

# **CLARE IN THE COMMUNITY**

**BY  
HARRY VENNING & DAVID RAMSDEN**

**Series 5 – “Name Calling”**

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## **CAST**

**Sally Phillips – Clare  
Nina Conti – Megan / Nali  
Alex Lowe – Brian  
Richard Lumsden – Ray  
Liza Tarbuck – Helen  
Ellen Thomas – Irene  
Andrew Wincott – Simon  
Keith - CAST  
Student - CAST**

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**Producer: Katie Tyrrell**

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**Opening Credits**

Episode One: Name Calling

**1. GRAMS: OPENING SIG**

2. ALEX: Clare in the Community  
by Harry Venning and David Ramsden

Episode One: Name Calling

**SCENE 1**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE FLAT, EARLY EVENING**

2. HELEN Oh, Clare, he's beautiful.

3. CLARE Isn't he, just.

4. HELEN What did I tell you?

5. CLARE I know, I know, and you were absolutely right, Helen. I can remember you talking to me about motherhood, what it was like, how it felt. And it meant nothing to me. But now all your words make perfect sense. To cradle a child, clothe it, comfort it, feed it and to be fully responsible for all its little needs must be the most rewarding experience in all the world. She's very lucky, our au pair.

6. NALI I've given him his bath.

7. CLARE Thank you , Nali.

8. NALI I've changed his sheets.

9. CLARE Thank you, Nali.

10. NALI I'll put him to bed, now.

11. CLARE Lovely.

12. NALI Do you want to hold him?

13. CLARE Helen and I are sort of working here...

14. NALI                                You don't want to hold your baby?

15. CLARE                              Errr...yeah, why not?

16. NALI                                There you go...

17. F/X:                                **BABY SCREAMS**

18. CLARE                              Actually, Nali, could you....?

19. NALI                                Of course. Come on little Tommy.

20. CLARE                              Nali, it isn't Tommy, its Thomas.

21. NALI                                Brian calls him Tommy.

22. CLARE                              No, Nali, not Tommy. He's Thomas. Thomas Paine Barker.

23. NALI                                OK.. Come along Thomas Paine Barker, bedtime. Say goodnight to Mummy. Mummy is the lady on the left.

24. CLARE                              Thank you, Nali.

25. F/X:                                **DOOR SHUTS**

26. HELEN                              Thomas?

27. CLARE                              We thought of it last night.

28. HELEN                              You're not going with Mahatma, then?

**SCENE 2**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. A PUB. EARLY EVENING**

2. **F/X:** **BAR NOISE**

3. SIMON Brian! I'm over here!

4. BRIAN Hi, Simon. Good man, got me a pint in.

5. SIMON It's good to see you, mate. I didn't think you were allowed off the lead, what with the new baby.

6. BRIAN Actually, Simon, it isn't like that with Clare. Clare actually encourages me to go out. She understands that parenting is so demanding that it is vital that I have some quality time and personal space for myself.  
Cheers!

7. **F/X:** **THE SOUND OF A PINT BEING SUNK IN ONE, GLASS**  
**CLUNKED ON BAR.**

8. BRIAN Aaaaah! Fabulous! Can't beat a good pint. Well, best be getting home then.

9. SIMON Hang on, Brian. What's your hurry?

10. BRIAN I can't stand in a pub enjoying myself, I feel too guilty.

11. SIMON Yes, you can. Landlord, another pint for my friend please. I think Clare and the au pair should be able to cope between them. There you go, cheers.

12. BRIAN

Cheers. I'm not being honest with you. Truth is...I miss the little blighter. I think about him all the time. His little nose, his little toes, with perfectly formed little toenails. I love the sight of him, the sound of him, I even love the smell of him. Fatherhood has been the most incredible, profound revelation for me I've...sorry I'm welling up here (sniff)...that little boy has helped me come to a fuller understanding...oh dear, here come the waterworks...I suppose what I'm trying to say, Simon...Simon?...(Cross) Don't move along the bar, Simon, I'm talking to you!

