





















**7 July 2018**  
**Enforcement visits to the Wireless Festival Finsbury Park**

Arrived in the area at 21:00. Busy with police presence. People eating and drinking on the street.

**21:15**  
**The Blackstock, 284 Seven Sisters Road.**  
Two door supervisors on the door. About 30 people in the pub watching the extra time for the Russia v Croatia games. Spoke to the manager. He said he was busy during the England game but didn't expect to be busy that night. He said Friday night wasn't terribly busy. He said that the night of Liam Gallagher was their busiest night ever. Looked as if some of their customers were from Pride as they were wearing rainbow shirts and one man had full angel wings on.

**21:31** -Monitoring Seven Sisters Road. Large flow of people leaving already.

21:45 - Poundland shop has lorry parked outside on Seven Sisters Road making a delivery

21:52 - it looks as if the road closures on Seven Sisters Road are in place and I can see the lorry coming down Seven Sisters Road to be parked near the bridge

22:04 - took a short video of the junction of Stroud Green Road and Seven Sisters Road where the barriers just aren't working. 1 steward on the junction of Seven Sisters Road and Stroud Green Road

22:07- Pizza man touting for business with open barrier and steward at the opening.

22:24 The usual queue of traffic doing U-turns on Blackstock Road at the junction of the one-way system

22:32 – Watched ambulance make its way down Blackstock Road with blue lights and sirens be stopped by stewards at road block sign. Could see steward on the radio but could not hear what was being said. Shortly after the ambulance turned away with sirens and lights on again.

22:37 - Queue for the tube is moving slowly but moving.

22:44 – Someone has collapsed in the tube queue the police are moving the barriers and trying to assist. The stewards are trying to move the barriers so people can go round the collapsed person. Police look like they are giving first aid to the collapsed person. At the same time the Police were also first aiding a person outside of Costa Coffee who was having a anxiety attack. We spoke to the police and they told us that an ambulance was called. We told them that we saw an ambulance being turned away on Blackstock Road. Queue behind the collapsed person has slowed down significantly.

22:47 - Police helicopter above us

22:57 - Steward with bib number 0255 refuse to let steward (bib number 0247) put extra barriers up after a crowd of people tried to push through. The barriers were only single skinned not double. Steward 0247 was on his own monitoring the junction of Stroud Green Road and Seven Sisters Road.

More people trying to push through at junction and saying they wanted a pizza. The steward was letting them through for a pizza but they then cut through and didn't order pizza. TL asked steward 0255 to close the gap for pizza customers. There was a confrontation with the pizza man and the steward because they didn't want to shut the barrier. At this point the queue was very busy. The steward 0255 questioned our request to shut the barrier, we repeated it was for safety and the steward said safety wasn't his job, that was the job of the police. The pizza man became aggressive and shouted at us. Said wanted to sue the organisers of the festival and demanded that we make a statement for his case against them. He put his phone in our faces and said he was filming and demanded a statement. We said he was free to complain to the organisers but we would not make a statement. This confrontation was unnecessary because 10 minutes later the queue was easing and the barrier could be opened to let customers through. Pizza man very unhelpful.

23:27 - Queue for the Tube is finishing and they're now stacking up the barriers and a cleaning sweeper truck is going through

23:39 - Seven Sisters Road reopened

00:05 - Roads south of Blackstock Road and the Stadium much quieter than the week before.

00:15 - Heavy traffic on Holloway Road going north. Highbury Roundabout busy with people who look like they attended Wireless.

## **Notes from 2017**

### **Wireless Festival, Finsbury Park**

#### **1 July 2017**

21:00 – 00:00 – Got back to Finsbury Park and noted the area outside the station was clear and the area outside the Blackstock was also clear, with only a few drinkers outside on Seven Sisters Road. We walked into the park from the Seven Sisters Road entrance and noted lots of security. Walked through the park to the exit on Stroud Green Road by the station and noted the railings beginning to be put in place.

We stood inside the centre of the barriers in front of the station watching people leave the park. There were a number of security and Police in the area.

Two women stood at the exit of the park directing people to the station. On microphones, they advised to turn left for the tube and right for the overground. They directed people to the tube queue before the barriers were opened, causing a panic amongst stewards to open them quickly. Eventually they changed this to direct people straight ahead, as right would have led them under the bridge and north up Stroud Green Road.

The queue for the overground was a steady flow all evening, while the tube queue was continually busy and static at times. Several people seemed to get into the wrong queue and forced their way out through the barriers and other people queuing.

It became apparent that there was no provision for people coming out of the overground station to leave via Station Place, as the barriers prevented this. Police had to force a way through the queuing crowds to get them out, some of these customers had buggies and children. The plan was that people exited the station from the exit on Seven Sisters Road, but a fair number of people still continued to exit from the main station to Station Place.

There were insufficient barriers between the tube and Overground entrances and so people were going between the two. Extra BTP and TFL staff were needed to plug the gaps.

The system of queuing eventually worked for the tube and the queue for the overground was smaller. The tube queue was cleared by about 23:40. At this time, the barriers started to be cleared.

