

Recommendations for parties to prevent a nuisance

The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) of City of York Council does not wish to stop you from having parties from time to time. However it is important to ensure that noisy activities such as parties do not cause a nuisance to your neighbours. We therefore recommend the following actions:

- 1 Write to any of your neighbours that might be affected by your party, giving them the date, start and finish time (keep a copy of this letter for your records).
- 2 Do not have parties on a regular basis as it may cause nuisance to your neighbours.
- 3 During warmer weather, you may want a party or barbeque in your garden. Please remember that noise from outdoor parties can seriously affect your neighbours. Any music played outside should be at a much lower volume, as it will travel further than when played within your property. We recommend that music is not played outside any later than 10:30pm. We also recommend that guests are asked to come inside at 11:00pm, as noise from talking can sometimes cause a nuisance at night.
- 4 After 11pm you should check that noise from voices or music cannot be heard outside of your property. It is also important to ensure your windows are kept closed, if music is being played inside your property.
- 5 Remember your neighbours may be sleeping in bedrooms that may adjoin your bedrooms. It may therefore be better to use areas such as the living room and kitchen for entertaining guests during the evening.
- 6 Ask guests to leave quietly at night, as banging doors, car doors, waiting taxis and people noise in the street can effect your neighbours.
- 7 Hold parties on a Friday or Saturday night rather than during the week. Neighbours are likely to be less bothered by noise, if they do not have to get up for work the next morning.
- 8 We strongly advise against having discos, live bands and karaoke outside or in a marquee in your garden, as they are likely to cause a noise nuisance.

You should be aware that EPU can deal with noisy parties by serving a noise abatement notice. If you ignore this we have powers to seize your stereo, DJ decks etc and prosecute you (the maximum fine is £5000).

For further advice call EPU on (01904) 551555

Email: environmental.protection@york.gov.uk

Write to: EPU, Eco Depot, Hazel Court, James Street, York, YO10 3DS