

PRESS RELEASE

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BAD BEHAVIOUR MEANS BANNING ORDER

Another Anti-Social Behaviour Order has been obtained by New Charter to curtail nuisance neighbours.

Tameside Magistrates Court heard that John Joseph Joyce, 17, of 8 Outram Square, Droylsden had caused considerable alarm and distress to neighbours and residents across Tameside. Joyce, the son of the tenant, was banned for 3 years from using or engaging in abusive, insulting, offensive, threatening or intimidating language or behaviour in any public place in England and Wales. In response to the harassment caused by Joyce, magistrates also banned him from driving or riding in a vehicle without the consent of the owner.

Breach of the order could mean Joyce could face a maximum of 5 years imprisonment.

Speaking after the banning order was granted, New Charter's Head of Neighbourhood, Steve Hodson, said "I am pleased the court has again backed us and our residents. It should send a clear message to the minority of our tenants who cause trouble. This is our second success, and we will seek the Court's support again several times over the next few weeks to bring similar sanctions on others".

ENDS

Notes for Editors



Photo - portrait of Steve Hodson available

1. New Charter formed in 1999. Until September 2000, it was Britain's biggest Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT). With a turnover of £49 million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
2. Reporting restrictions were lifted for the ASBO, but not for other matters heard by the Magistrates.
3. The ASBO is the second success for New Charter. It follows a three-year ban from the Crowswood estate in Stalybridge on Toni Leanne Hargreaves obtained at Tameside Magistrates Court on 22nd May 2003.
4. The Court ordered that the defendant, John Joseph Joyce, be prohibited from:
 - (i) Driving or riding in a vehicle without a licence, insurance or the consent of the owner
 - (ii) Using or engaging in abusive, insulting, offensive, threatening or intimidating language or behaviour in any public place in England and Wales
 - (iii) Engaging in, or inciting or encouraging any other person to engage in, any anti-social or criminal behaviour in any public place in England and Wales
 - (iv) Associating with Matthew Judge and Craig Clarke

The terms of this order are to be suspended generally for a period of 9 months or until Joyce is released from custody. The Order will run for a period of 3 years.

5. If without reasonable excuse Joyce does anything which he is prohibited from doing by this order, he shall be liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years or to a fine or both.

6. Until December 2002, only Local Authorities could apply for ASBO's, although the Government has now widened powers for others to take the lead.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000