



**Corks Lane  
Hadleigh  
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**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**BABERGH URGES RESIDENTS TO BECOME 'NEIGHBOURS FROM HEAVEN' TO AVOID NOISE DISPUTES**

Babergh District Council is launching a campaign to reduce neighbour conflict over noise, especially during the summer months. Timed to coincide with National Noise Awareness Day on Wednesday, Babergh is trying to get the message across that residents with different lifestyles can live happily side by side – as long as a few simple rules are followed.

“Babergh has a legal obligation to investigate a noise that is ‘prejudicial to health or a nuisance’” explained Heather Worton, Babergh’s Technical Officer (Residential). “However, we are urging neighbours to work together to avoid anyone getting to the point where, rightly or wrongly, they think they have a cause to complain or may be the subject of a complaint. A combination of common sense and tolerance is essential – especially during the warm summer weather.”

Babergh’s ‘Neighbours from Heaven’ checklist includes:

- If you are having a party – make sure your neighbour knows about it in advance. You may even want to invite them along!
- Keep music down to a reasonable level – especially late at night
- Ask your guests to leave quietly by not slamming car doors or sounding horns
- Be tolerant if your neighbour is having a birthday party – after all it is only for once a year
- Remember that no-one has an absolute right to complete silence all year round.

Babergh hope that the ‘Neighbours from Heaven’ checklist will help to reduce the number of bizarre complaints that are occasionally received by the Environmental Health team.

“Although these are not representative of the majority of complaints we receive, they do take up officer time and frankly with a bit of common sense and tolerance would probably never have been brought to our attention in the first place” concluded Ms Worton.

/Babergh's ...

Babergh's Top 10 most bizarre noise complaints for the last 12 months are:

1. Could you please remove a bird's nest in my garden as the noise is irritating.
2. My neighbour has a horse in the field next to our house and the noise it makes (m/f) (continued) when it urinates is unbearable.
3. The man next door has a noisy lawn mower.
4. Could you tell the lady next door to take her washing off the line as I can see it when I look out of my window and it spoils my view.
5. On hearing a neighbour had applied for planning permission to remove an old rear extension on their property, environmental services received a call to ask if this could be done quietly.
6. I can hear the telephone ringing in my neighbour's house, could you ask them to turn the ringer off?
7. The man next door has a works van in his drive. I want it removed as it is reducing the value of my house.
8. I can play my music really loud if I want as I own my property, it would be different if I were a council tenant.
9. Could you tell my wife to stop shouting.
10. The couple next door have their stereo on a timer so the music starts when they go out or go on holiday. Babergh officers will not be able to witness the noise as there is a hidden camera so the music switches off when you walk up the drive.

Babergh is updating its advice to residents in a handy leaflet, which will soon be available from the Council Offices in Hadleigh or via its website at [www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

ENDS

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