#### **On licensing visits 7<sup>th</sup> July**

##### **Wireless Festival Finsbury Park**

##### **20:00 LB Haringey Event Control**

We went to speak to event control and meet the Head of Parks and one of the Haringey Event leads.

He said that they 33,000 in the festival by 6pm and at this stage they were at 36,000 in out of the 37,500 capacity.

SF advised that the egress plan had completed changed, the plan submitted in writing had people queuing in the park if they wanted to get tube home via FP.

SF said that last Saturday that 6000 people had used Manor House Tube, which is much higher than usual.

I did mention that I believe the Egress Plan had up to 11,000 people using this station after the concert.

New plan still being devised, to send people to Finsbury Park plan changed from documents send to me at LBI.

There was a large Police presence, we spoke to Station Manager and Area Manager Ray Dance LU Tube Finsbury Park.

Station AM unaware of change plan, he said that ultimately they can close Station if there is an issue.

We then spoke to Station Manager

### **Sunday**

**20:15**

#### **Fins Pk – Wireless Event and surrounding area.**

We walked around the local area and festival site. Music noise outbreak minimal towards Islington residents. On reaching the main exit from the site, Manor House, we spoke with very helpful ShowSec steward in regards to the egress on Sat. She stated that it was generally OK and not many issues, the queue had to be held a few times but otherwise flowed well. The queue is split, left for Manor House and right for Fins Pk. No obvious option for other travel plans e.g. walking/taxi. We asked for her opinion on direction of travel, she indicated that high percentage went off towards Fins Pk.

On walking down Seven Sister's Rd to Fins Pk station we noted that the side exit was being used and that a steady flow of people were now leaving the site (approx. 20:45) and walking down towards the station. They were being directed to the station via exit between bowling alley and Stroud Green Rd rail bridge. No issues at this time.

**21:15**

Road closure comes into effect.

**21:30**

Queue starting to build as people leave the event. A lot of the crowd already deciding to walk into Islington along Blackstock Rd or Seven Sister's Rd rather than use Fins Pk.

**21:39**

There are no stewards within the barriers opposite 12 Pins PH, a number of people are as a result climbing over them. This situation is rectified within a few minutes as additional stewards arrive.

**22:00**

A lot of people are coming from direction of Fins Pk station against the flow on Seven Sister's to join the tube queue. They have apparently come from around the back of the park where Overland customers were advised to exit.

**22:05**

Crossflow issue outside Bagel Bakery due to the above issue, additionally hindered by a large group standing around at junction with Blackstock Rd.

**22:10**

Female Showsec steward from a nearby area takes it upon herself to go to the standing group and strongly advise them to move on. This quickly takes effect, they move off towards Blackstock Rd and the flow is better.

**22:13**

Flow from Manor House along Seven Sister's Rd is now clearing.

**22:20**

Barriers starting to be cleared in from of 12 Pins PH.

**22:40**

Queue o/s Fins Pk Station is now clear and Disney Queue barrier system being dismantled.

**22:41**

Road Closure ceases.

**23:00**

Area still busy with people from the event hanging around, no issues though.

### **Post event comments 2017**

Dear Haringey,

In relation to the two proposals submitted for a two day 45,000 capacity event in June 2018, and a three-day event in July 2018 next year in Finsbury Park, Islington Council strongly opposes this.

Islington Council has no confidence in your organisers ability to egress 45,000 after the event, this is especially demonstrated by our experiences in 2017.

*At the Catfish and the Bottlemen event on 1 July 2017, there was miscommunication to stewards on microphones at Finsbury Park Station. They directed people into the tube queue before the barriers had opened and directed people for the over ground to turn right when it should have been straight ahead. People moved between queues and barriers as the barriers were insufficient in number. There was no provision for people exiting the over ground into Station Place, BTP had to force a way through the queues to get them out. The queues began to ease at approximately 23.30.*

There was a consistent failure to share egress plans or independently assess the travel arrangements as we had suggested on numerous occasions.

When we did get the written plan, event organisers appeared to abandon it on the day of the first event. The written plan, which had audience members wanting to use the Finsbury Park station egress through a moat in the park, had looked unworkable on paper, but as it meant the audience were contained in Haringey, we were unable to make representations.

For your records, we were not provided with the actual documented Egress Plan that was used for the 3 nights, so we are not even sure if the procedures in place for egress at this year's Wireless Festival were even formally documented.

The event organisers also failed to update the limited travel information on their website, as a screen shot taken on the first night of Wireless (copied below) continued to state no entry to Finsbury Park Station from Seven Sisters Road throughout the weekend.

On the first night of Wireless, the barrier plan which extended towards the park was broken and poorly managed. This resulted in the barriers being double skinned for the following evening. The event organisers failed to order any more barriers so, so the barrier line was effectively 50% shorter. Therefore, it encouraged more people to egress via Islington.

The Video Traffic Information Unit were then directing people on a 3 sign cycle to go to the Tube, to the Train or Walk home.

