



Anti-Social Behaviour

**Andy Claydon, Anti Social Behaviour Officer
(East Belfast)**



Anti Social Behaviour Is:

“behaviour that is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to members of the public not of the same household as the perpetrator”

In reality, ASB is any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way.



Examples of Antisocial Behaviour Dealt with by Belfast City Council

- **Environmental Antisocial Behaviour**
- Some antisocial behaviours effect the environment in a negative way, for example, graffiti,
- litter, fly posting, and fly tipping or persistent dog fouling on shared spaces.



Examples of Antisocial Behaviour Dealt with by Belfast City Council

- **Noise Nuisance**
- All houses with people in them will make noise at times and we expect neighbours to tolerate reasonable levels of noise associated with home life and to resolve minor incidents by talking with their neighbour. However, when the levels are too great Belfast City Council can pursue action to deal with noise nuisance from within a household.
- Belfast City Council can also take action against excessive and after hours noise from pubs, clubs and other venues if they hold an entertainments licence.



Examples of Antisocial Behaviour Dealt with by Belfast City Council

- **Antisocial Behaviour on Council Property**
- It is Belfast City Council's responsibility to take the lead in tackling antisocial behaviour on the premises and open spaces for which we are responsible. To do so, we will take all reasonable, preventative and protective measures and we will work with other relevant organisations. We are aware however, that the antisocial behaviour displayed on these occasions, for example, verbal abuse, drinking, intimidating gatherings of people and damage to Council property, often falls between the responsibilities of several agencies.



Reporting antisocial behaviour

- In some circumstances we have the powers to deal with antisocial behaviour alone. However, in other cases we may need the support of other organisations to resolve the complaint.
- To report an incident of antisocial behaviour, first contact the PSNI on **101**.
- **Antisocial behaviour officers**
- If you encounter antisocial behaviour in your area, you can contact our antisocial behaviour officers.
- Andrew Claydon (east Belfast) - **028 9032 0202** ext **3485** or mobile **07825 420791**
- Keith Addy (south Belfast) – **028 9032 0202** ext **3298** or mobile **07876 686660**
- Trevor McDonald (north Belfast) - **028 9032 0202** ext **3324** or mobile 07917 544365
- Paul Cleary (west Belfast) – **028 9032 0202** ext **3394** or mobile **07825 140523**
- Jeremy Ferris (parks/city centre) - **07787 835922**
- During normal office hours you can also contact us on **028 9027 0469** or email envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk



Reporting antisocial behaviour

- **Neighbourhood officers**
- We have eight neighbourhood officers who target areas with high levels of antisocial behaviour.
- They work Monday to Thursday (2pm to 10pm) and Friday and Saturday (4.30pm to midnight)
- Their role is to:
 - provide a visible presence
 - offer guidance, support and advice on community safety issues
 - challenge low-level antisocial behaviour
 - enforce laws relating to on-street drinking and environmental crime
 - help to reduce crime and fear of crime.



Reporting antisocial behaviour

- **Park wardens**
- Our park wardens tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB) in our parks. They patrol the parks at peak times to deal with issues like littering, dog fouling and drinking.
- They also work alongside dog and litter wardens and have enforcement powers to issue fines.
- Our wardens are easy to spot in their green uniforms. They travel between parks so they can respond to ASB across Belfast.
- For more information on our park wardens, email asb@belfastcity.gov.uk or call us on **028 9091 8767**.



Other agencies with powers to tackle antisocial behaviour

- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**
- If the person carrying out the behaviour is a Housing Executive tenant, you can contact them on **0344 892 0900**. For more information visit their [website](#).
- **Housing Associations**
- If the person carrying out the behaviour is a Housing Association tenant contact the relevant Housing Association.
- **Social Services**
- If your complaint concerns children, older people or those with a mental illness call Belfast Health and Social Care Trust on **028 9056 5656** for further guidance. For more information visit their [website](#).



Council's options for dealing with antisocial behaviour

Belfast City Council acknowledges that it has a responsibility to do everything within its own powers to tackle antisocial behaviour.

We aim, however, to ensure that people improve their behaviour and do not needlessly enter the criminal justice system.

Belfast City Council will cascade this corporate priority down through departmental plans. We will undertake to engage with our elected representatives who will inform the development of this priority and ensure it is reflected in these plans and subsequent resource allocation.



Council's options for dealing with antisocial behaviour

- **Prevention**

Belfast City Council will take all reasonable steps to prevent antisocial behaviour in its property or on its premises by adopting secure by design principles in all refurbishment or development work.

Belfast City Council is committed to providing leisure and recreation opportunities for people in the city. We will continue to support continuous improvement in tailoring services to contribute to the prevention of antisocial behaviour. Belfast City Council works with communities in a number of different ways, (community services, estates management, SNAP, sports and arts development, good relations etc.) we will continue to do this to empower and support communities to tackle antisocial behaviour in their neighbourhoods.



Council's options for dealing with antisocial behaviour

- **Education, Advice and Warning**
- Belfast City Council has often found education, advice and warning to be useful tools in improving peoples' behaviour, and we will continue to use this approach to tackle antisocial behaviour.



Council's options for dealing with antisocial behaviour

- **Enforcement Byelaws**
- However if advice and warning is unsuccessful, Belfast City Council has a number of powers it can use to tackle different types of antisocial behaviour in the city.
- For example, Council Byelaws prohibit drinking in designated public places and regulate the use of parks, playgrounds and playing fields. To be proactive we will investigate complaints relevant to the powers of Belfast City Council and gather information and statistics. We will use this information to plan where to target our services and resources, both short and longer term.