**SCENE 3**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE FLAT. LATER THAT EVENING. THE KITCHEN**

2. CLARE Come on, Helen, think!

3. HELEN I don't know, Clare, its difficult...

4. **F/X:** **DOOR. BRIAN AND SIMON ENTER, CLINKING BOTTLES,**  
**BRIAN HALF CUT, SIMON SOBER.**

5. BRIAN Hi Clare! Pub got a bit crowded so we thought we'd get some take home take home. Has he gone to bed?

6. CLARE Of course he's gone to bed.

7. BRIAN (Huge groan!) I'll just pop upstairs and see him.

8. CLARE Quietly!

9. BRIAN Of course, quietly.

10. HELEN Hello Simon.

11. SIMON Hello Helen..

12. **F/X:** **MAN FALLING DOWN STAIRS.**

13. BRIAN (At a distance) Don't worry everyone, I'm fine.

14. HELEN (Formal) So, Simon, how have you been?

15. SIMON (Formal) Very well, thank you, Helen. And yourself?

16. HELEN Fine. Thank you for asking.

17. SIMON Don't mention it.
18. HELEN Pig.
19. SIMON Cow.
20. CLARE Come on, now, you two. Let bygones be bygones.
21. HELEN I assure you Clare, I have moved on since my divorce from Simon.  
It no longer bothers me in the slightest that my ex-husband slept  
with the holiday rep on our honeymoon...
22. SIMON Oh yes, that's so typical of you Helen; slag off Simon for the  
adultery with the holiday rep, but conveniently forget that I got us  
an upgrade on our room.
23. HELEN ...but when Mister Brain-In-His-Pants here starts toying with the  
affections of an impressionable young girl like Megan...
24. SIMON Oh, please, don't give me that tosh! She's not young.
25. HELEN She is!
26. SIMON Yeah, compared to you.
27. HELEN Pig.
28. SIMON Cow.
29. CLARE Break it up, now. Helen, I need your help here.

**PAUSE**

30. SIMON Working late?



31. HELEN                      Sort of.
32. CLARE                      We've bought this silver dish as a leaving present for our team clerk.
33. HELEN                      We're going to have it engraved with her name and a few words of appreciation.
34. SIMON                      It's beautiful.
35. CLARE                      Twenty years she's worked at the family centre. Always the first person to arrive in the mornings, always the last to leave at night. Never missed a day, never made a mistake. To the older social workers she's been a constant support, to the younger ones a mother figure, always there with a comforting hug or an understanding smile.
36. SIMON                      And you can't find the words?
37. CLARE                      Oh no, we've got the words. We can't remember her name.
38. NALI                        Clare...
39. CLARE                      Is he asleep?
40. NALI                        Yes, he is. In the doorway. I'm going to need some help moving him. Brian, he is a big "Lard Arse". Is this correct English?
41. HELEN                      Spot on.
42. CLARE                      How many did he have?
43. SIMON                      Only two. I think our Brian is a bit out of practice.

44. CLARE                      Simon, this is our au pair Nali.

45. SIMON                     Hello.

46. NALI                        Hello.

**SCENE 4****1. ATMOS: INT. THE FLAT. MORNING**

2. NALI                      Miss Clare...
3. CLARE                    Nali, Nali, I've told you before. I'm not a morning person. Please don't bombard me with questions when I'm getting ready for work.
4. NALI                      I'm sorry, just two questions.
5. CLARE                    (Impatient) Alright, be quick, what are they.
6. NALI                      I haven't had time to do the washing yet, and the only clean t-shirt Thomas has is the blue Power Ranger t-shirt Nanny Harris buys him and which you tell me he must never wear because it is "sexist, stereotyping celebration of violence."
7. CLARE                    OK, OK, put it on him for one day only. Inside out.  
What's the other question?
8. NALI                      Do you want him to have the MMR or shall I take him for separate jabs?
9. CLARE                    I'm sorry, Nali, I'm in a hurry. You're the one with all the literature.

**ENTER BRIAN**

10. BRIAN                    Morning everyone. Morning Thomas, my little tank engine. Whooo whooo! Good morning, Clare, you sleek diesel. Good morning Nali our dependable express.
11. NALI                      Good morning, Brian, you fat controller.

12. BRIAN                      Ah. Yes. Very good Nali, getting into the spirit of it.
13. NALI                        Brian, will your friend Simon be coming around tonight?
14. BRIAN                      No, I don't think so.
15. NALI                        But he will be round?
16. BRIAN                      Yes, he comes round to see us all the time.
17. NALI                        And his wife, girlfriend or significant partner does not mind this?
18. BRIAN                      No, Simon is single.
19. NALI                        I see. Come along Thomas, it is a lovely day! A beautiful day! Let us go feed the ducks in the park.
20. CLARE                      (Under Breathe) Brian, Brian. Shut the door.
21. BRIAN                      Why?
22. CLARE                      Just shut it will you.
23. **F/X: DOOR SHUTS**
24. CLARE                      I don't want Simon around Nali.
25. BRIAN                      What?
26. CLARE                      You know Simon's reputation as well as I do. Nali is a young girl, and this is the first time she's been abroad. It's only the second time she's left her village. She has no family here, no friends, no social circle, no support network.

27. BRIAN                      You're saying she's vulnerable.
28. CLARE                     I'm saying she's gold dust! An au pair without anything to distract her from looking after the baby is a precious commodity and I'm not having your mate Simon barging in and spoiling things.