It is not surprising then that 4000 people each night then walked into Islington to get tubes at Highbury and Islington, Arsenal, and Holloway Road. Islington Officers asked at a pre-meeting about stewarding the Islington Stations. This was ignored and the idea that people using the tube network in Islington was never factored into the situation.

In addition anyone using a UBER or any other mobile transport app, has to wait in Islington, causing temporary blockages to residential streets in our Borough.

We have seen the TFL figures, but what officers witnessed on the ground was that the queuing time into the station was about at its maximum levels for the numbers leaving. Therefore, if an additional 7500 were permitted to attend the event, the majority would find themselves coming into Islington and our residents would find this an unacceptable nuisance.

Therefore, we strongly resist any increase in capacity for events, especially as Live Nation were unable to properly plan for the 37,500 attending last Summer's Festival.

#### **Letter sent from Islington to Haringey summarising views after 2017 events**

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**Controls Islington have to impose on local businesses to control on-street drinking on event days**

### **Section 3** **Reports by Islington Council ASB Officers 2018**

Friday 06.07.18.

There were no signs of any ASB taking but we saw crowd of people in the area. One FPN was obtained via commercial waste left on Fonthill Road. Another three FPN were obtained via waste left on Seven Sisters Road, no sign of ASB was noticed. We then went through Stroud Green Road and searched waste left on the street but no FPN was obtained and no signs of ASB either.

As requested, we walked through Stroud Green Road, Fonthill Road, Seven Sisters Road and Blackstock Road and we haven't noticed any signs of ASB taking place despite so many people in the area.

Friday...  
Patrol time: 16.00 - 22.00



### Blackstock Triangle

There was no ASB witnessed other than the use of balloons, there were no persons seen urinating on the street, this was due to the shops allowing people to use their facilities.

### Blackstock Road. 20.30 -21.00

There were males gathered outside the university, playing music and talking; this was the same on Sunday.

### Seven sisters 18.00 - 19.30

Commercial waste issues of sacks being placed out early, we checked out sacks and will be carrying out enforcement where applicable. The streets were very dirty leading up to Blackstock Road

### Sunday

Patrol time 18.00 - 00.30

### As above

No ASB witnessed throughout the day.

Patrolled the above locations, main issue was open balloon use.

Commercial waste enforcement carried out.

Most of the Crowd left the location by 00.00,

Outcomes:- 3 businesses will receive enforcement action.

### 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>

Seven Sisters Road, Stroud Green Road, Blackstock Road and Fonthill Road. Blackstock Triangle' of roads including Rock Street, Prah Road, Ambler Road, Romilly Road, Plimsoll Road and Monsel Road. These mainly in the proximity of Finsbury Park

**Illegal street trading** – no incidents of illegal street trading seen.

**Noise Nuisance** - Noise from the event in line with open air events– No complaints of Noise Nuisance received. Observed a male standing at the Finsbury Park Exchange, at the junction with Stroud Green Rd. The male was using a megaphone to direct revellers to the location of the festival.

**Trade Waste** – we found trade waste that are potentially enforceable on Blackstock Rd, Seven Sisters Rd, Stroud Green Rd, and Fonthill Rd. For offences mainly regarding Sec 33, Sec 47, and 87, EPA 90.

**Observed instances of public urination** – saw a male urinating at Romilly Rd. As we called out to him to stop what he is doing. He ran off.

**Littering** – We saw several offences of littering. Around the Finsbury Park area, within the vicinity of Seven Sisters Rd, Stroud Green Rd, Blackstock Rd and the Finsbury Park Exchange. However, after making dynamic risk assessment, we judged them to be quite risky, we decided not to carry out enforcement actions.

As stated in a previous email, the roads around that area were strewn with litter. We had seen the Islington Scarab crew cleaning up. As well as the refuse crew collecting waste. Battling with the road diversions and road blocks.

The pavements around that location were highly stained, undoubtedly from the very high amount of footfall.

Dealt with an incident at Blackstock Rd, of an elderly man who had collapsed and fallen to the ground and was unable to get up. We were called by members of the public to assist. We called 999 for ambulance and had to wait there for about 2 hours until the ambulance arrived.

We also attended Ambler Primary School on Blackstock Rd. They had an event there. They were thankful for our attendance.

Saw a few fly posters in Tollington Park, Stroud Green Road and Seven Sisters Rd. We will carry out further investigations.

There were quite a few posters such as the yellow one depicted in the attached photo from Haringey that were posted on the Islington side of Stroud Green Rd and Seven Sisters Rd. We will carry out further investigations. The posters were giving information on parking restrictions and the festival.

