

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR!

ENJOYING THE PARTY

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 without annoying anyone else.

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. Sadly, it seems that the nuisance caused by noisy and frequent parties is increasing and 'all-nighters' are more common. Modern sound systems mean that one noisy party can annoy a lot of people, especially in blocks of flats.

The Royal Borough 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 Royal Borough to be 'party poopers', and we do not want everyone to be totally quiet. However, people do NOT have the right to destroy 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 do not 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. Do not just tell you immediate neighbours – think about anybody who might be affected. If you are in a flat, you will need to consider the people above and below you, as well as those on the same floor. Tell them to knock on your door 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. If you have been in a room with loud music, you will 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 the wall between you and your neighbours 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 control too high. If you live in a high-rise block you will have to be extra careful – because of the way these buildings are constructed, sound travels more easily.

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. Make sure you keep it there! Don't let it overflow onto the balcony, the landing or into the street. All the effort you've made to organise things properly will be wasted if this happens. If you are using your garden, be extra careful about noise out there.

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 an unlimited fine for serious noise nuisance. In some cases, the Royal Borough and the Police have got together and taken away people's stereo systems on the night.

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

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