

PRESS RELEASE

Immediate release

25th November 2008

Nine months in jail no 'life of Reilly'



Picture available



Interviews with witness available on application

A woman who turned an area of Ashton-under-Lyne into a party zone has been sent to prison for nine months.

Nichola Reilly of Rowley Street was already subject to an injunction granted in September to curb her anti-social behaviour.

But Tameside County Court heard that 17 breaches had been catalogued since, including several all-night parties. Neighbours who complained were subject to verbal abuse and threats of violence. In one breach, Reilly and a friend screamed obscenities and simulated sex acts towards neighbours. Some of the breaches were caught on camera by New Charter's covert surveillance.

Reilly had been in court on two previous occasions and had been in custody for 10 days. Yesterday (Monday 24th November) she finally admitted all 17 allegations and agreed to end her tenancy of the house. But her attempt to plead for leniency failed.

District Judge Osborne read the evidence and viewed film footage presented by New Charter, and did not consider any of the events trivial. He said Reilly had shown "appalling behaviour" and he would be failing in his duty if he did not sentence accordingly. These were "gross contempts very shortly after the injunction was served". Although he took into account the mitigation offered by Reilly, he sentenced her to nine months imprisonment. He also extended the injunction to 12 months from today.

New Charter Homes' Managing Director Tony Powell said: "Reilly claimed her behaviour was partly due to her excessive drinking. But we are pleased the court did not regard that as mitigation. She has shown a wilful disregard for her neighbours and the law.



business for neighbourhoods

"This is a victory for the Hurst Cross neighbourhood and especially those residents who refused to be intimidated. We need the help of the many to deal with the few. In turn, we have put the right case to the court to stop this behaviour and remove her from the area."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £59million a year and a workforce of 840, New Charter is one of the region's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes this month, the Group owns 18,600 homes.
2. Nichola Jane Reilly of Rowley Street, Ashton-under-Lyne d.o.b 30.09.1981.
3. New Charter has invested in high quality surveillance training and equipment, which is used covertly and overtly to deter and detect criminal and anti-social behaviour. The expertise of our trained staff is bought by other landlords in the North West. This particular surveillance action took place under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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