**SCENE 5****1. ATMOS: INT. THE OFFICE.DAY**

2. IRENE I did say team meeting, eleven o'clock, didn't I?
3. HELEN Clare knows. She'll be here, Irene.
4. MEGAN It's difficult with a young baby.
5. RAY How old is little Fidel now (coughs)?
6. MEGAN Four months. And it's not Fidel any more, its Mahatma. Look, I've crocheted him a little matching jumper, scarf, and gloves set, all with his name on. Took me days.
7. HELEN Megan...there's something you need to know.
8. MEGAN What?
9. HELEN How can I put this...do you know any other children called Mahatma?
10. MEGAN Ohhhh... tits. Took me long enough to unpick Biko.
11. HELEN He's Thomas now. Thomas Paine Barker.
12. IRENE Pain?
13. HELEN After his father.
14. RAY After the 18th century revolutionary (cough!).

15. IRENE                      Still, at least it's an improvement on the 14th century leader of the peasants' revolt.

16. RAY                        Wat.

17. IRENE                      Thomas is. An improvement.

18. RAY                        No, Wat was his name.

19. IRENE                      I can't remember.

20. RAY                        Wat Tyler. They named their child after Wat Tyler.

**PAUSE**

21. MEGAN                    Are we having a quiz now?

22. RAY                        (Under breath) Oh for Christ sake, Clare, hurry up.( cough).

23. IRENE                      I think we should start without her.

**SCENE 6**

1. **ATMOS: INT. CORRIDOR. MORNING.**

2. KEITH                      Good morning, Clare.

3. CLARE                     Morning Keith.

4. KEITH                     By the way...

5. CLARE                     What is it, Keith? I'm about to go into a meeting.

6. KEITH                     Clare, have you lost a bit of weight?

**PAUSE**

7. CLARE                     And what's it to you if I have?

8. KEITH                     I was just saying...

9. CLARE                     I don't remember inviting your opinion on my physical appearance.  
Or do you feel that as a man you have the right to pass judgment  
on every woman who enters your line of vision?

10. KEITH                    No...

11. CLARE                    ...Keep us on our toes, make sure we conform to your narrow and  
ridiculous concept of female shape and form.

12. KEITH                    I just meant, you know...well done, after having the baby...



13. CLARE (Angry) Well done? Oh I'm being congratulated now, am I? After the aberrant behaviour of giving birth, I have succeeded in exchanging the natural body that nine months pregnancy gave me, for one that you, a man, find more acceptable.

14. KEITH I...

15. CLARE (Very Angry) Well done me, for surrendering to the tyrannical dictates of the lad mag mentality. Is that it, Keith? Is that what you're saying?

16. KEITH No...I...I just thought...sorry.

**KEITH SLINKS OFF APOLOGISING**

17. F/X: DOOR OPENING

18. CLARE (Very cheerful) Morning team. Do you think I've lost weight?

**SCENE 7**

1. **ATMOS:** **EXT. PLAYGROUND. DAY**

2. BRIAN (SHOUTS) Jackson, How many times!. If it comes out just pop it straight back in again and stop frightening the year sevens!

3. SIMON Hello Brian.

4. BRIAN Hello, Simon.

5. SIMON Brian, can I ask you a question?

6. BRIAN Course you can.

7. SIMON Are Muslims obliged to chew chewing gum throughout Ramadan?

8. BRIAN No, of course they're not.

9. SIMON (Angry) Why, the little sod!

10. BRIAN So, Simon, you approve of Thomas?

11. SIMON Nice. Although I still quite like Mandela. Where did you get that name from?

12. BRIAN Oh, Simon. I fear we're going to have to hide you from Ofsted again.

**PAUSE**

13. SIMON Your au pair seems nice.

14. BRIAN No, Simon. No!

15. SIMON                      What?
16. BRIAN                      Back at our house we're still picking up the pieces after your relationship with Megan.
17. SIMON                      I just said that she seemed nice.
18. BRIAN                      Do us a favour, mate, promise you'll leave Nali alone.
19. SIMON                      I would, if it were up to me...
20. BRIAN                      What do you mean?
21. SIMON                      They pursue me.
22. BRIAN                      You could say no.
23. SIMON                      I can't.
24. BRIAN                      Why not?
25. SIMON                      Well it would be rude, wouldn't it. I wasn't brought up to be rude, Brian. Besides, what fellow hasn't had his fair share of meaningless sexual encounters?

**PAUSE**

26. BRIAN                      Just keep away from her, would you?
27. STUDENT                      (Panic) Mr.Harris! Mr.Harris!
28. BRIAN                      Not now, Kimberley.
29. STUDENT                      But Mr.Harris...

30. BRIAN                      Alright, alright, but this had better be important.
31. STUDENT                   The headmaster has got out again.

