Neighbour dispute shared drive case study

Neighbour dispute, Pete moved into his new home in 2009, his front drive was shared with Linda. Both of them had cars, but Linda’s boyfriend would sometimes park his car on the drive, making it difficult for Pete to get his car on and off the drive, equally Linda was not always considerate with her parking. This was of particular concern to Pete when his father who was 93 came to stay; due to being elderly it was difficult to get him in and out of the car and into the house.

For a while Pete managed, however it got to the stage where he could not tolerate it any further, he saw Linda in their street and started to shout at her, stating she should have more respect and courtesy for others, as Pete was so angry he did not tell Linda what the problem actually was.

Linda was distraught, quite shaken up and afraid and mentioned this to her boyfriend that evening, who went mad, he immediately went next door to Pete’s were an argument ensued which nearly ended up in a fight. The police were called by another neighbour, who arrived and calmed each party down advising their behaviour was potentially a breach of the peace.

Mediation was arranged, Pete advised the mediator that the shared drive should be shared and was not for Linda or her boyfriend or anyone else to clog up. When asked by the mediator if he ever mentioned this to Linda, Pete advised he had not.

When the mediator saw Linda, he advised her of Pete’s concerns, to which she laughed, her view was if that’s all he wanted he only had to ask for the cars to be moved, what was the need to be rude and threaten her?

Pete knew he had not really addressed the issue and had handled it badly, but wanted an assurance that he would not be hassled by Linda or her boyfriend again, Linda wanted an apology and would make sure from now on she was more considerate with her parking, however should Pete have an issue he should politely address this with her, where she would do so immediately.

Both neighbours agreed to this and to use their best endeavours for the situation never to get out of hand again. Pete apologised to Linda, Linda apologised to Pete and they both now live in harmony.
Facts & figures

- The mediation took 1 day compared to the 2 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.