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POP GROUPS KEEP US AWAKE, SAY NEIGHBOURS

GENERALLY quiet and sedate Tenterden loses a good deal of its attraction for those living near the youth club in Highbury-lane when monthly dances are held there during the winter.

They say the noise of the pop groups playing there until 11.30 p.m. makes it impossible to sleep, and gets on their nerves.

They claim that councillors had been called to hear the noise but nothing has been done about it. Police have also been called, but that little or no improvement has resulted.

Now they are considering an approach to the Noise Abatement Society unless action is taken to reduce the volume.

Mr. Jack Masters, of Bridewell-lane, said: "They don't turn it down, they have it on full blast. You can't go to bed and sleep."

Mrs. Annie Snelgrove, 86, also of Bridewell-lane, said:

"You get it right through the house. It is an awful noise. Can't they turn it down?"

"I say it is the wrong place to have a club. It should be built somewhere where there are not so many people. Even my husband, who is deaf, can't sleep for it."

Mr. Don Miller, chairman of the club's management committee, said: "We don't want to annoy anyone if it is avoidable."

He agreed that the club might not be well sited and that it was not well sound insulated.

"I think Mr. Matthews, the club leader, is doing his best not to cause too much of a disturbance."

He added that he felt Ten-

terden was not entirely alone in getting complaints about noise from dances.

"We hope people living near can bear with us. I think by and large we have tried to be as helpful as we can."

"Moving the dances to another hall is not sensible when we have our own hall."

Mr. Bob Matthews said an essential ingredient of pop music for young people was that it should be loud.

Consequently, groups catered for this with amplifying equipment. But some of the groups who played in the hall had turned it down to an absolute minimum, he said.

"We want to live at peace with our neighbours," he added.