



COMMUNITY MEDIATION

No matter how hard we may try to get along with our neighbours, some of us will, at some point, end up having a disagreement. Most of the time, this arises out of some kind of misunderstanding or perhaps because of a rare lapse in our consideration for others. Fortunately, things soon blow over and peace and harmony return.

However, in some circumstances, the disagreement ends up escalating into a full-scale dispute which, despite the best efforts to find a compromise to suit both sides, the situation cannot be resolved.

Much Neighbour nuisance or anti-social behaviour is not criminal in its nature, but can seriously damage relationships within communities; the quality of life and health of those effected through the fear of crime and the effects of escalating conflict.

Our volunteer mediators are professionals who have received proper training to deal with all manner of neighbourhood disputes. They often deal with the following issues, although this isn't an exhaustive list:

- Problems with noise
- Dog or pet nuisance
- Parking Issues
- Anti-Social Behaviour both by adults and children
- Harassment and intimidation
- Boundary Disputes

Mediators will be completely impartial about a particular issue you may have with your neighbour. They will listen to both sides and will try to come up with some kind of mutually acceptable agreement.

What Are The Benefits?

The most important benefit of mediation is that it stops the problem from escalating further because as neighbours, *you* will have agreed to a resolution, and are therefore far more likely to stick to it and not to relapse. It might not end up with you ever becoming great friends, but you will be neighbourly.

Therefore, if you simply cannot see a resolution to a dispute between you and your neighbour, mediation is often the best way to get the issue resolved, even if that means one or both sides having to be bold enough to make some compromises in order to achieve that.