



What is Antisocial Behaviour?

Antisocial behaviour covers a wide range of issues from playing music too loudly to incidents such as harassment and threats of violence.

Orkney Islands Council, in conjunction with other agencies, is committed to tackling these problems.

Everyone has the right to live peacefully alongside his or her neighbours and the Council will take whatever action is necessary to resolve neighbour disputes.

Experience has shown that it is better to attempt to resolve problems informally wherever possible.

However, where a tenant (or visitor) is responsible for persistent antisocial behaviour the Council will take action under their tenancy agreement, and this may result in the eviction of the tenants responsible for causing the problem.

Where the antisocial resident is not a Council tenant the Council will use all the appropriate legal measures to address the unacceptable behaviour.

What action can we take?

Orkney Islands Council has a variety of tools to combat antisocial behaviour and will use the most appropriate and effective option to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Wherever possible we will encourage you to work out disputes informally, however where further action is required we will not hesitate to use the options available including:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contract. *
- A Notice of Proceedings for Recovery of Possession.

* This is a voluntary agreement between an individual identified as being responsible for antisocial behaviour and one or more agencies. The agencies normally involved will be Orkney Islands Council (OIC), Orkney Housing Association Ltd. (OHAL) and Northern Constabulary.

If problems persist further action may be taken to evict troublesome tenants.

Action can also be taken through the courts against problem neighbours such as:

- Interdicts which prevent someone (owner or tenant) from committing a specific act.
- Antisocial Behaviour Orders.
 - This can be used for the most serious forms of antisocial behaviour to prevent someone from doing something specific. Any breach of these orders is a criminal offence. These orders can be granted by the Sheriff Court against anyone over 16 years of age (or in certain circumstances anyone aged 12-15 years old) at the request of the Council, where the Sheriff considers it necessary, to protect people in the area.
- Eviction of tenants for breaching their tenancy.
- Specific Implement.
 - This is a court order that requires someone to do something for which she or he is liable. For example, a court order to require someone to maintain close and common areas to standards specified in the Tenancy Agreement.

The Good Neighbour Charter

We will:

- Investigate all complaints of antisocial behaviour and keep you informed of the progress of your complaint.
- Advise residents of the options available to them, and the Council, to resolve their problem.
- Allow everyone to give their version of events.
- Attempt to work out disputes informally.
- Take the strongest possible action against tenants and homeowners or their family/visitors where antisocial behaviour is proven.
- Take action against parents whose children are causing a nuisance, where possible.
- Co-ordinate action between Orkney Islands Council and other agencies, such as the police and Community Safety Team, dealing with antisocial behaviour in Orkney.
- Provide as much support and assistance as possible to the victims of antisocial behaviour. This may range from help in reporting your complaint to assisting you if you have to appear in court.

You Will:

- Be expected to show consideration for your neighbours and not to cause a nuisance to them, their guests or council staff.
- Be responsible for the behaviour of your visitors.
- Be expected to take your turn to keep any shared areas (such as staircases, entrances, gardens and drying areas) clean and tidy.
- Keep pets under control and have the required permission to keep pets.
- Not use your home for business premises, without permission.
- Only park vehicles in appropriate areas, not on drying greens, gardens or common ground.

Last updated: April 2021.



The Good Neighbour Charter Agreement (Tenant Copy)

I (name):

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have agreed to rent the property at:

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from Orkney Islands Council.

I have read the Good Neighbour Charter and understand the conduct expected of Orkney Islands Council Tenants and what action the Council will take to protect residents from antisocial behaviour.

I agree to abide by the contents of the Charter, and the terms of my tenancy.

Tenant Signature:		Date:	
Witness Signature:		Date:	

The Good Neighbour Charter Agreement (File Copy)

I (name):

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have agreed to rent the property at:

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from Orkney Islands Council.

I have read the Good Neighbour Charter and understand the conduct expected of Orkney Islands Council Tenants and what action the Council will take to protect residents from antisocial behaviour.

I agree to abide by the contents of the Charter, and the terms of my tenancy.

Tenant Signature:		Date:	
Witness Signature:		Date:	