

# BALL GAMES & OPEN SPACES KEEPING THE PEACE

## **During Spring and Summer the council and police receive many complaints about ball games being played in open spaces.**

Public outdoor space is there for the enjoyment of everyone. Young people using open space for positive leisure activities, including ball games, is not anti-social behaviour. Involving children and young people in activities of this sort can in fact help to prevent them participating in anti-social behaviour.

However, we also recognise that ball games can – usually unintentionally – become a nuisance to others living nearby. Having consideration for others is important for keeping the peace.

This leaflet is intended to offer advice to prevent difficulties arising.

### **Things to consider for keeping the peace:**

- Parents – please ensure your children are safe and adequately supervised
- Avoid playing ball games on or near roads to prevent injury or accidents
- Use larger open spaces or parks nearby for ball games where possible
- Use a soft ball if possible to prevent accidental damage to property
- Always ask permission before retrieving balls or play equipment from someone else's property
- Try to keep noise at a reasonable level and avoid using offensive language



## How Can the Community Safety Partnership help?

We will always listen to your concerns and help communities to find a compromise where possible, taking into account different views.

Blaby District Council does not have bylaws to prevent the playing of ball games in public spaces and the Community Safety Partnership does not therefore have the power to stop them. However, we take anti-social behaviour in open spaces very seriously and will take appropriate action against:

- Damage caused to property (e.g. cars, fences or other property)
- Deliberate nuisance e.g. balls being repeatedly kicked at property
- Youths drinking alcohol in public or illegal drug use
- Unlawful riding of motorised vehicles e.g. 'mini-motos'
- Verbally abusive or intimidating behaviour
- Excessive littering or fly-tipping

If you would like advice or wish to report an incident, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Community Safety Partnership.

Our details are below, along with details of other services you may find useful:

POLICE  
**101**

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TEAM  
**0116 272 7677** or  
[community.safety@blaby.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@blaby.gov.uk)

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
TEAM/WASTE HOTLINE  
**0116 272 7555**

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**Visit the Blaby District Council website for information about organised leisure activities or contact:**

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM  
**0116 272 7703**  
[www.blaby.gov.uk/baseguide](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/baseguide)

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
**0116 272 7723**  
[www.facebook.com/BB19youthbus](http://www.facebook.com/BB19youthbus)

