

## Appendix 1:

### Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to large / major park hire applications

Received: Thursday 12 January 2017  
From: Cllr Brian Bell  
Councillor for Brownswood ward, Hackney

Dear Sarah, as at previous responses the major remaining issue for us is how effective or not, the promoters stewarding arrangements in our side streets were.

In brief, apart from one spirited individual in Queens Drive, they were useless.

Can you please ensure that responsibility for community safety on these nights is transferred, fully funded, to LB Hackney?

Thank you. Councillor Brian Bell.

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Received: Monday 16 January 2017  
From: Will Parkes  
Highbury Community Association

We support the use of Finsbury Park for the benefit of all local residents and would be happy to see events organised that are accessible to all who want to use the Park; and promote the diversity and inclusion of the local community in a variety of different types of event. We do not support the use of the Park for events that are disproportionate in scale, cause annoyance, are not properly organised, involve a loss of amenity to local residents or prevent their enjoyment of the Park.

The HCA again opposes the London Borough (LB) of Haringey granting a licence for these proposed music concerts for a number of reasons, which we set out below.

#### Consultation Process

The HCA is disappointed that the consultation process is once again not open to local people, who will be most impacted by the proposed music concerts in this application. Whilst we are aware that LB Haringey has an Outdoor Events Policy, we do not believe it is fair to use this to deny individual residents the ability to share their views whether they are a resident of LB Haringey or a neighbouring Borough.

Secondly we believe the length of the consultation process - again just 10 days - is far too short. We are once again disappointed that the application again contravenes LB Haringey's own guidelines by being consulted on well within the 9 month period specified in the policy.

#### Length of Event, Including Preparation and Clean Up

The HCA believes that the proposed length of disruption/closure of a large section of the Park - for two and a half weeks - represents a significant loss of amenity over too long a time period. The HCA also believes that this proposed closure of a large section of the Park in the height of summer is a disproportionate inconvenience to local people.

It was proposed in 2016 to hold a 'community event' the weekend before the main event - in part in recognition of the inconvenience and disruption caused, but in the end that came to nothing. We are disappointed that this year there has been no attempt at all to offer a comparable event, but instead to add yet another date for a 40,000 capacity concert. The application HGY04877 is confusing as it says the event is not open to the public and is not ticketed, but is expected to have 40,000 people in attendance. Can you please clarify the arrangements for this event, as the application is confusing?

We oppose any concert being hosted that was not ticketed as the potential for crowds and anti-social behaviour would be extremely high without a controlled, ticketed event.

If this additional concert goes ahead, it means residents will be negatively impacted for two weekends in a row, meaning this year's inconvenience will be greater than in 2016 which only covered one weekend.

## **Noise**

From previous experience local residents have to endure excessive noise not just during the concerts, but also in the preparation for the events. We would wish to see more stringent regulations in place to minimise the impact on local residents, including earlier finish times, fewer fireworks and ensuring adequate sound insulation directing noise away from residential areas is in place.

## **Damage to the Park**

In previous years there has been significant damage to the grass where the event has taken place. We recall that stakeholders visited the Park following 2015's Wireless Festival to survey the damage caused, which covered a large expanse of the Park. We believe LB Haringey should consider rotating the area used for the concerts each year to give respite to those residents who are currently inconvenienced every year. We do not believe that adequate consideration has been given to this idea in previous years.

That said, the HCA believes this damage is always likely to happen and is a further reason why the event application should be rejected.

## **Anti-Social Behaviour**

In previous years our residents have experienced anti-social behaviour due to the large number of people at the station (some with tickets for the events, some without). The HCA believes the risk of anti-social behaviour that comes with such a large-scale event taking place for many hours over several days outweighs the 'public benefit' of putting on the concerts. It is also obvious from previous years' experience that the event is not aimed at 'families' and 'older people' as your

consultation document again asserts. From previous years it is clear that the overwhelming majority of people are in your 'young people' category.

It is also evident that the vast majority of ticket holders do not live in Haringey, Hackney or Islington and so have no association with the area, but negatively impact on the local area for the duration of the events. Indeed the Wireless Festival is advertised on a national and European scale.

In the last year at least one illegal campsite was set up within the confines of the park. There is currently evidence of other people camping in the park. Whilst this was not associated with the Wireless concerts, the HCA would like reassurances as to what LB Haringey will do to avoid people taking advantage of the disruption caused by the concerts to illegally use the park as a makeshift campsite prior to, during and after the event has taken place.

### **Local information**

Repeated last year the experience of HCA members has been that the provision of information has been poor with many local residents being unaware of the music concerts taking place - or knowing of a dedicated contact number that people can call. Feedback from local residents in prior years has reported that the contact numbers provided did not work and calls to complain about noise and anti-social behaviour were not answered or ignored. The HCA would like to see further improvements of the provision of local information should you decide to grant the application.

### **Conclusion**

The HCA believes the residents of Hackney and Islington will once again be disproportionately affected by these concerts which are intentionally placed as far away from Haringey residents as possible. We believe LB Haringey should consider rotating the area used for the concerts each year to give respite to those residents who are currently inconvenienced every year.

We are also disappointed that there will be four days of concerts over two weekends, where there were three concerts over one weekend in 2016. It is also disappointing that the proposal in 2016 for a community concert has been dropped in favour of a further day's concert.

We do not believe that any potential 'public benefit' outweighs the damage and detriment caused to a large section of the Park for an excessive period of nearly three weeks. We believe the loss of amenity over this period will harm local people's enjoyment of the Park. We also do not support the assertion that one benefit of the event will be 'raising the profile of the park and area nationally as a venue' as this will only likely encourage more music concerts taking place.

