

Community Mediation

Party A John Black is a farmer, and Party B the Smiths, Party C the Johnsons and Party D the McGregors are neighbours. The referral was made when the neighbours of the farmer were at breaking point over cow muck being left on the road, which got worse every time that John moved his cows.

The dispute has been going on for almost 20 years, although it started over a misunderstanding, and has escalated into tit for tat incidents, involving all the parties.

Community Councillors, Councillors, MPs, and latterly the police have been involved.

Two mediation meetings were held, with all parties attending, eight people in total. The first meeting went very slowly, with a lot of anger and resentment coming out, although this was controlled by the mediators. An agreement was reached that all the parties would walk around the farmland to look at the presenting issues. At the second meeting, the farmer said he resented gates being shut when he had wanted them left open, but the neighbours thought they were doing the right thing by always shutting them. This led to more understanding between the parties, and an agreement by the farmer to try to keep the road clean. Tentative agreements were reached, with the option to contact our service for more help if needed.

Dumfries & Galloway Community Mediation

