# Pole dancing studio sparks neighbourhood dispute in Christchurch residential area



In a quiet residential enclave in Christchurch, Dorset, tensions are simmering over the establishment of a pole dancing studio in a converted garage. Samilou Saunders, the owner of Samilou Pole and Aerial Fitness Studio, has found herself at the centre of a local dispute after launching her business, which offers over 20 hours of fitness classes each week. While her classes reportedly inspire many participants, including individuals well into their seventies, a significant number of her neighbours have lodged formal complaints with Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council, citing noise and parking issues.

Samilou, who devoted twenty years to realising her dream of opening a fitness studio, is firmly defending her venture against the backlash. Many of her critics argue that the “grunting” noises described in their complaints, alongside loud music, have severely disrupted their daily lives. One neighbour expressed feeling “totally hopeless” and “constantly stressed” by the perceived disruption. In response, Samilou contends that their objections stem from a misunderstanding of her work and its benefits. The environmental officer's visit to evaluate noise levels apparently yielded no concerns, which Samilou points to as evidence of her studio's minimal impact on the community.

In a bid to mitigate discord, Samilou has even removed her business's logo from her car to lessen potential provocations among her neighbours. Despite her attempts at conciliation, many remain staunchly opposed to her studio. One detractor argued that the location, which houses predominantly older residents, is ill-suited for a business venture, insisting that such activities should operate in commercial spaces that can accommodate them appropriately.

Interestingly, not all feedback has been negative. Other local residents have come forward, highlighting the positive effect the classes have had on their community. One parent noted that her daughter has shown remarkable improvement in mood and energy since attending classes, attributing a positive shift in her wellbeing to the environment fostered at the studio. This dichotomy of opinion reflects a broader societal debate over community integration of niche businesses and the challenges they can face when intersecting with established residential areas.

The planning application submitted by Samilou seeks to formalise the use of her garage as a mixed-use space. This process has prompted substantial local discourse regarding noise management and the boundaries of entrepreneurial activities in quiet neighbourhoods. While officials and local governing bodies like BCP Council outline mechanisms for addressing noise complaints, including investigative procedures, the onus often lies on communities to navigate these disputes amicably before escalation.

As the council weighs the merits of the application, this case illustrates a common tension in urban planning and community living. It raises critical questions regarding the adaptability of residential areas to accommodate evolving business models, particularly those that challenge traditional norms. The fate of Samilou's studio hangs in the balance, serving as a litmus test for how flexibility in local regulations can either stifle or promote diverse, modern entrepreneurial pursuits.

While a decision is yet to be reached, the outcome of this saga may well set precedent for future endeavours that blend home and enterprise in an environmentally conscious and community-friendly manner.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraphs 2, 4
3. Paragraphs 2, 3
4. Paragraphs 1, 5
5. Paragraphs 3, 5
6. Paragraphs 4, 5
7. Paragraphs 1, 3

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14698181/Pole-dancer-elderly-neighbours-grunting-home-studio.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/noise-complaints> - This page from the Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council provides information on reporting noise complaints, including the types of noise they can investigate, such as loud music and shouting. It also outlines the process for reporting a noise nuisance and the criteria for what constitutes a statutory nuisance. The page emphasizes the importance of attempting to resolve issues amicably before involving the council and offers guidance on how to report a noise problem effectively.
3. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/noise-nuisance> - Dorset Council's page on noise nuisance details the types of noise they can investigate, including loud music and shouting. It provides guidance on how to make a formal complaint, the steps involved in the investigation, and the potential outcomes. The page also advises on keeping a record of the noise and offers contact information for further assistance. It emphasizes the importance of attempting to resolve issues directly with neighbors before involving the council.
4. <https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/national/uk-today/24394894.noisy-neighbours-law-says/> - An article from the Dorset Echo discussing the legal aspects of dealing with noisy neighbors. It explains that unreasonable or excessive noise is defined as noise that unreasonably and substantially interferes with the use or enjoyment of a home. The article outlines the permitted noise levels and the actions councils can take in response to complaints, including issuing warning notices and fines. It also provides guidance on who to contact about excessive noise and the potential punishments for non-compliance.
5. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/noise> - Dorset Police's page on nuisance noise defines it as any loud or persistent noise that causes ongoing concern or affects quality of life. It lists common types of nuisance noise, such as building and vehicle alarms, noise from pubs and clubs, and construction sites. The page advises on what to do if experiencing nuisance noise, including contacting the local council's Environmental Health team and provides information on when to involve the police.
6. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/disputes-with-neighbours/> - Dorset Police's advice page on disputes with neighbors emphasizes the importance of resolving issues amicably. It lists common types of neighbor disputes, including noise, parking, and property boundaries. The page advises on steps to take if talking hasn't worked, such as contacting the landlord or housing association, and provides information on when to involve the police, especially if the dispute escalates to threats or harassment.
7. <https://www.ccc.govt.nz/services/noise-control> - Christchurch City Council's page on noise control outlines the council's role in managing noise complaints, including the seizure of equipment causing excessive noise. It provides information on how to reclaim seized equipment and the conditions under which it can be returned. The page also details the monitoring and management of noise, including the definition of excessive noise and the steps the council can take to address it.