

Noise from parties

We do not want to stop people having fun. But when we receive complaints about noisy parties we have a duty to investigate.

If we find that the noise is causing a statutory nuisance then we may serve an abatement notice.

This is why we have come up with a set of guidelines for party people to follow. If you follow the guidelines it may reduce the chances of someone complaining about your party.

However if we receive complaints about your noise we will still have to investigate and if necessary take action, even if you have followed this advice.

Party guidelines

Speak to your neighbours.....

Tell all your neighbours that you are having a party: This just doesn't mean the people who live next to you or above and below, it also means the people who live on the opposite side of the street and in the properties that back onto your own.

If you give people enough notice of your plans it gives them the choice of being somewhere else when the party is on. We are often told by neighbours that had they known that there was going to be a party, they would have gone away for the night.

Agree on a finish time for your party, or a time when it will be quiet

If you do this make sure you stick to the agreement. If people know the time something is going to end, they are able to prepare themselves for this and will be less likely to complain about the noise.

It also means that next time you want to have a party your neighbours will be less likely to object if you stuck to the arrangements the last time.

Don't let the party go on all night

Even if your neighbours are the most reasonable in the world no one will tolerate a party that goes on all night. Finish at a reasonable hour so that people can get some sleep.

Don't pump up the volume

As the night goes on, make sure that you reduce the volume and the bass. The bass end of the music spectrum is in the low frequency range. Low frequency noise travels further and can penetrate walls and floors more readily than higher frequency sounds like vocals.

Therefore by keeping the bass volume low, the overall volume can be slightly higher.

Keep people inside

If your party is outdoors for part of the time, make sure that towards the time your neighbours want to rest that you bring everyone indoors. Most people have bedrooms at the rear of their properties, and are therefore more sensitive to noise from gardens etc.

Keep windows and doors shut

If it is hot, hire air conditioning. By closing doors and windows you will be able to control more easily the amount of noise escaping from your property and entering your neighbours.

Make sure your guests leave quietly

You could put a note on your front door asking them to not shout or slam car doors.

Note: Remember that it is *your* party and *you* are responsible for the consequences

If it is your party then be responsible for your guests' behaviour. If your friends don't respect your home and you, why are you inviting them in the first place?