### **Complaints to ASB Line**

- Saturday 18:04 from anon reporter re Crap music from Wireless can be heard clearly on Drayton Park. Anon reporter so unable to visit them to carry out assessment.
- Saturday 22:27hrs from resident of Highbury Hill re Loud noise from the Wireless event at Finsbury's Park. Comp can't sleep even with windows closed. Would Islington to oppose the event being held next year. Already reported to Haringey. Response- Called Complainant at 23:10. C advised that the festival is now over and was no longer being disturbed. C stated that she lives approximately 600 metres away from venue and her walls were shaking as a result of what she describes aggressive bass music. Advice given.
- Sunday 00:49hrs from an anonymous reporter re loud music and people at the corner of Moray and Fonthill Road (which could have been related to people dispersing). Officers attended, nothing witnessed.
- Sunday 19:20hrs re too much noise from Wireless at Finsbury Park. Can be clearly heard from within properties on Drayton Park. Anon reporter so unable to visit them to carry out assessment. Response- Visited 20:53 checked and monitored outside the blocks towards the Arsenal station no loud noise heard from Street level
- Sunday 20:32hrs Resident of Canonbury Place re noise, language over the PA in particular on Saturday was unacceptable. Response- Called comp at 20:52hrs and asked if the noise was still an issue which it was not, advised that we have had our ASB service on weekend and an officer could have come to witness the noise, the comp stated that it was not the level of noise but the prolonged issues of people coming to Islington for a festival and disturbing all the local residents. I advised the male that when the noise is an issue to call our service so officers could witness the noise
- Sunday 23:27 re people from wireless festival smoking cannabis in front of property in Prah Road, reported to Haringey no presence. Response- Called 2344 and 2347 no Answer. Visited 01:19hrs no sign of anyone hanging around

- Monday 14:29hrs from resident of Plimsoll Road re music which didn't finish until 10pm on Sunday and all the festival goers hanging around the streets making lots of noise taking drugs drinking till 1am. Noise not acceptable especially on Sunday. Response- referred to Licensing
- I am emailing on behalf of and as well as my partner. She lives in the borough of Islington (Blackstock road) and although I do not, I stay at her house on a regular basis. I'd like to complain about the recent spell of festivals in Finsbury Park. Do you know that there are droves of w\*\*kers pissing in people's driveways on the way home? There seem to be no police patrolling the Blackstock road area, and also along with the pissing, the behaviour of some people has been so ridiculous it's incredible. Rude, and ignorant people, oblivious to anyone actually living in the area! Perhaps you should offer residents of the area where the festival is located a discounted ticket or something in future. I know you can't stop people pissing in every doorway, but you could make sure there are plans in place to make sure this kind of stuff is avoided, or lessened? and offer residents something positive huh?
- I would like to complain about wireless Festival, that you have every year & Islington residents have to endure 3days of persistent anti-social behaviour, drug dealing, drug taking, as a Islington resident, Finsbury park area is a no go area, which I do avoid every year, when this horrific festival is on, but this year, I have had to walk past people vomiting in the street (they look no older than 16yrs old), I have to ask do Haringey actually have a policy on age to attend this festival, because what I saw & witnessed was drug taking openly & empty balloon canisters on my estate, which is off St Thomas's road, I did approach 2 groups on Saturday & asked them to leave the estate, to be told to fuck off on both occasions.
- This year also seemed extremely loud, louder than it's been before. Residents, including elderly and disabled residents, complaining as they were refused accessing by car to their homes even after arrangements were put in place between Islington and Haringey to allow this. One elderly, disabled resident was blocked from entering their home and had to wait till the barriers were lifted at 11pm Sunday 1st July. They were advised to leave young child and shopping in the car at the barrier until it opened so waited with car for 20 mins.
- I am extremely concerned about the fact that there has not been any restriction put in place for our residential roads to **protect our parking zones for residents**. Whenever Arsenal are playing at home there are restrictions put in place. My neighbour since last week after not being able to access through the restricted road to go home, (during the wireless events taking place) he won't go out in case he cannot find parking when he returns home. This is because all the people going to the Finsbury Park event are taking our parking spaces which are for the Islington residents. Yesterday my husband took us out and when we came home approx 5-5.30pm there was **not one** space to park our car. My husband happened to receive an emergency call out with his job and so parked our car in the parking space where his van was parked. It is not fair that everyone is allowed to take our parking spaces when we (residents) are all struggling for parking spaces already and we have to pay for our parking permits to park our vehicles in the SF zone. The other issue is that if my husband can be called out throughout the day and evening on emergencies when he is on duty. It is extremely worrying that at the event times he is not going to be allowed home within the roads restricted times because the security people are NOT allowing the residents through. We are feeling imprisoned in our homes because of all the above, scared that we won't have anywhere to park and scared that we will not be allowed back home because of blocking us out. We believe that this is all unlawful. This matter needs to be dealt with urgently and something needs to be done to protect the rights of our Islington residents.

- I write again, one year on from the same complaint I sent last year and the unsatisfactory reply that you sent me. For the previous two weekends residents of Gillespie Road have again experienced unacceptable traffic issues on our road as a direct result of the road closures put in place as part of the wireless festival and other events in Finsbury Park. As in previous years, as soon as Seven Sisters Road is closed, traffic diverts down Gillespie Road. Gillespie Road is not wide enough for two-way traffic and so traffic jams quickly develop, resulting in beeping horns, shouting, road rage, cyclists/ mopeds on pavements for around 90 minutes after the end of each festival. This makes evenings miserable for residents and on occasion my children are woken up. Last weekend I filmed two separate instances where emergency ambulances have each taken two minutes to traverse 100m of road - whilst they have blue lights and sirens going. you can view one of these videos on you tube [here](#). Your dismissive reply last year, suggested that drivers should behave better and Haringey does not take any responsibility for being the direct cause of the problem. The closure of Seven Sisters Road is managed by traffic stewards, therefore, the traffic displacement should be managed by stewards funded by Haringey Council. Haringey has to take responsibility for the wider disruption that these festivals and events cause and **actively manage** the impact on residents and emergency vehicles.





