

Finsbury Park Events Scrutiny Project – Conclusions and recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, draft responses to recommendations

Overall comments on the report			
The Council welcome this report as a positive contribution to addressing the needs of the local community while major events are held in Finsbury park. The programme of major events for the summer of 2016 is currently being devised and the actions taken in view of the recommendations made by the Committee will positively contribute to the running of those events.			
	Recommendation	Draft response (Agreed / Not agreed / Partially agreed)	Who and when
1	The Cabinet Member for Environment is recommended to work with the Council's Communications Team to develop a communication plan providing stakeholders, in Haringey, Hackney and Islington, with greater transparency about how income from events held in Finsbury Park is used. This should include circulating information at the end of September, the end of event season*, to:	Agreed We recognise that there is scope for improving communication regarding the positive outcomes of major events, especially across borough boundaries and welcome this recommendation. It is proposed that an annual report is produced.	Cabinet Member for Environment and Head of Direct Services End of December
	(a) Confirm how much money is generated from events held in Finsbury Park;	Agreed	
	(b) Make clear that all income from events is ring fenced back to the parks budget;	Agreed	
	(c) Identify how local residents, businesses and ward councillors can contribute to decisions on how income from events is spent, including work in other local parks;	At this point in the year we would be seeking priorities for spend against the following year's income. Will be seeking expressions with (annual report)	
	(d) Provide information on how money from previous years has been spent, including updates on projects	Agreed	

	<p>and improvements.</p> <p>(*In view of the timing of this scrutiny report, for 2015, it is recommended that this information is shared with local stakeholders as quickly as possible.)</p>		
2	<p>The Head of Direct Services is recommended to develop a Frequently Asked Questions document for Finsbury Park Events. This should be made available online via the Council's website http://www.haringey.gov.uk/finsbury-park by the end of December 2015 with consideration given to how this information could be used to develop the communication plan (recommendation 1 above).</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>As above this is a welcome recommendation to improve all aspects of communication around major events.</p>	<p>Head of Direct Services</p> <p>End of December</p>
3	<p>To help manage the competing needs and options of different stakeholders, including those from neighbouring boroughs, the Cabinet Member for Environment is recommended to review the terms of reference for the Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder Group. This should be completed before the end of December 2015 with consideration given to:</p> <p>(a) Setting up two distinct groups – one for local residents and one for local business – to ensure feedback from both is used to help with event planning and to address local concerns around major events.</p> <p>(b) A ward councillor from Harringay or Stroud Green being nominated as the Chair.</p> <p>(c) Ensuring fair representation from all the groups participating.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment and Head of Direct Services</p> <p>End of December</p>

4	To ensure local stakeholders, including ward councillors and residents, in Haringey, Hackney and Islington, are aware of all the events that take place in Finsbury Park, the majority being community or charity based, the Head of Direct Services is recommended to work with the Assistant Director of Communications, to review how information about future events is shared electronically or otherwise) to ensure greater awareness of all events.	<p>Agreed</p> <p>This recommendation is supported and a full 12 month Communication Plan is being developed.</p> <p>This will go live in January each year with regular updates across a variety of media channels.</p>	<p>Events & Partnerships Manager</p> <p>End of December</p>
5	The Committee welcomes the Council's commitment to review the way in which noise at Finsbury Park is monitored. It is recommended that the independent acoustic consultant's findings and any action to be taken by the Council as a result, be made available to all stakeholders, before the end of December 2015, to make the monitoring process more transparent and better understood.	<p>Agreed</p> <p>A public document will be published on the Council's website with recommendations.</p> <p>The full publication of this will be detailed in the Communications Plan.</p>	<p>Licensing Team Leader</p> <p>End of December</p>
6	Moving forward, it is recommended that as part of the process for developing an Event Management Plan further consideration should be given, by the various agencies and event promoters, to the location and design of speakers and stages to help minimise noise disturbance.	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Will be included as part of the Safety Advisory Group discussions.</p>	<p>Licensing Team Leader</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
7	The Head of Direct Services and Licensing Team Leader are recommended to work with the Feedback and Information Governance Team to review the process for logging event complaints. There should be one point of contact to: (a) enable appropriate and timely responses from the Council, event promoters and/or other agencies to complaints received from residents in Haringey, Hackney and Islington; (b) enable greater understanding of the issues raised; and (c) ensure lessons can be learnt from the feedback	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Head of Direct Services and Licensing Team Leader</p> <p>Easter 2016</p>

	received.		
8	To ensure improvements are made in relation to crowd management, including security and stewarding, it is recommended that the Safety Advisory Group give consideration to the following issues when advising on future events:	Actions a – e will be included as part of the development of the Event Management Plan for each event.	Head of Direct Services and Licensing Team Leader
(a)	The need for all relevant agencies to be in the control room during an event.	Agreed	Ongoing
(b)	The security arrangements for both in and outside the park should be reviewed. This should include consideration of increased police resource and importantly the use of more SIA accredited stewards who can work alongside council officers.	Agreed	
(c)	In addition to stewards receiving appropriate briefings from the event promoters' stewards should also receive a briefing from council staff to ensure local knowledge / information about the area is passed on.	Agreed	
(d)	Resources should be set asides to ensure stewards, working in pairs with suitable local knowledge, can provide a visible presence in local side roads, ensuring sign posting to public toilets, public transport and other local facilities.	Agreed This item will also be incorporated as a condition of hire of the park.	
(e)	The introduction of a robust three-stage entry system, using the existing site footprint, to improve ingress arrangements minimising the opportunity for anyone to enter the site without a ticket.	Agreed This will only be appropriate at major events of circa 45,000 attendance.	

