Neighbour dispute noise mess case study

Neighbour dispute, this dispute had been going on for nearly 3 years, originally neighbour 1 would approach neighbour 2 about the noise (loud music) and mess that kept on appearing on her front garden and neighbour 1 would always resolve both, and for a few months everything would be back to normal, every so often neighbour 2 would reoffend and neighbour 1 would have to go and have a word.

On one particular weekend neighbour 2 had a party, the noise was quite unacceptable to neighbour 1, the mess left behind was much more than before and some of neighbour 1’s plants had been damaged.

Without thinking nor acting or approaching neighbour 2 as she usually would, neighbour 1 went and banged on neighbour 2’s door, was quite loud and used some language which she later regretted.

Ever since that incident the noise and mess was constant and unbearable, whereby neither neighbour would talk to or even acknowledge the other, the local neighbourhood office became involved and suggested that both neighbours try mediation.

Mediation took place over a day, with separate meetings in each of the neighbours’ homes, with a final joint meeting. Neighbour 2 admitted that at times she was perhaps not as neighbourly as she could have been, but always did observe the noise and mess situation, however neighbour 1 had been so rude to her following the incident and said things which she should not have said, she just did what she liked, however she realised if this continued, she may be at risk of losing her property.

Neighbour 1 realised she had taken things slightly too far and should have dealt with the noise and mess issues as she had previously, party 2 agreed if party 1 apologised to her, she would not play music excessively and would ensure none of her mess spiralled into neighbour 1’s garden.

An apology was given, accepted and returned, it was agreed that should there ever be an issue over noise, mess again, although there should not be, as long as it was communicated appropriately any issues would be addressed there and then.

Facts & figures

- The mediation took 1 day compared to the 3 years this neighbour dispute had already gone on.
• The mediation cost each party £500.00 each compared to the thousands they would have had to spend had they continued with Court or more formal action.