**SCENE 8**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE OFFICE. MORNING.**

**(A HEATED DISCUSSION)**

2. HELEN But, Ray this isn't fair, you've already got a desk by a window.
3. RAY Yes, Helen, but its also next to a damp patch that smells.. And anyway, just last month Rachel promised me I could have her desk when she went.
4. HELEN She promised me her desk ages ago.
5. RAY Verbally?
6. HELEN Yes, verbally.
7. RAY Well sorry, Helen, but I've got an email from her. End of.
8. IRENE Alright, alright, if you two are completely finished, can we get back to my initial point; who's going to Rachel's funeral?
9. ALL Yes, yes, yes, I am etc.
10. IRENE Yes, Clare, you'd like to say something?
11. CLARE I should like to register my disapproval in the strongest terms...
12. IRENE Disapproval noted. Moving on...
13. CLARE Hang on, I haven't told you what I'm disapproving of.
14. IRENE Go on then, if you insist.

15. CLARE                      The use of our family centre facilities by local para-military organisations.
16. IRENE                      Brown Owl has assured me that they'll be back in the church hall as soon as the dry rot is treated. Next up, the team clerk's name. Any progress?
17. CLARE/HELEN/ RAY    No, sorry, nothing, not for the life of me.
18. MEGAN                      Pamela.
19. IRENE                      Pamela?
20. MEGAN                      The team clerks name.
21. CLARE                      How do you know?
22. MEGAN                      I asked her.
23. RAY                          Just asked her?
24. MEGAN                      No, I was a bit more canny than that. I went over to her desk and said to her "Do you spell your name with an e or an a?", because I know that a and e are the most commonly used vowels. And she said, "both an e and an a". So I said "really, that'll be the Scottish spelling, beginning with t" and she said 'no, a p", and I said "and ending with a d?" and she said "I really haven't got time for this" and walked away. And it was then I saw her name on the top of a piece of paper.
25. IRENE                      Well done, Megan. Clare, can you proceed with the engraving?

26. CLARE                      Of course.
27. IRENE                      Which brings us to the long awaited and chronically overdue refurbishment, repair and redecoration of the Family Centre scheduled for next week...
28. ALL                        About time too/ not before time/ hoo-flaming-ray/ At last
29. IRENE                      ...which isn't going to happen.
30. ALL                        What! No! You're joking!
31. IRENE                      Cancelled indefinitely due to budgetary pressures. The council has run out of money after attending the town twinning ceremony with Honoloulou.
32. CLARE                      This is intolerable. The building is falling down, the paint's peeling off, there's damp everywhere. Is it any wonder nobody wants to use the crèche?
33. IRENE                      Good point, but I think that's probably more to do with us implementing the no-smoking policy.
34. CLARE                      Well I, for one, am not prepared to stand back and let this family centre collapse into disrepair. These may just be bricks and mortar to the petty bureaucrats at the Town Hall but – quick, quick, quick, Megan, write this down, I might use it in interviews - to us it is the beating heart of the community.
35. RAY                        But what do you suggest we do?
36. HELEN                      Industrial action?

37. IRENE I think Industrial action must always be the final resort of the social worker. What if we go on strike and our clients can't cope?
38. HELEN Or worse still, what if they can?
39. CLARE This, my friends and colleagues, is a job for people power! We are a family center and the family we serve is...
40. MEGAN Hold on, hold on (writes)... "these may be bricks and mortar ..."
41. CLARE ...the family of man. Mankind. Humanity. Get it down, and I'll polish it up later.
42. IRENE Well, it looks like the council have a battle on their hands. Clare, you seem to have appointed yourself campaign strategist, we'll leave it with you. Meeting adjourned.

### **TEAM MEETING BREAKS UP**

43. RAY No hard feelings about Rachel's desk by the window I hope, Helen. (coughs)
44. HELEN No hard feelings, Ray. Are you OK?
45. RAY Actually Helen no, I'm not OK. I have the most important presentation of my career later today (cough) and I've developed an uncontrollable nervous cough (coughs).
46. HELEN Hang on, Ray. I think Dr.Helen may have just the thing in her travelling pharmacy.
47. F/X: **RUSTLE IN HANDBAG**



48. HELEN                      There you go.

49. F/X:                      **RATTLE OF PILLS**

50. HELEN                      Take two of these. Here, with some water.

51. RAY                         Hang on, they're not beta-blockers are they? I don't want to take  
beta-blockers.

52. HELEN                      Oh no, They're not beta-blockers.

53. F/X:                      **SWALLOWING**

54. HELEN                      These will be much more effective. All gone?

55. RAY                         All gone. What were they?

56. HELEN                      Super strength laxatives. Two of those and you daren't cough.

**SCENE 9**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE OFFICE. LATER THAT DAY**

2. MEGAN                      Banners?

3. CLARE                      No. not banners. Too confrontational.

4. MEGAN                      Placards?

5. CLARE                      No. Placards are too...SWP.

6. MEGAN                      Flags?

7. CLARE                      No. Too...flaggy. This is a community event, a non-violent expression of popular discontent.

