

Case Study 8

Anti-Social Behaviour

Name: Group of Young People

Age: 10 - 18

Date: Friday 29th June

The Rosetrees is a large Housing Estate close to the City Centre. Many of the younger residents often complain about being bored. The youth club closed down a few months ago and now large groups of young people often hang out on the streets. Many local residents have complained about the noise and rowdy behaviour of the young people and the police regularly pass by to check on them.

There have been complaints of harassment, underage drinking, cannabis, graffiti, fighting and bad language. Local residents are often too nervous to go to the shop and the shopkeeper, Sammy Rizzo, says that he is losing trade because of the large groups of young people causing anti-social behaviour.

When asked to move on by Sammy, the young people say that they are not doing anything wrong. Some of the local residents sympathise with them because the youth club closed down. However, Local Councillor Mrs Malik points out that there is broken glass on the pavement, there is graffiti sprayed and written across the walls outside the shops and when some of the young people have been drinking they can become physically and verbally abusive.

PC Emmanuel receives numerous complaints from elderly residents who are scared to go out at night. Mrs Malik says:

“The kids can be out all hours. They wake people up after midnight with their shouting, especially if they have been drinking. We get mothers taking toddlers onto the park and sometimes in the morning it can be littered with broken glass, empty tins and other rubbish.”

She goes on, “But the worse thing is half the time they don’t even consider other people. They don’t even realise that they are behaving in an anti-social manner. Windows have been smashed, gardens have been ruined, parked cars scratched and the bus stop and phone box have been totally wrecked. Just imagine how many people have been affected. These things have to be paid for. Who pays? Did you know that the estimated financial cost of anti-social behaviour in England and Wales is over £3 billion per year?”