

Too noisy? Be considerate

TAMESIDE Council receives hundreds of complaints about noisy neighbours each year.

Here are some steps you can take to help keep the peace.

- **Make sure a keyholder can be contacted if your burglar alarm goes off while you are on holiday.**

- **Keep the volume of hi-fis, radios and televisions low, especially at night.**

- **Position loud speakers well away from party walls.**

- **Try to ensure that your dog does not bark or whine for long periods of time.**

- **Do noisier DIY jobs during the day.**

- **Inform your neighbours if you're having a party and try to keep noise to a minimum.**

- **Try to buy/hire appliances or DIY equipment which is the quietest available.**

- **If you play a musical instrument, do not practice early in**

the morning or late at night.

- **Try to carry out unavoidable noisy activities during the hours of 8am to 7pm, weekdays/Saturdays, 10am to 5pm, Sundays. If you are involved in a long project such as DIY activities, it is a good idea to liaise with your neighbours.**

Many noise problems, particularly those involving neighbours, can be resolved informally, for example, by explaining to your neighbours the difficulties they are causing.

Approach your neighbour and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise.

You may find this is difficult, but often people are unaware that they are causing a problem. Most will be glad to do what they can to reduce noise.

However, approach the matter carefully if you think your neighbour might react angrily.

If this approach fails the council may be able to help.

Please contact the Environmental Protection Team for advice, or see the council's website.

Do you have a burglar alarm?

TAMESIDE Council receives hundreds of complaints every year about the disturbance caused by intruder alarms ringing for long periods of time.

The vast majority are false alarms and Environmental Health Officers have to get these turned off, sometimes by force.

The cost of this is passed on to the owner or occupier of the house and the bill can turn into hundreds of pounds.

Your alarm should have a 20 minute cut out to stop it from ringing for long periods. Even if it does have a cut out the alarm may be triggered over and over again by a fault or even by a pet.

Alarms which ring for long periods can alert criminals to

an empty house rather than deter crime.

If you let us know who your keyholders are, we can contact them for you and ask them to turn off your alarm if you cannot be contacted.

Even the best maintained alarm systems can develop faults.

By registering keyholders, you can:

- **Deter crime**
- **Reduce noise nuisance**
- **Possibly save money**

Please ring (0161) 342 2697 for a form or fill in the on line keyholder form on the council's website:

<http://public.tameside.gov.uk/forms/f1107burglaralarm.asp>

If you haven't got an alarm, please let any friends or family who do have one know about this initiative.

New powers in crackdown

BOOZY teenagers plaguing the streets should become a less familiar sight in a new crackdown on the problem.

Tough new powers will be granted to the police while parents and the alcohol industry will have to take greater responsibility for their role.

A raft of new measures to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder have been revealed by home secretary Jacqui Smith.

Ms Smith was speaking in front of police, local authority licensing officers, representatives from the drink and retail industry and community groups.

She said: "There is a lot of good work being done to tackle the damage that alcohol misuse can do to individuals, the people around them and to the communities they live in.

"But I want to go further.

"Government must lead the way and I am determined to use

all the powers at my disposal to bring about change.

"But in order to do this we also need the support of industry, enforcement authorities and communities.

"We all need to meet our responsibilities to make a difference.

"Police must have all the powers they need to make groups of young people drinking in public a thing of the past."

A major national crackdown by police has begun to confiscate alcohol from under-18s drinking in public.

Ms Smith added: "Parents must play their part as well and we will give parents whose children are drinking the support they need to change their damaging behaviour."

Parenting Contracts will be used more widely and there will be an independent review of how well industry standards on responsible sales are being met.



HIGH VISIBILITY: Cllr Alan Whitehead hands over the keys to the new weapon in crime - the Spyhawk van. D07-2407

Spyhawk with an eye to beat crime

THERE'S a new pair of eyes on the beat in the fight against crime in Hurst and Smallshaw in Ashton.

In its bright yellow livery, the Spyhawk CCTV vehicle couldn't be any less conspicuous, but that's just what Community Beat Manager for the area Steve Hodgson wants - a high visibility police presence.

The £26,000 Ford Transit Connect, which was funded by the Safer Stronger Communities

initiative, is equipped with 360 degree vision.

A hi-tech camera which constantly records high quality CCTV images is mounted on the roof.

A second camera sits just behind the windscreen.

Stationed at Broadoak, the van accompanies police to incidents in the hope of recording images which can be used in court to convict criminals and take the pressure off witnesses.

Steve Hodgson added: "The combined use of Spyhawk and a high visibility foot patrol pres-

ence has already seen a reduction in burglaries.

"We hope Spyhawk's presence will reduce crime further and provide valuable evidence for securing convictions."

Councillor for the Hurst ward Alan Whitehead added: "We are very pleased, it is another example of the SSCF making a very, very positive contribution to the community.

"Already, an increased police presence is having an effect.

"It will be a very effective weapon in helping to combat crime and anti-social behaviour."

United we continue to stand

A CAMPAIGN in Ashton and Stalybridge to clamp down on trouble makers over the festive season will continue throughout the year.

Operation Safer Tameside Against Night time Disorder (STAND) was a multi-agency operation involving the police and fire service focusing on the night-time economy of the two towns, paying particular attention to trouble hot-spots.

Police officers are visiting licensed premises with Trading Standards and working closely with Ashton Pub and Club Watch to curb alcohol related incidents.

Chief Inspector Wayne Miller of Tameside Police said: "Operation Stand is about all partners working together to make sure everyone who wants to go out and enjoy themselves can do so safely."



TAKING A STAND: Tameside police and fire service have joined forces to ensure safer streets in Ashton. D07-2511

Helping to tackle anti-social behaviour

DENTON South has its own dedicated anti-social behaviour officer, Catherine Robertson, who gives support and advice to local schools, police and residents on addressing issues of youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

Catherine, who works from within the Community Safety Unit at the Tameside Council Offices, uses enforcement, intervention, mediation and communication to tackle anti-social behaviour and its

causes in the area.

One of the biggest parts of her job is communication, from talking to local school children to visiting people in their homes.

Half of Catherine's week, 18 hours, is spent working on cases in the Haughton Green and Yew Tree areas.

"There is an emphasis on helping residents who own their own homes," explained Catherine.

"As a trained mediator I often

work with residents on resolving conflict between neighbours."

The Tameside Mediates scheme is a free service available to all homeowners to help them resolve neighbour disputes.

Since taking up her role in September, Catherine has been working closely with the police and local agencies, including housing providers, to deliver strategies for dealing with the disruption that anti-social behaviour

can cause. Local schools also benefit from Catherine's role as she works closely with Two Trees School.

For further information or advice you can contact Catherine on (0161) 342 2884 or you can call into a drop in surgery held by Police Community Support Officer Longley from Denton Police at Haughton Green Library every Thursday between 2pm and 3pm.