8. MEGAN                      I'm sorry, Clare, I've got work to do.

9. CLARE                      Come on, Megan, don't sulk.

10. MEGAN                      You asked for ideas.

11. CLARE                      I did, and it was a good idea. I just can't see Bono recording a charity single for us.

12. MEGAN                      No, not that idea. The other one. The one with the elephant!

13. CLARE                      Keep thinking, Megan, something will occur to you. And in the meantime phone the local leaders of all the major faiths for me. I'll concentrate on schools, youth groups, woodcraft folk etc.

14. MEGAN                      OK... Hey look who it is! Little Thomas in his adorable Power Rangers T-Shirt! Clare that has given me a brilliant idea!

**NALI ENTERS**

15. **F/X:                      BABY GURGLING**

16. CLARE                      Nali, what are you doing here?

17. NALI                      Clare, Can I have a word?

18. CLARE                      It's not Thomas is it? There's nothing wrong?

19. NALI                      No, he's fine.

20. CLARE                      (Cross) Nali, I thought I told you to turn that t-shirt inside out!

21. NALI                      Here, take him! You do it!

22. CLARE                      Nali!

23. **F/X:                      BABY THOMAS CRIES**

24. NALI                      In fact, you do everything from now on. You feed him, you clothe him, you change him, you go to him when he's crying in the night...

25. CLARE                      Excuse me! I do so go to him when he's crying in the night.

26. NALI                      No, Brian does.

27. CLARE                      Same thing.

28. NALI                      Oh give him here, you are holding him upside down.

29. **F/X:                      BABY THOMAS STOPS CRYING**

30. NALI I don't care anymore, I've packed my bags and I'm leaving. I'm going home now. At least I'm appreciated at home. I shall return to my village and accept the marriage proposal of Oleg the Undertaker. He is a good man, but repulsive.
31. CLARE Nali, please, can't we discuss it?
32. NALI There is nothing to discuss. He is repulsive. Look, I have a photograph.
33. **F/X:** **BAG OPENED PHOTO REVEALED**
34. CLARE (LOOKS) Wow!
35. NALI But looks aren't everything, and the undertaking business has been good since the accident at the reactor.
36. CLARE But you can't go. I thought you were happy with us. What can I do to change your mind?
37. NALI Nothing. My mind is made up. Goodbye.
38. CLARE Oh that's a shame. Thomas will miss you.
39. NALI And I will miss Thomas.
40. CLARE And Brian will miss you.....
41. NALI And I will miss Brian!
42. CLARE And I will miss you.
43. NALI Goodbye.

44. CLARE Simon will miss you!
45. NALI Simon?
46. CLARE Didn't I tell you? Brian says that Simon can't stop talking about you.
47. NALI Really?
48. CLARE But, of course, there's you and Oleg to consider. I wish you both every happiness. Goodbye, Nali.

**PAUSE**

49. NALI Maybe I stay one more week. Come on Thomas, we go home now.
- NALI EXITS SINGING "I FEEL PRETTY, OH SO PRETTY, I FEEL PRETTY AND WITTY AND GAY..." Etc**
50. CLARE Thanks Nali! And if you've got a moment, weed the garden again. Properly this time.
51. MEGAN Clare, I can't believe you just did that.
52. CLARE Megan, she has to learn. If you don't take the roots up with them they just come straight back.
53. MEGAN I'm not talking about that, Clare, and you know it.
54. CLARE What?
55. MEGAN You just served up that young woman to Simon as if she were a bowl of neeps.

56. CLARE

No I didn't. I did no such thing. I don't even know what neeps are!

**SCENE 10**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. AN OFFICE. DAY**

**RAY IS DELIVERING HIS PRESENTATION.**

2. RAY                   ...and so, Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude, disadvantaged young people throughout the UK are routinely stereotyped as 'hoodies' "yobs" and "chavettes" (tiny cough). Many young people we work with at The Sparrowhawk Family Centre do wear hoods (slightly less tiny cough), but we have found that with the right support they are hugely ... could somebody fetch me a glass of water, please... motivated (cough)... water, please, quickly...to put their skills and passions ...(panics) come on somebody, please, yes, bottled is fine, can you please just hurry up and (BIG COUGH!)...

**PAUSE**

3. RAY                   Would you all excuse me a moment...

**SCENE 11**

1. **ATMOS:** **EXT.THE PLAYGROUND. AFTERNOON**

2. **F/X:** **THE SOUND OF SCHOOLCHILDREN PLAYING.**

3. SIMON                      Last time, Ramprakash, it belongs to Coleman. Give it back!  
What do you mean you don't know where he is, you stole his  
wheelchair.