**Section 4 –  
E-mail correspondence and complaints from residents to Islington Council**

**One**

I am an elderly disabled lady and was quite distressed to find I was blocked from entering Medina Road and had to wait till the barriers were lifted at 11pm Sunday 1st July and were advised to leave my daughters car at the barrier while [REDACTED] child slept in the back seat, and food in the boot of the car.

We said we would wait at the barrier for 20 mins.

On the 8th July I preferred to leave [REDACTED] 9.30pm to be able to get home as barriers were up till 11 pm.

No point in getting home earlier.

As there was no one around we should have been allowed as residents to access our homes.

I'm one of the few people who has been severely affected by resident parking and football matches and it seems by this wireless festivities.

Regards

**Two**

I am emailing you regarding the residents being blocked from going home due to the roads restrictions for the Wireless event.

Recently, we received a leaflet addressed to residents and local businesses from the organisers of the event informing us of road restrictions times etc. It included all the road closures and mentioned that only Font Hill Road residents would be allowed access through if they produced the leaflet.

We were blocked from going home last year so I decided to contact Islington Council after receiving the leaflet to complain about it not being fair that only Font hill road residents are being allowed access through. It is not right that any residents should be placed under a curfew, restricting them from going out and coming back home after a certain time because of being blocked from going home within the times given by Wireless and Haringey Council.

I spoke to Street works Public Realm Environmental & Regeneration at Islington Council. She informed me that Islington Council knew **nothing** about this leaflet and requested that I scan it and send it by email to her which I did. also was extremely surprised to hear that the residents had previously being blocked from interring the restricted roads to go home within the vicinity of Medina Road and the surrounding roads. She said that Islington Council have **never** agreed that the residents cannot be allowed home. I had several conversations with as well as other people from Islington Council and Gary Heather who is a councillor for Islington council. Apparently several meetings and communications were made between Islington and Haringey Council plus the organizers for the event last week, after I complained. I understand there was a meeting that took place with them all together which included Transport for London and it was confirmed that the residents would not be blocked out. I was told verbally and in emails by and Councillor Gary Heather and (Deputy Security Coordinator) that there would not be any restrictions for residents. I was told that we would be allowed to access through the junction of Hornsey Road and Seven Sisters road to go home where we live at Medina Road. I also received an email from Councillor Gary Heather which highlighted the following:

has emailed to flag up the following:

**That residents in the following road have access this should be from the Seven Sisters Road junction with Hornsey Road only.**

**Thane Villas,**

**Thane Works,**

**Berriman Road,**

**Yonge Park.**

**Medina Road,**

**Travers Road,**

**Coleridge Road,**

**Corker Walk,**

**Heather Close.**

Yesterday, on Sunday 8th, we arrived at approximately 10.20pm at the junction of Hornsey Road and Seven sisters Road to find that the event security men had not been told anything about letting us through and they were very confused, in fact they said they were told **not to let anyone through.** I showed them the emails and the letter but it did not make any difference. I was pleading with them. One of them tried to call his boss on his radio but the person on the other end didn't seem to know anything about letting us through. It was when I burst out crying the men kindly allowed my husband to drive us through.

I contacted Deputy Security Coordinator who apparently had his mobile number on the email he had sent me last week confirming my access through the restricted area as a resident. He called me back after speaking to an Adam Briggs

David Parker said that Adam apologised and thought that the residents would be calling a number to be allowed access when I was told to produce the letter and that all residents within the vicinity around Medina Road would be allowed access. As I explained above when the security man tried to radio through to his boss, nobody knew anything about allowing access for residents. The security man said they were told not to **not to allow anyone through.**

I spoke to a neighbour who lives at Medina Road [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] his mother is an [REDACTED] pensioner who is severely disabled. They both went out together in their vehicle. This was after I had told them that I received emails from Islington Council and the Councillor Gary Heather as well as who confirmed that residents would be allowed access to their home. told me that last week himself and his mother were on their way home and arrived just before the junction of Hornsey Road and Seven Sisters Road but the road was completely blocked off and he could not see any security to allow them access through.

