What happens next?

- We will normally send you a pack with diary sheets for you to fill out over a two to four week period to get an idea of the severity of the problem.

- When you return the sheets we will look at them to decide whether we can do anything. An officer will call you to discuss what action we can take.

- We may, in certain situations take action straight away.

We look to sort things out informally, whenever possible.

If we decide that the case needs further investigations you will be asked to continue writing down when the noise is a problem. An officer may visit to witness the noise at first hand. Sometimes, particularly when noise happens late at night, or is unpredictable, we may let you have a noise meter to record the noise.

If the evidence proves there is a statutory nuisance, we will serve a notice requiring the noise maker to stop the nuisance.

If the notice requirements are not met, we may prosecute the person in the Magistrates Court.

Who to contact at the council

If you need any help or more advice then please get in touch with us...

t: 01902 696000
e: envprotection@sstaffs.gov.uk

Or write to us at:
Environmental Protection Services
South Staffordshire Council
Council Offices
Wolverhampton Road
Codsall
South Staffordshire
WV8 1PX

There is also an on-line form for complaints on our website.

Why not visit our website at www.sstaffs.gov.uk
Introduction
Barking dogs are the single largest type of noise complaint we receive. We spend hundreds of hours each year dealing with these complaints. This leaflet sets out what dog owners can do if their dog is causing a problem, and if you are suffering because of a dog barking, what you can do to sort it out.

Why do dogs bark?
There are loads of reasons why dogs might bark:

- excitement
- frustration
- the dog guarding you and your home
- boredom
- attention seeking
- the dog is scared,
- or the dog can’t cope with being left alone

What you can do to stop your dog barking
There are a lots of solutions to this problem.

The Dogs Trust give handy and practical advice on ways of adapting your dog’s behaviour.

They include a leaflet* on ways to control your dog’s barking. You can visit them at

www.dogstrust.org.uk

The Government also has information on this problem (including a booklet on ways of preventing your dog barking*), as well as other neighbour noise problems at

www.defra.gov.uk

*Links to the Dogs Trust and DEFRA leaflets are available at:

www.sstaffs.gov.uk/barking

If you’d prefer a hard copy of these booklets, then just let us know (our contact details are overleaf) and we’ll post a copy out to you.

What to do if you are disturbed by dogs barking
Dogs will always bark, but it only becomes a problem when this behaviour goes on persistently for long periods, or is happening at unreasonable times, such as in the middle of the night.

In most cases, the best way to deal with the problem is to go to the owner and make them aware of how the dog barking is affecting you.

Quite often, the dog will only bark when its owners are out, so they might not be aware that when they leave the house the dog starts barking.

If approaching the dog’s owners doesn’t resolve the matter, then contact us.

Remember, always keep a note of when and how you’re affected by the barking. We can often make use of this evidence if you can’t resolve the problem with the dog’s owners.