**PAUSE**

4. SIMON                      I've had enough of this week, roll on Friday, eh Brian.                      Oh, for  
heaven's sake, Brian! You're at it again.

5. BRIAN                      What?

6. SIMON                      You know full well. Staring into the middle distance, eyes all  
moist...you're thinking about Thomas.

7. BRIAN                      OK, yes I am. I'm standing here, watching all the kids in the  
playground. Running around, laughing, shouting, fighting, skuffed  
knees, shirt tails out... and I'm thinking, that'll be Thomas in twelve  
years time.  
We're going to have to have him privately educated.

8. SIMON                      Come on, Mate. Give it a rest. Thomas is a lovely boy, but you're  
getting a bit obsessed.

9. BRIAN                      No, I'm not.

10. SIMON                      I know what you need...



11. BRIAN                      No you don't.
12. SIMON                     A lads night out.
13. BRIAN                     I'm perfectly happy.
14. SIMON                     Up the pub!
15. BRIAN                     Everything's good.
16. SIMON                     A few beers down you.
17. BRIAN                     I'm fine.
18. SIMON                     Footie on the big screen.
19. BRIAN                     Believe me, I'm OK.
20. SIMON                     A little social lubrication.
21. BRIAN                     For the last time, Simon (SHOUTS) I DO NOT NEED  
LUBRICATING!
22. **F/X:                      THE PLAYGROUND HAS GONE EERILY QUIET.**
23. BRIAN                     I saw that, Karen, pick it up and pop it in the bin.

**SCENE 12****1. ATMOS: INT. THE PUB. EARLY EVENING**

2. CLARE                      The thing is, we've had so much encouraging feedback from the community, pledges of support and the like, that the council will have to take notice.
3. IRENE                      Only if our protest is different! We need media coverage.
4. HELEN                      We need a gimmick!
5. RAY                        We need a celebrity!
6. HELEN                      Don't be ridiculous, Ray. Where are we going to get a celebrity from?
7. RAY                        I can get us a celebrity.
8. HELEN                      Who? Not your old school friend who made it into the papers?
9. RAY                        Of course not. He's still in prison. A proper celebrity.
10. HELEN                      What? A big name?
11. RAY                        As big as they come.
12. HELEN                      Local or national?
13. RAY                        International!
14. HELEN                      I'll believe it when I see it.
15. RAY                        Oh, you'll see it, Helen.

16. CLARE                      Its getting the message across that matters. Megan, you said earlier that you had a brilliant idea.
17. MEGAN                     I might have.
18. CLARE                     Oh, come on, Megan! Stop sulking! It's not often we all get to go to the pub, so cheer up! You're just bringing everybody down.
19. MEGAN                     I'm not sulking, I'm angry.
20. IRENE                      What's the problem?
21. CLARE                      Megan thinks I'm taking advantage of our au pair Nali.
22. MEGAN                      You are, Clare!
23. CLARE                      Look, we have taken that girl in and made her as much a part of our family as of her own, back home in Latvia...Estonia...Slovenia?...she did say...
24. MEGAN                      Nali wants to leave, and Clare is dangling Simon as bait to make her stay.
25. IRENE                      Well I can certainly see that working.
26. CLARE                      Is Simon really that attractive?
27. HELEN                      Attractive enough for me to marry him.
28. MEGAN                      Attractive enough for me to go out with him.
29. IRENE                      Attractive enough for me to have a fling with him.
30. CLARE                      You?

31. IRENE                      When things were really bad between me and Stanley. So, I guess the answer to the question "Is Simon really that sexy" has to be yes, since 80% of the people around this table have slept with him.
32. CLARE                     Excuse me, Irene, I have done no such thing.
33. RAY                        Look, we were both drunk, and I don't even know if he even remembers it.
34. IRENE                     Come on, Megan, what was your brilliant idea?
35. MEGAN                    Well, it was when Thomas came in to the office. I noticed his T-shirt, Clare noticed his T-shirt! People notice T-shirts!
36. CLARE                    That's it! I've got it! A slogan on a T-shirt!
37. IRENE                    Frankie Says Relax!
38. HELEN                    Choose Life!
39. RAY                        I Ran The World!
40. MEGAN                    I'm With Stupid!
41. CLARE                    But if my Slogan On A T-shirt idea is going to work...
42. MEGAN                    Hang on, it was my idea.
43. CLARE                    No, no, you just said T-shirt. I took the idea and put it into creative development. The question is; what do we put on the T-shirt?
44. IRENE                    Don't Let The Sparrowhawk Suffer!
45. CLARE                    Too obscure.