Further to my complaint above. I am extremely concerned about the fact that there has not been **any restriction** put in place for our residential roads to **protect our parking zones for residents.** Whenever Arsenal are playing at home there are restrictions put in place. [REDACTED] from number 20 has told me that since last week after not being able to access through the restricted road to go home, (during the wireless events taking place) he won't go out in case he cannot find parking when he returns home. This is because all the people going to the Finsbury Park event are taking our parking spaces which are for the Islington residents. Yesterday my husband took us out and when we came home approx 5-5.30pm there was **not one** space to park our car. My husband happened to receive an emergency call out with his job and so parked our car in the parking space where his van was parked. It is not fair that everyone is allowed to take our parking spaces when we (residents) are all struggling for parking spaces already and we have to pay for our parking permits to park our vehicles in the SF zone. The other issue is that if my husband can be called out throughout the day and evening on emergencies when he is on duty. It is extremely worrying that at the event times he is not going to be allowed home within the roads restricted times because the security people are NOT allowing the residents through. We are feeling imprisoned in our homes because of all the above, scared that we won't have anywhere to park and scared that we will not be allowed back home because of blocking us out. We believe that this is all unlawful. This matter needs to be dealt with urgently and something needs to be done to protect the rights of our Islington residents.

Today another neighbour told me that her and her family were also blocked out and was not allowed in the restricted road. She is also disabled and was made to sit in the car with her family for approximately over 20 minutes with children. She said she will complain.

### Three

Both videos were taken on Friday 6th July, the first one was taken at 10.57pm. The second was taken on the same night about 10 mins later.

I have a similar video from the week before (30th June) if it's useful. It shows the traffic jams but no emergency vehicles

Dear,

I write again, one year on from the same complaint I sent last year and the unsatisfactory reply that you sent me.

For the previous two weekends residents of Gillespie Road have again experienced unacceptable traffic issues on our road as a direct result of the road closures put in place as part of the wireless festival and other events in Finsbury Park. As in previous years, as soon as Seven Sisters Road is closed, traffic diverts down Gillespie Road. Gillespie Road is not wide enough for two-way traffic and so traffic jams quickly develop, resulting in beeping horns, shouting, road rage, cyclists/ mopeds on pavements for around 90 minutes after the end of each festival. This makes evenings miserable for residents and on occasion my children are woken up.

Last weekend I filmed two separate instances where emergency ambulances have each taken two minutes to traverse 100m of road - whilst they have blue lights and sirens going. you can view one of these videos on you tube [here](#).

Your dismissive reply last year, suggested that drivers should behave better and Haringey does not take any responsibility for being the direct cause of the problem. The closure of Seven Sisters Road is managed by traffic stewards, therefore, the traffic displacement should be managed by stewards funded by Haringey Council.

Haringey has to take responsibility for the wider disruption that these festivals and events cause and **actively manage** the impact on residents and emergency vehicles.

I have copied local MP Jeremy Corbyn and Islington ward councillors into this email.

On Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 4:33 PM,> wrote:

Dear

We are sorry to hear that you were adversely affected by the traffic diversions that came into effect at the end of the Finsbury Park Events.

It is unfortunate that people choose to behave in this way and sound horns etc when they are waiting in traffic. We can assure you that Transport for London and colleagues in Islington/Hackney as well as the Police all have input into the plans put in place for the events.



The Police do carry out their own operations as with any large event taking place in London and I am not aware of them attending to any issues in Gillespie Road at this time. There are road traffic laws that drivers are required to abide by and these do deal with road safety and it is for the individual to ensure that they are complying with these laws for their own safety and the safety of other road users.

It seems what you are highlighting here is motorists behaviour and we are all responsible for our own behaviour. I have similar issues living near a secondary school and every time there is parents evening or events at the school the traffic congestion does become very noticeable. People do need to exercise patience and common sense in these situations. That being said it would not be in the gift of the organiser to manage the behaviour of the road users. The fact that there are diversions in place and that the area will be congested is well advertised weeks in advance across London.

The Metropolitan Police do make use of their helicopters and we are sorry that you and your family were disrupted by their use. We have spoken with the Met Police and they have advised that you ring 101 to log a complaint as Festival Republic or the local authority are unable to control policing deployments. The helicopter is there for public safety. If you would like to log a complaint please dial 101.

Haringey Council is committed to hosting live music events in our parks. The Council is also committed to ensuring that these events are safe and have minimal effect on residents, park users and the park itself.

The Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by the Council's Cabinet in December 2013 and introduced at the beginning of the following year to assist with the decision making process behind the hire of Haringey parks for events. The policy aims to protect the community and the parks and open space infrastructure and minimise or mitigate any negative impacts which events may cause. The Council is aware that there will be some impact on local residents and have required the organisers to put in place mitigation to deal with this by having a noise complaints line and the various monitoring points around the Park.

The report that was agreed by Cabinet along with the Outdoor Events Policy can be viewed online here (point 575) -  
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MID=6442>

Income from all events held in the borough's parks, including Finsbury Park, is ring fenced back into the Service and pays for improvements and extra facilities that ensure our parks continue to be among the best in London.

Kind regards

Licensing Team Leader

**From: Resident]**

**Sent:** 09 July 2017 22:34

**To:** [publicprotection@islington.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotection@islington.gov.uk); [licensing@islington.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@islington.gov.uk); Finsbury Park Residents; Public Realm

**Cc:**

**Subject:** Re: Wireless festival

And an hour later it is still going on...see photos.

Unacceptable.

On 9 Jul 2017 21:55, " wrote:

Dear Islington council/ festival republic,

I am writing to complain - again - about the wireless festival and its impact on local residents, even some distance away from the park.

