



Enjoying the party



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A party can be an enjoyable celebration, or it can be a serious nuisance to the whole neighbourhood. This leaflet gives some simple advice to help you enjoy your party whilst minimising nuisance to anyone else.

Party problems?

A party can be an enjoyable way of celebrating anything from a housewarming to a new baby. You can even have one just because you want one! Nobody objects if it is well organised and well run, so as not to cause disturbance to your neighbours. Sadly, it seems that the nuisance caused by noisy and frequent parties is increasing and 'all night parties' are more common. Modern sound systems mean that one noisy party can annoy a lot of people, especially in blocks of flats.

The Council accept that people have a right to enjoy their homes, to enjoy their choice of music and to have a good time. The law does **not** allow the Council to be 'party poopers', and we do not want everyone to be totally quiet. However, people do **not** have the right to interfere with other people's enjoyment of their homes by having noisy parties late into the night, causing distress, loss of sleep or even illness. We all need to be considerate.

This guide explains how you can enjoy your party without annoying anyone else.

Tell the neighbours

But don't leave it until the day you are having the party. Give people about a week's notice, in case they want to make any arrangements. Don't just tell your immediate neighbours, think about anybody who might be affected. If you have a flat, you will need to consider the people above and below you, as well as those on the same floor. Ask them to let you know if they have any problems.

Give a finish time

Tell people what time you expect the party to finish, and try to stick to this time. Make sure your chosen finish time is reasonable.

Check the noise level

During the evening, go outside from time to time to check the noise levels. The volume should go down quite a lot after midnight at weekends (earlier during the week) and things should carry on getting quieter from then on. Background noise levels from general 'outside' activity, lowers substantially after about 21.00 so; take care to check noise levels from your party are not disturbing neighbours. If you have been in a room with loud music, you may not hear as well as usual, so make allowances for this when you are checking.

Position the speakers carefully

Think about where they are and how this will affect the houses or flats next to you. Keep them away from party walls and don't point them towards windows. Don't stand them on the floor if people live underneath you, and don't have the bass set too high. If you live in a block of flats you will have to be extra careful, as sound travels through the structure causing nuisance.

Keep windows closed if possible

Try to contain the music in one room. As things warm up, it's useful to have a spare room away from the music where windows can be opened, and people can cool down.

Don't let it spread

The party is at your place, keep it there. Don't let it overflow onto the balcony, the landing or into the street. All the effort you have made to organise things properly will be wasted if this happens. If you are using your garden, be aware that noise may affect more people.

Have guests leave quietly

If it's the early hours of the morning, ask your guests not to shout their goodbyes. If they are driving away, get them to do it as quietly as possible, without slamming car doors or sounding horns.

Know your guests

Make sure you know the people at your party, and can trust them to enjoy themselves without causing disturbance to others.

Remember that you are responsible for the behaviour of your guests, and that any legal action for noise nuisance would be taken against you, not against them.

The Courts can impose a maximum fine of £5,000 for serious noise nuisance. In some cases, the Council and the Police will act together and seize stereo systems.

**What it comes down to is consideration for others.
So have a good time but remember the neighbours!**