

Community Mediation

The following case study highlights how mediation can provide a useful forum for parties in dispute, by providing the opportunity of speaking to and listening to each other's views in order to resolve their difficulties.

Party A was a single mum with two teenage sons. Parties B and C were two elderly gentlemen living on their own.

The dispute consisted of complaints from Parties B and C regarding the conduct of Party A's children – specifically in relation to them playing football outside their house and damaging plants in their garden.

During the initial visits, Party A acknowledged that there had been a problem with her sons playing with their football in the street, however, she said that she had asked them to go to the local park which they had done. She expressed concerns as Party C had been verbally aggressive towards her sons whilst under the influence of alcohol. She also seemed genuinely upset as she had previously had a good relationship especially with Party C. Party B also acknowledged that he had not handled the situation particularly well – however he was frustrated about the damage to his plants and he had been under the influence of alcohol at the time. Party C acknowledged that things had improved lately and was aware that Party A had her hands full with her sons. He was also concerned as he had got on well with her in the past and he did not want to fall out with her. He also had failing health and needed his rest.

After discussion with all parties it was agreed that due to the fact that Party C was house bound, the meeting would take place in his home. All parties were happy for this to happen.

During the meeting, Parties B and C outlined their concerns and Party A responded by agreeing that her sons playing football had been problematic and as a result she had asked them to play in the park. She also apologised for the damage that they had caused to Party B's property. Party B acknowledged that his behaviour towards her son had been unacceptable and apologised. Party A acknowledged this and asked that in the future he came to speak to her about any problems. Party C explained that he needed his sleep due to his poor health and that he was constantly being disturbed. Party A acknowledged this and apologised for any inconvenience her sons has caused as she had not been aware of his ill health.

All parties acknowledged that there had been faults on both sides and that they needed to communicate more in the future.

East Ayrshire Community Mediation