46. HELEN Sparrowhawk Estate Says Save Our Centre!
47. CLARE Too verbose. It has to be punchy, pithy yet powerful... Megan, give me a pen... Helen, give me a beer mat...Its coming...nearly there...yes, got it. Megan, I want you to take this beer mat to the printers tomorrow and have this slogan printed on fifty t-shirts.
48. MEGAN These exact words.
49. CLARE Those exact words.
50. RAY That sounds to me like cause for celebration. I'm going to the bar.  
Same again for everybody?
51. THE TEAM Yes please, ta, lager please etc.
52. HELEN Ray...
53. RAY What is it, Helen?
54. HELEN Are those new trousers?

**SCENE 13****1. ATMOS: INT. NIGHT. BEDTIME**

2. CLARE                      Brian?...Brian, are you asleep?...OK, let's cut the crap. "Brian, are you asleep?" is a rhetorical question, as we both know that you're not, and even if you were asleep I would wake you up anyway.
3. BRIAN                      Oh God, not again! What was wrong with Thomas? He's been Thomas for a record breaking three days now!
4. CLARE                      Brian, calm down. I have absolutely no intention of changing Thomas' name. Although I have been thinking Obama Barker has a certain ring to it.
5. BRIAN                      Give me strength.
6. CLARE                      It's not Thomas, it's this thing about Simon...
7. BRIAN                      Don't worry, Clare, I've sorted it all out. Simon has given me his solemn promise that he will not go anywhere near Nali or give her any encouragement if he finds himself within her vicinity. And if she contacts him he will politely, but resolutely, decline any kind of invitation.
8. CLARE                      Looks like you've covered all the basis.
9. BRIAN                      I have. Goodnight Clare.
- PAUSE**
10. CLARE                      Brian, there's been a change of plan...

**SCENE 14****1. ATMOS: EXT. THE TOWN HALL. DAYTIME**

2. IRENE                      Outside the Town Hall at 10am prompt! Its 10.05! Clare is always late these days.
3. HELEN                     Here she comes now.
4. CLARE                     Sorry! Sorry I'm late! Thomas had a really bad night with the colic.
5. HELEN                     Kept you awake.
6. CLARE                     Oh no, I slept through. Only Nali insisted on telling me all about it this morning.
7. IRENE                     Well don't worry, everything is in place. The children are all on the bus, waiting for my signal to put on their t-shirts, charge up the steps at the town hall and start their protest.
8. HELEN                     We've got the press, local radio, there's even a TV Crew. It's going to be big!
9. IRENE                     Ray even assures us that he has a celebrity in the wings. They're hiding around the corner.
10. CLARE                    What do the T-shirts look like?
11. HELEN                    Don't know, they've only just been delivered. Megan's handing them out on the bus now.
12. IRENE                    Megan's giving us the thumb up! Let's go!

13. F/X: WHISTLE. THE SOUND OF FIFTY CHILDREN EXCITEDLY CHARGING UP THE STAIRS OF THE TOWN HALL. THEY REACH THE STEPS AND BURST INTO A CHORUS OF "2,4,6,8, SPARROWHAWK IS REALLY GREAT".

14. CLARE Well that is impressive! Look at them go! This is going to be noticed!

15. MEGAN Well, what do you think? The printers cut things a bit fine, but apart from that...everything according to plan.

16. CLARE Well done Megan, well done team!

17. MEGAN Thanks.

**PAUSE**

18. CLARE Megan, is that one of the t-shirts you're wearing.

19. MEGAN Yes it is. Looks great, doesn't it.

20. CLARE What have you got written on it?

21. MEGAN What you suggested.

22. CLARE No, Megan, that is not what I suggested. I suggested; "SAY NO TO LOCAL COUNCIL CUTS".

**PAUSE**

23. MEGAN Cuts!

24. CLARE Yes, cuts, Megan! Cuts!



25. MEGAN Oh. I thought it was a bit strong.
26. CLARE Megan! What have you done?!
27. MEGAN You said it was punchy and powerful. Besides, it's hardly my fault your handwriting is rubbish.
28. CLARE No, no, no! This is a total disaster. It'll be over all the papers, the media...
29. IRENE Hold on, Clare, we can still salvage this. Let's get Ray to bring his celebrity out now, and draw the media away.
30. HELEN Good idea! (Shouts) Ray! Ray! Bring your celebrity out now!
31. RAY (Shouts off) Now?
32. HELEN Yes, now!
33. RAY Well, here we are team. I promised you a top grade celebrity, and I believe I have delivered.
34. IRENE/ HELEN/ CLARE/ MEGAN Good grief! I don't believe it! Incredible! Etc
35. HELEN Its Terry Wogan!
36. CLARE And he's wearing one of our t-shirts.
37. F/X: CLAMOUR OF PAPARRAZZI, "THIS WAY,MR.WOGAN!",  
"THIS WAY,TERRY!", "SHOW US YOUR T-SHIRT, TERRY!"  
ETC, AS A BARRAGE OF SHUTTERS CLICK AWAY.

