

Community Mediation

A and B had been neighbours for about five years and had always got on well. Their difficulties had started about six months prior to the referral when they had fallen out. The main difficulties were that A did not like B's and other children banging footballs off her new fence and B was unhappy at the way A was speaking to the children. After an angry confrontation, when B went to retrieve her childrens' football, there was no further communication between them and police and housing officers were contacted on a regular basis to deal with "tit for tat" complaints.

The parties were visited separately to discuss how things were from their point of view. Both parties expressed the wish to have nothing to do with each other and to be left alone. They also expressed feelings of anger, intimidation and disappointment that their previously neighbourly relationship had broken down.

As only one party was happy about the idea of a mediation meeting, we arranged for an interim shuttle mediation session where the mediators were able to pass on positive messages and look at ways forward for the future. When we contacted the parties again they both felt that things were going very well and there was no requirement to arrange mediation meeting, as they now felt able and confident about approaching each other direct.

Highland Community Mediation

