

PRESS RELEASE

22nd March 2004

Oasis silenced

Unwilling to face the music, a tenant who fancied himself as a club DJ found the Courts unenthusiastic about his behaviour.

Oldham County Court was told that Robert Rhodes had been served with a Court Order banning him from causing nuisance on 27th February 2004 but had begun playing more loud music within 15 minutes of the order. Rhodes of Higher Green in Ashton-under-Lyne failed to attend the hearing on March 11th, but His Honour Judge Knopf was satisfied he had breached the Injunction made by District Judge Gaunt at the earlier hearing.

Judge Knopf sentenced Rhodes to a period of 21 days in custody, suspended for two years on the basis that there are no further breaches of the Order. He also ordered Rhodes to pay New Charter's costs of £500.



The Courts had been told that Rhodes had been involved in a campaign of nuisance involving playing loud dance music, shouting and swearing. His associates have also, on occasion, been involved in harassment and intimidation.

A resident who did not wish to be named said, "The noise was absolute hell. He played music so loud the whole estate could hear it. I particularly remember "Look Back In Anger" by Oasis, but most of the time it was the sort of records you hear in nightclubs.

"His mates were the sort we don't want round here. One time, one of them tried to break into my home. I hung onto the door and he threatened to break my arm if I didn't let go. I'm relieved the Court has listened to our many complaints and granted New Charter this injunction."

After the verdict, David Rigby of New Charter said "With the many successes we and our decent residents are having in the Courts, the message needs to be heard – if you can't behave with consideration for neighbours, we will seek custodial sentences".

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage nearly 16,400 properties transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £49million a year and a workforce of almost 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. Robert Rhodes (dob 15.10.73), 14 Higher Green, Ashton-under-Lyne - the Defendant.
3. On Thursday 26th February, Tameside County Court ordered that Rhodes must not engage in, encourage or permit any behaviour at the property or in the locality that



causes or could be reasonably foreseen to cause nuisance, annoyance, alarm, harassment and/or distress to anyone residing in, visiting or having lawful excuse to be in the locality of Higher Green, Ashton-under-Lyne. He must also not use abusive, insulting or threatening behaviour against any such person. He must not vandalise or damage the property or any other property in the locality. He and his guests and visitors must behave in a tenant-like manner in accordance with section 6 of the Tenancy Agreement.

4. On Thursday 11th March, Rhodes was found guilty of three separate breaches of the injunction and was sentenced in his absence at Oldham County Court.
5. This action is also a success for the Tameside Strategic Partnership, a board made up of near 30 members from local business, the voluntary and community sector and key public bodies. Through consultation with local people, it creates and then implements the Tameside Community Strategy – a three-year plan to improve the quality of life for local people. It was set up in 2000 and meets three times a year. It ensures actions are taken within six key areas, including: *A safe environment – cutting crime and disorder.*

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