**SCENE 15**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. A PUB. EVENING.**

2. **F/X:** **FOOTBALL ON IN THE BACKGROUND.**

3. BRIAN                      Thing is, Simon...

4. SIMON                     Go on my son!

5. BRIAN                     ...I never realised before, but you don't just love your children, you fall in love with them. Fatherhood has changed me so profoundly, taught me what matters...

Helped me sort out my priorities, put me in touch with emotions I never knew I...

6. SIMON AND BRIAN      (Scream) Penalty!!!!!!

7. BRIAN                     That was a penalty!

8. SIMON                    He took him out!

9. BRIAN                    He's given it!

10. SIMON                   I should bloody hope so.

11. BRIAN                   What was I saying?

12. SIMON                   Can't remember.

13. BRIAN                   Couldn't have been important. He's got to put this away.

14. SIMON                   Look, I don't want to get grumpy, but if you're going to sit on my lap, Nali, could you get your hair out of my face.

15. NALI Sorry Simon.

16. F/X: **PUB ERUPTS! GOAL!**

**SCENE 16**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE OFFICE. DAY**

**A TEAM MEETING**

2. IRENE                      OK, I'd like to keep this team meeting short because I'm away on a course this afternoon.
3. HELEN                    (Under breath) A golf course.
4. IRENE                    First up, the wall next to the car park with the graffiti on it...
5. RAY                        The caretaker has been informed...
6. IRENE                    Well, tell him not to worry, the wall has been stolen. Helen, you were right, it was a Banksy.
7. HELEN                    Told you!
8. IRENE                    Next, I received a lovely letter of thanks from Pauline...
9. MEGAN                   Whose Pauline?
10. RAY                      You must remember Pauline, Megan. We gave her a silver plate with Pamela's name on it.
11. MEGAN                   They share a desk, for crying out loud. It was a simple mistake!
12. CLARE                   Just like the t-shirts.
13. MEGAN                   You cannot blame me for the t-shirts.
14. CLARE                   The t-shirts were your idea!

15. RAY                      How am I going to face Uncle Terry this Christmas?
16. IRENE                    Actually, Megan, the t-shirts have proved to be an extraordinary success. They attracted the attention of the media from all over the country.
17. RAY                      Well done, Megan.
18. HELEN                    Nice work.
19. MEGAN                   I always say, "there's no such thing as bad publicity".
20. CLARE                    Thank you, Gary Glitter. Can we carry on with the meeting?
21. IRENE                    Point is, our campaign has made it impossible for the council to ignore how desperate the conditions are within the Sparrowhawk Family Centre...
22. TEAM                    Hurray!
23. IRENE                    Nor can they drag their feet on the issue. For once they have decided to take the bull by the horns and act!
24. TEAM                    Hurray!
25. IRENE                    They're closing us down.
26. HELEN                    Hurray!
27. CLARE                    Helen!
28. HELEN                    What? I'm sorry I wasn't really paying attention.

**SCENE 17**

1. **ATMOS:** **INT. THE BATHROOM. MORNING**
  
2. **F/X:** **BRIAN AND THOMAS IN THE BATH, THOMAS IS GURGLING  
HAPPILY.**
  
3. BRIAN                      Here comes Dicky Ducky! Splash! Dicky Ducky loves bath time  
with Thomas, and so does Daddy...
  
4. **F/X:** **DOOR OPENS**
  
5. BRIAN                      (Panic) I'm in here, I'm in the bathroom!
  
6. CLARE                      Its OK, Brian its me.
  
7. BRIAN                      Oh, hi Clare. Sorry if I woke you, but I was up, so was Thomas,  
and I thought we'd snatch some quality time together before I went  
to work.
  
8. CLARE                      I guessed that's what you were doing, and I thinks it's brilliant. The  
two of you look so cute in the bath I decided we had to have a  
photograph.
  
9. NALI                        I have the camera, Clare. What do I do?
  
10. CLARE                    Just point and click.
  
11. NALI                      Point and click.
  
12. BRIAN                    Clare!
  
13. CLARE                    I'd take it, but I've got to get into work early. Bye!

14. NALI                      Bye! So, Brian, smile! Hey, hold on a minute. Clare says just point and click, but this camera has a zoom lens that is making everything look tiny. (Pause) Sorry, my mistake.

15. BRIAN                    Just take the picture.

[END]

**CLOSING CREDITS****1. GRAMS: CLOSING SIG**

2. ALEX: You have been listening to Clare in the Community  
by Harry Venning and David Ramsden.

Starring; Sally Phillips, Nina Conti, Alex Lowe, Richard Lumsden,  
Liza Tarbuck, Ellen Thomas and Andrew Wincott.

The producer was Katie Tyrrell