



May 22 2012

Noise Action Week 2012 - (21st May – 25th May)

As part of this year's Noise Action Week campaign, Babergh District Council Environmental Protection Team will be holding an advice stand at the Tesco Store, in Sudbury, on Wednesday (May 23), between the hours of 8.45am and 1pm.

At the stand, you will find useful information leaflets and free promotional items. Our officers will also be on hand to answer questions on noise related topics such as dealing with neighbourhood noise nuisance, exposure to noise at work and explain how the Environmental Protection team can help.

Babergh District Council receives approximately 300 complaints regarding noise every year.

One of the most common complaints received within the summer months as the mornings get lighter is disturbance from early morning noise from cockerels crowing.

We would generally advise against keeping cockerels in a built-up residential area as the likelihood of complaints is high, but by carrying out the following steps the overall level of disturbance should be minimised:-

Location: It is important to ensure that the cockerel is located as far as practicable from neighbouring residential property.

Competition: Where more than one cockerel is kept or others are located in the immediate area this is likely to lead to cockerels competing with each other. This can increase the amount of crowing considerably. Think whether you really need a cockerel: cockerels are not required for hens to lay eggs.

Housing: Keep the coop as dark as possible to minimise early morning crowing as a cockerel will crow when light enters the coop. Do not let cockerels out of the darkened coop until a reasonable hour – we suggest 7am. The coop ceiling can also be lowered to prevent the cockerel throwing back its head and crowing.

Matthew Bullock, Babergh's Environmental Protection Officer, said: "Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Environmental Protection Team has a legal duty to investigate complaints of noise nuisance, and determine based on a number of factors whether or not the level of noise is unreasonable and preventing the enjoyment of another person's property.

"If an Officer determines that the complaint is justified then a Noise Abatement Notice will be served on the person responsible for causing the nuisance.

"This Abatement Notice legally requires the person responsible to stop causing the nuisance. If it is found that the Noise Abatement Notice has not been complied with the person/s responsible can then be prosecuted as breaching the Notice means an offence has been committed."

Mid Suffolk will be offering advice on all types of noise at an information stand set up in their Needham Market reception.



As part of Noise Action Week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk are urging everyone to:

- Consider the noise they make and the effect it has on others
- Consider the noises that disturb them

For further information please contact Babergh District Council's Environmental Protection Team on 01473 822801 or visit us at the Main Offices at Corks Lane in Hadleigh.

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