On Friday and Saturday night the noise from the music was unacceptably loud. This was followed by excessive traffic on my road - Gillespie Road - which is displaced from the road closures immediately around Finsbury Park. Gillespie Road is not wide enough for two cars to pass and this results in gridlock, beeping of horns, shouting and swearing, cyclists and moped riders using the pavement to avoid the gridlock (see attached photos). This is followed by helicopter noise following the festival which, along with the traffic beeping has woken our 3 children.

This happens after every wireless festival and no provision has been made to manage this situation for residents. Sometimes the police have to attend to resolve the chaos. It is unacceptable for residents to have to put up with this year after year and how long will it be before someone is injured as a result of this traffic chaos?

Islington council; please do what you can to press Haringey to not allow the festival to go ahead again next year. The impact on residents, the park itself and overall safety is unacceptable.

### **Residential complaints 2017**

**One** (Also sent to festival republic)

Dear Islington council/ festival republic,

I am writing to complain - again - about the wireless festival and its impact on local residents, even some distance away from the park.

On Friday and Saturday night the noise from the music was unacceptably loud. This was followed by excessive traffic on my road - Gillespie Road - which is displaced from the road closures immediately around Finsbury Park. Gillespie Road is not wide enough for two cars to pass and this results in gridlock, beeping of horns, shouting and swearing, cyclists and moped riders using the pavement to avoid the gridlock (see attached photos). This is followed by helicopter noise following the festival which, along with the traffic beeping has woken our children.

This happens after every wireless festival and no provision has been made to manage this situation for residents. Sometimes the police have to attend to resolve the chaos. It is unacceptable for residents to have to put up with this year after year and how long will it be before someone is injured as a result of this traffic chaos?

Islington council; please do what you can to press Haringey to not allow the festival to go ahead again next year. The impact on residents, the park itself and overall safety is unacceptable.





**Two**

**Enquiry** Hello there, I wonder if you could help. How or what is the procedure to lodge a complaint about helicopter noise- any advice much appreciated? Recently, the noise from this type of aircraft has become unbearable.

Helicopters are flying either too low or too often. There is one hovering around rather loud as I type this. It is past 11pm. I'm aware there is an event in Finsbury park this weekend and most likely that is a police helicopter, but that is a planned event so surely the police have had plenty of time to work on their contingency planning for policing without being a nuisance for everybody else who's not attending and just trying to go on with his/her life quietly.

I'm sorry, it is late on Saturday night for a 'rant' but I'm just trying to grab some sleep undisturbed at the end of busy week... Thank you very much for your help. Best regards,

**Date and time of incidents: 7th, 8th, 9th July 2017**

**General complaints from 2017 events**

Source Address	Date	Time	Details
Lennox Road	09/07/2017	22:30	comp states helicopter sound. Happy for it to just be logged on the system as understand not much we can do to eliminate the noise.
St Thomas's Road	09/07/2017	22:28	Helicopter noise over my flat so that I cannot sleep Sunday 9 July starting approx 10 pm

Romilly Road	09/07/2017	22:08	TENANT OF ■ ROMILLY ROAD HAS PHONED COMPLAINING OF LOUD MUSIC FROM THE WIRELESS FESTIVAL FINSBURY PARK AND ALSO ABOUT THE HELICOPTER THAT IS THERE AS A RESULT OF THE FESTIVAL. THE TENANT HAS STATED THAT THE HELICOPTER IS SO MUCH WORSE THEN THE ACTUAL FEST
Monsell Road,	09/07/2017	22:01	HELICOPTER ABOVE HIS HOUSE FOR THE LAST THREE NIGHTS DUE TO THE WIRELESS FESTIVAL IN FINSBURY PARK. HE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT KIDS USING BALLOONS AND LEAVING THE CANISTERS IN HIS FRONT GARDEN BEFORE THE FESTIVAL BEGINS.
Stroud Green Road	08/07/2017	21:24	O2 Festival. The music of the festival is so loud I can't have my windows open. The volume seems to have increased in the last hour. How is this allowed to happen all the time in the park!
Osborne House, Loxford Gardens,	08/07/2017	20:24	Loud music from Wireless Festival, the bass is very loud. Comp just wants to log.
St Thomas's Road,	08/07/2017	19:48	Details: Tenant of ■ St Thomas Road has called complaining about the extremely loud noise coming from the Wireless festival in Finsbury Park. He said he is sure it is much louder than it should be.
Sotheby Road,	07/07/2017	20:16	The noise from Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park, which is scheduled to last all weekend, is unacceptable. I cannot believe that the organisers have monitored the effect of their amplified music on our homes. The noise travels directly from their sound s
Gillespie road	08/07/17	23:30	I would like to raise my concerns regarding the noise and traffic caused by Wireless festival in Finsbury Park last weekend. It was unbearable. The traffic (cars honking) was louder as normal until 11.30pm. The helicopter was flying until almost 11pm. People were walking to arsenal station shouting, swearing, singing and I could smell cannabis outside my window. I also saw someone urinating by the wall attached to my house by Gillespie park and this morning I could smell urine when I left my house.

