

ASBOS FOR VILLAGE IDIOTS

EXCLUSIVE HELL FAMILY BANNED FROM ALL 900 HOMES APART FROM THEIRS

By Jeremy Armstrong Jeremy.Armstrong@Mirror.Co.Uk 21/05/2007

A PROBLEM family has made Asbo history by becoming the first to be banned from an entire village.

The Terrible Thompsons - dad Tom, 48, and sons Leon, 19, and Shane, 18 - are barred from all the 900 homes in Moresby Parks except their own.

A judge also ruled that they can only use one road - leading to the local shop and church.

Cousin Joseph Thompson, 22, who lives next door, also got the same six month Asbo stopping him harassing the 2,000 villagers. But he got the ban lifted on May 4.

A neighbour in the village, near Whitehaven, Cumbria, said: "They may look like the Beverly Hillbillies, but they aren't funny.

"They are a menace and when you see one of them coming, you walk the other way." Housing association Copeland Homes say it was forced to take action because its tenants are allegedly among their victims. Police, the county council and the Environment Agency backed it.

Shane, Leon and Tom were taken to court after residents complained they were threatened with baseball bats and verbally abused.

Some neighbours claim they were driven out of the area. On one occasion, Shane lay in the road and when asked to move, punched a man so badly he had to go to hospital. They were also said to shout abuse at passersby, drink in public and get into rows.

Another resident said: "They are a nuisance. They stand in the street and drink and intimidate people when they walk past.

"It is awful for elderly people. There are a few bad families here but they are by far the worst.

"Even after getting their Asbos they still have an air of arrogance as if they cannot be touched."

Sgt Garry Armstrong led the crackdown on anti-social behaviour in the area and also targeted other families with Asbos.

He said: "We are saying enough is enough. These are people who have been a menace." The Thompsons claimed they were victimised after their arrests on February 18.

They and a friend, John Quinn, 21, confronted some rivals on the estate and police locked them up for the night.

Dumper truck driver Tom said: "The Asbos stem from the run-in we had with after the guy almost ran over a baby's pram.

"We went round to his house to sort it out. We did have wood with us and there was some fighting. I was only backing up my boys.

"Some people got injured and we were all arrested.

"The next thing we know is that the police are making all sorts of allegations against us."

He added: "The police really have picked on us. I can drive through the village, but if I walk through I can get arrested.

"We do have a bad reputation. We may not be perfect but we are not bad. I have lived here all my life and I am not leaving now."

His wife care worker Christine, 48, said: "The Asbos are not deserved. We really are shocked, as are some of our neighbours. They have signed a letter of support."

JOSEPH THOMPSON

COUSIN Joseph got the same Asbo as the rest of his family but went back to court 17 days ago and managed to get his nuisance order lifted.

LEON THOMPSON

SON Leon is banned from the village and from harassing and threatening neighbours. Is doing 100 hours community service for bumping into customers chasing a man in Tesco, Whitehaven.

JOHN QUINN

FRIEND John was with the Thompson family when they confronted rivals on their estate and police locked them all up in a cell for the night.

TOM THOMPSON

DAD Tom is not allowed into Moresby Parks and is banned from harassing or threatening villagers. He claims he can't even visit his sick mother across the road or cut his neighbour's lawn.

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