimately has to go to court, you may be required to attend and give evidence.

In most cases, we will need to witness the noise to determine if it is a statutory nuisance as defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If we are satisfied then we would serve a noise abatement notice on the perpetrator. If the person, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with the notice, he or she is liable for prosecution in the Magistrates' Court. We also have the power to confiscate any equipment that is causing a noise nuisance.

You are also entitled to take your own action if you wish by complaining direct to the Magistrates' Court. However, you are strongly advised to obtain legal advice before pursuing such action.