



Media Release

Lynne Mee

Direct line 01423 556022

Communications and Media Manager Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

24 hour fax “ 556010
Mobile 07884 226409

Email lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk

www.harrogate.gov.uk

pr991. Army listens into noise even t.doc

DATE: 19 May 2004

ARMY LISTENS INTO NOISE ACTION EVENT

Harrogate's junior soldiers certainly showed their surveillance skills during Harrogate Borough Council's recent noise action event with brownies at the Army Foundation College, Harrogate.

Environmental Officers had asked these brownies to shout as loud as they could so they could be shown the decibel level on the noise recording equipment. During the test, a member of personnel came across to ask what all the noise was about. This was just the sort of response needed to get across the message that noise is a nuisance.

As part of the promotion of 'Noise Action day – 27 May 2004, staff from Harrogate Borough Council's environmental protection team are focussing this year on brownies and guides as part of their pack's community activity work.

Nicky Garside, Assistant Director of Health, said: "The number of complaints we receive annually has jumped dramatically. In 2002/2003, we received 680 complaints. This has risen over the past twelve months to 860. There are a few reasons for this but we think the main cause was the very good weather we experienced last year and with more people taking advantage of the warm summer evenings. If the current weather is anything to go by, we suspect the numbers will rise even more.

"But barbecues and garden parties aren't the only cause for complaint. We have done an analysis of the complaints and find that the top four are parties, barking dogs, DIY and general domestic issues like slamming doors and shouting."

National research has shown that noise control officers across the UK think incompatible lifestyles and high expectation of quiet are the reasons for many complaints. But noise does affect everyone's quality of life.

"On Noise Action day, we are asking everyone to follow the advice we have been giving the brownies and guides, added Nicky Garside. "We would ask people to consider the noise they make and the effect it has on others and to think about the noises that actually disturb them. We appreciate that people want to enjoy themselves and that's fine but we do ask them to respect others right to a bit of peace and quiet."

MEDIA CONTACT: Nicky Garside is available on 01423 556847 for further information.