

Good Neighbour Agreement

Apex Housing Association Ltd (Apex) is committed to the promotion of good relations and the development of stable, sustainable communities. We believe that everyone has the right to peaceful enjoyment of their home and the area in which they live.

To assist in ensuring this, Apex seeks to positively engage all tenants by asking for commitment to the Good Neighbour Agreement, the purpose of which is to ask tenants to ensure that they, their families and their visitors contribute to a safe and welcoming neighbourhood by showing respect and tolerance to neighbours and by promoting good neighbourliness.

Apex is committed to addressing any matter, including tackling anti-social behaviour as and when it arises, to ensure the promotion of good relations and the development of stable, sustainable communities; but to do so we need your support. When such behaviour arises, we will not tolerate it taking hold in your neighbourhood and ask for your commitment to positively engage with us so that we can put such behaviour in the past.

Being a Good Neighbour

Apex is asking all its tenants to treat their neighbours with respect and look out for them in times of need. We should be especially vigilant in the care of the vulnerable and elderly in our community. We believe that by being a good neighbour you will not only be helping us to stop nuisance and anti-social behaviour but you will be contributing to a more positive, confident and outward looking community.

About this Agreement

As an Apex tenant, we would encourage you to sign this Agreement as a commitment that neither you, nor members of your household or visitors to your home will behave in a manner that affects the peace and enjoyment of your neighbours.

What can you do to be a good neighbour?

There are many things you can do to be a good neighbour and help prevent nuisance and antisocial behaviour. Some examples are listed below:

- Respect for all neighbours and their property and fairness in dealing with everyone, irrespective of their religion, race, ability, culture or political belief.
- Care for the elderly, the lonely, and the vulnerable in the community.
- Accept that everyone is different and be tolerant of the lifestyles of others, particularly with regard to noise levels.
- Be responsible for the behaviour of your children and anyone visiting your home.
- Respect the rights of children and young people to play and meet in a safe and happy environment.
- Residents are respectful of the environment in which they live through upkeep of a clean and tidy neighbourhood, free from antisocial behaviour.
- Recognition that a good community spirit benefits all through healthy inter-action and mutual support in dealing with local problems.
- Keep pets under control and in accordance with the Apex Pets Policy.
- Park vehicles in designated areas, showing respect for neighbours.
- If any problem arises, every resident has the right to approach any constituted group set up by the residents, Apex or any other statutory body, in order that the problem may be sorted out amicably and to the satisfaction of all concerned.
- Residents in flats or other shared buildings have additional responsibilities given that they live in close proximity to each other and this may have implications for noise levels and shared access areas.
- Support community activity and encourage others to do the same.

Within the above charter, people have a right to choose the extent to which they engage in the community.

What is Anti-Social Behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour is defined as acting in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause alarm, harassment or distress to one or more people in another household.

Apex Responsibilities

Apex will respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour and carry out investigations which will include interviewing the complainant and the alleged perpetrator. In carrying out our investigations to resolve anti-social behaviour we will liaise and exchange information with other agencies. These agencies may include the Police Service for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the local District Council, Youth Justice Agency and Social Services.

When necessary, Apex will use legal powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. This will require working with an agency such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive or local Council to obtain an Order for Possession and/or an Injunction or an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO)

Declaration

I / We have read and agree to all the principles of the 'Good Neighbour' Agreement.

Your agreement with Apex:

It is acknowledged that each signatory pledges to respect the rights of his/her neighbours in the community and to fully exercise his/her responsibilities within the context of the agreement.

I agree that whilst I am a tenant of Apex I will do everything I can to be 'a good neighbour', and will not behave in any way which may be considered 'anti-social'.

I understand that if any member of my household, or visitors to my home act in a way which can be considered as being anti-social, Apex will take action for breach of my tenancy agreement which may lead to legal action being taken against me.

Signed.....Date.....

(Tenant)

Address.....

Witnessed by..... Date.....

(On behalf of Apex Housing Association Ltd.)

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