9	The Head of Traffic Management is recommended to review Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) arrangements to ensure they are appropriate for events held in Finsbury Park with consideration given to CPZ timings being consistent across the three boroughs during events.	Agreed Any recommendation to be implemented prior to first major event in 2016.	Head of Traffic Management June 2016
10	As part of the licensing process each event promoter should be asked to submit additional information, as part of their Event Management Plan, to explain how the take down and handover process will be managed and signed off. This should include information concerning the street cleaning (and bin collection) schedule for streets affected across Haringey, Islington and Hackney.	Agreed The street cleaning arrangements are currently split between four organisations. Consideration is currently being given to simplify this to one provider.	Head of Direct Services and Licensing Team Leader Ongoing
11	Following the take down, the Head of Direct Services is recommended to develop a recovery action plan. This should: (a) list any damage, recorded as part of the post event site inspection; (b) detail the repair work that's required (with costs); and (c) provide clear dates for the completion of each maintenance task. This information should be shared with stakeholders (making it clear that the cost of any damage is paid for by the event organiser, not the Council).	Agreed This will form part of the Communications Plan each year.	Head of Direct Services Following each major event
12	To limit the impact events in Finsbury Park have on the local community it is recommended that: (a) Summer holidays should continue to be excluded from any major event booking period and importantly Finsbury Park should be returned, and be in full use, before the start of the summer holidays; (b) The number of events (five) and duration (a maximum of three days per event), allowed in the policy, should	Agreed Contained within the current Outdoor Events Policy. Agreed	

<p>(c)</p> <p>(d)</p> <p>(e)</p>	<p>not be increased any further;</p> <p>Policy implementation should ensure in practice that no more than two successive weekends are used for major events between the end of the May half-term and the start of the summer holiday period, and that no more than two successive weekends are used after the summer holiday period until the end of September;</p> <p>Any events held in Finsbury Park during September should be smaller (than the June/July events) with a maximum capacity of 20,000 to ensure better coordination with other events, such as football at the Emirates Stadium;</p> <p>That events held on a Sunday should always finish no later than 10.00pm.</p>	<p>Contained within the current Outdoor Events Policy.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>This will be included in our booking process.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Events have taken place on this scale previously when there has been a home match at The Emirates with no major issues for public transport network.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Contained within the current Outdoor Events Policy.</p>	<p>Head of Direct Services</p> <p>Head of Direct Services</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>The Committee notes that retailers selling tobacco are obliged to comply with various legislative measures and new national regulations that restrict the display of cigarettes and point of sale advertising to tobacco. With this in mind, and in addition to the licensing process for Finsbury Park, it is recommended that (a) it becomes a condition of hiring the park that any tobacco stalls should be as plain a possible (e.g. no bright colours or lights) to help prevent the promotion of smoking; and that (b) any evidence arising from this year's events in relation to tobacco products be</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Will be made a condition of hire of the park for 2016.</p> <p>Evidence will be reviewed.</p>	<p>Head of Direct Services and Licensing Team Leader</p>

	reviewed by the Licensing Team Leader in advance of future events.		
14	The Cabinet member for Environment is recommended to develop a 3-5 year programme of events for Finsbury Park to enable all stakeholders to better prepare and plan for events.	Agreed Will work towards this to commence in 2017.	Cabinet Member for Environment and Head of Direct Services
15	In developing a 3-5 year events programme for Finsbury Park the Cabinet Member for Environment is recommended to give consideration to:	Agreed	Head of Direct Services Ongoing
(a)	Delivering events that reflects the diversity of Haringey's population. This should include providing opportunities for local artists / bands to show case their talent during events held in Finsbury Park.	The hire of the park is subject to market demands particularly for major events. Therefore diversity must be considered across the commercial, charity and community events held across all parks.	
(b)	Using the expertise and knowledge from across the council to deliver a mixed and diverse range of events that help the Council to achieve objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.	Officers from across the council will work together to deliver this.	
(c)	The provision of event space for local community groups, charities and businesses to promote their work during events.	Where possible each major event will include opportunities for this to take place.	
(d)	Encouraging more members of the public, including community groups and charities, to hold events in the park.	Council has a Community Events Project as part of the Priority 3 Programme. This will support the delivery of this recommendation.	
(e)	Working with event promoters to identify opportunities for work experience and volunteering.	The key to this is the early agreement of events and the 3 – 5 year programme.	
(f)	Working with event promoters to enable the Council	As above.	

	<p>and local Jobcenters to signpost, and help local residents gain skills required, for jobs that become available during events held in Finsbury Park.</p>		
(g)	<p>Working with event promoters to ensure local businesses have opportunities to take part in events, e.g. catering, and looking at how the Council can support local businesses overcome any barriers identified.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	
(h)	<p>Providing a discounted/lottery ticket scheme for local residents.</p>	<p>The delivery of this will be developed in conjunction with the event organisers and will vary dependent on the particular audience profile for individual events.</p>	