Post event correspondence

Dear

It was good to meet you at the above meeting today.

I am heading off on holiday tomorrow so thought I should quickly jot a few things down before I forget, as per our conversation.

As I said, I was attending the meeting on behalf of the Highbury Community Association - a group representing local residents, with around 1,000 members.

I know you missed the first part of the meeting so I'll outline some of the points I made, which were all based on residents' experiences and observations as relayed to myself and other HCA committee members.

Also, as this was the first stakeholder meeting I had attended, I feel the need to say how unpleasantly and unprofessionally it was chaired by. I can't remember being in a meeting before where the chair shouted across people making perfectly reasonable and moderate comments, or where those comments were greeted with eye-rolling and open sneering. Haringey's executive member for the environment adopted a similar tone, dismissing people's feedback in an aggressive and hostile manner, which was completely unnecessary for the meeting, as well as being alarmingly unprofessional.

I attempted to pass on residents' concerns, which included -

Open drug-dealing in the streets off Blackstock Rd (including Ambler Rd, Plimsoll Rd, Monsell Rd and St Thomas's Rd) was seen throughout the day during the weekend of Wireless.

An absence of police on these and other surrounding streets.

People were unable to get through on the phone to the police to report problems - some reported waiting for ages on the phone and then giving up.

Front gardens were used as toilets on each of the evenings as people left the event.

Helicopter noise was at an unacceptable level and lasted for too long (most people accept the need for helicopters in the area to supervise crowd dispersal etc, but felt that this exceeded what they had experienced in previous years and was excessive).

Some people reported feeling unsafe in the Seven Sisters Rd area because of the behaviour of rowdy groups of drunk/drugged people.

Many people who said they were fine with the idea of music festivals in the park, such as we have had for many years e.g the Fleadh etc, said that the nature of the music at Wireless made for a different atmosphere. Some particularly said that they found the lyrics and speech of some of the performers - which was effectively being broadcast to the neighbourhood throughout the day and evening all weekend - offensive, because of relentless swearing and misogynistic language. This could clearly be heard well beyond the park boundaries, making the whole surrounding area a no-go zone for families. (Obviously not possible for those that live within earshot...)

More generally, there was a feeling that removing such a massive area of the park from public access for 3 weeks during the height of summer is unacceptable, particularly for local residents who do not have their own garden. For Islington residents in particular, it is 'their' side of the that park that is taken over and their streets that bear the brunt of all the disruption and anti-social behaviour - a fact that Haringey representatives in the form of and the exec member for environment resolutely refused to acknowledge.

I hope some of this can be included in your report.

Do get in contact if you want to discuss anything further or need any other information.

Many thanks.

All the best,

**SECTION 5 – Copies of letters sent to Islington Premises Licence Holders**



**ISLINGTON**

**PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION**

Licensing Team  
222 Upper Street  
London N1 1RX

Tel: (020) 7527 3031  
Fax: (020) 7527 3057

Designated premises supervisor.  
Licensed premises  
In the vicinity of Finsbury Park

E-mail

Date: 18 September, 2018

Dear licence holder

**Re: Sale of Alcohol on Finsbury Park Concert Days 29th, 30th June, 1, 6, 7 & 8 July 2018**

As the licence holder or designated premises supervisor for a licenced premise in the vicinity of Finsbury Park you will be aware of the impact the consumption of alcohol can have upon people during a large concert events and that it can at times be a significant factor for disorder and / or anti-social behaviour.

Working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police we are taking this opportunity to remind you of your responsibilities.

We are concerned about the level of alcohol consumption before, during and after the events.

So we would like you to consider the following additional measures to help with the prevention of disorder on match days.

**General advice**

- Use at two SIA registered door supervisors after 22:00.
- Ensure that senior management staff are working on high risk event days, including making sure the designated premises supervisor is working and authorising the sale of alcohol.

**If you have an outside drinking area**

- These areas shall be designated within barriers and any alcohol consumed in these areas shall only be done so in plastic/polycarbonate containers.
- No drinks to be consumed outside of the premises after 22:30.
- The licence holder shall ensure that external areas do not cause unnecessary obstruction to members of the public and that a member of SIA registered security monitors the area whilst it is in use.



- **Withdraw the use of the outside area at the request of a Police officer or Authorised Council officer.**

**We also take this opportunity to remind you of your responsibility to promote responsible drinking at your premises, and to give your staff extra training on not serving persons who are intoxicated. Please ensure all your staff are extra vigilant of customer behaviour on the day and to report disorderly conduct to the Police.**

**We would also expect you to re-familiarise yourself with the conditions of your licence and also ensure that you have checked your CCTV system so that it is of a high standard and that your staff are able to fully operate the system.**

**The Licensing Act 2003 does allow us to take immediate action if we feel that there is a risk to public safety associated with the sale of alcohol.**

**Our officers will be out on the day and will not hesitate to act if we have concerns. We do pride ourselves on the high standards achieved by our licensees so hope these events will be no different.**

**Yours faithfully**



**ISLINGTON**

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222 Upper Street  
London N1 1RX

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