The HCA further believes there will always be the risk of a repeat of the anti-social behaviour caused by concert-goers, the vast majority of whom have no connection whatsoever with the local community.

We also believe the consultation period of 10 days is too short and should be open to individuals as well as local community groups.

**For all the reasons we have provided the HCA's considered and firm view is that the event application should be refused.**

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**Received:** Monday 16 January 2017  
**From:** Jan Hart  
Service Director – Public Protection, London Borough of Islington

We have seen many improvements to the management of Wireless, but Islington has serious reservations about the proposed capacities for both these concerts whilst Finsbury Park is operating at a reduced capacity.

We've reviewed the documentation sent to us previously regarding egress and queuing times into stations, specifically Finsbury Park. We did not believe that the promoter's second submission could be accepted as an improved offer as it was comparing Wireless attendees with compliant Arsenal fans who use Finsbury Park regularly and then concluding that a better entry flow than their original submission was possible following these observations. The promoters submission ignores that on the Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Emirates is hosting an event for 55,000 where the start time will coincide with Wireless attendees arriving for the afternoon and, at the terminal hour for Emirates, see a clash of people leaving there with those arriving at Finsbury Park for the evening. Tickets and travel arrangements have already gone out to the Emirates attendees as it was booked over a year ago. We know from routine work days, that the station has to close frequently because of overcrowding and to expect festival goers to queue compliantly for at least an hour and a half is unrealistic.

It's our suggestion that an independent crowd safety report is commissioned to specifically look at crowd modelling, crowd flows and dynamics, with details on predicted customer behaviour during the egress model as proposed to give us all a final view. The wait time, likely crowd density, and nature of the audience gives us all very serious public safety concerns with the suggested capacity and no doubt that any ramifications would spill into Islington. It is normal to seek independent verification – for instance, we required it of TFL and Arsenal when dealing with queuing issues at Highbury and Islington station. We would also need to consider whether we would object to any road closure applications until we have received independent evidence in respect of egress and the final capacity.

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**Received:** Tuesday 24 January 2017  
**From:** Cllr Zena Brabazon  
Councillor for Harringay ward, Haringey

Dear Officers

Please see the email below from Ms Carrie Anker and her 38 neighbours who live in Tancred, Venetia, Coningsby, and Lothair Rds North and South. I think this email/letter is self explanatory. In summary they are exercising their rights to object to the Wireless concert in Finsbury Park and have asked me, as ward councillor, to convey their written objection to you.

Dear Councillor Brabazon

I am writing on behalf of myself and 38 neighbours, all residents of Tancred, Venetia, Conningsby and Lothair Rds North and South (cc'd and below). We object to the Wireless 2017 event application in Finsbury Park, and, given the council has indicated it will not accept complaints from individuals, we would like you to raise/pass on our complaints, objections and concerns on our behalf, before the deadline, which we understand is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Our main objection is that this type of event is way too big for a park in a highly residential area. The Wireless events over the past 3 years have caused extreme disruption to the area and residents, both during the events themselves, but also during set up and take down times (examples below). In addition, this year we understand there are 4 additional weekends of large scale commercial events planned over the summer, and this would mean large areas of the park would be inaccessible for the best part of 3 months, which is unacceptable. The increased number of large-scale events planned for 2017 also means the fabric of the park would not have time to recover in between events, and the inevitable damage would become more permanent. In this context it would be unreasonable for the council to grant Wireless permission to go ahead in 2017.

**Sound levels** are unreasonably high – in past years many of the residents in our streets couldn't hear the TV in our houses over the noise of the concert. Quite a few of us work from home, and this becomes difficult on concert days, as the noise is often too loud in our houses. We could live with this if the concerts were for one day, but when they are for 3 days or more, it is unacceptable. Similarly, if any students in our area need to revise for exams, this would be difficult to do from our homes as noise levels from the events are often too high inside our houses, even with the windows shut. Several of us have young children, who have afternoon naps, and early bed-times, and these routines are severely disrupted during concert days. In the past complaints about noise have been met with the response that the noise levels are within the permitted levels, but in practice this level is too high to comfortably spend long periods of time in our houses/gardens.

**The events take up too much space** in the park, and take over some of the most used areas. They also restrict access for too long a period of time. Several of us use the park every day – for pleasure/sport/children's activities/cycling to work and many of these activities are restricted by Wireless. There are several different sports groups who regularly use the grassy area parallel to Seven Sisters Road (football, rugby etc) – this is how the park should be used, but all these groups were forced to stop for the best part of 4 weeks whilst Wireless took over this area of the park last year.

The Wireless events are **forbidding for young children** – the big vehicles and extra pollution change the atmosphere in the park and make it unpleasant and at times threatening and dangerous, as not all the vehicles stick to the speed restrictions. In addition to this, in past years some of the lyrics of songs on the Friday afternoon, were crude and totally unsuitable for young children to hear. Also, often event goers hang around the cafe and playground areas and drink alcohol during the day time before the concerts have started, which make it an unpleasant area for young children (and indeed, I have noticed far fewer families in these areas during concert times).

Every year these big events have taken place there has been **damage to the park** caused by the events, be it in broken branches, damaged paths and road surfaces, damage to grassy areas, most of which take months to recover (or don't recover at

all, in the case of broken branches). The damage to grass resulting from the 2016 Wireless event was worse than ever, and large areas of grass were ruined for the whole summer (attached photos showing damage still evident in September), and even now some patches of grass still haven't grown back properly. If Wireless were to take place this year, after the concerts planned during May and June, and September, there would be no time for the grass to recover in between concerts, and the damage is likely to be far worse than previous years.

Another point is that last year there were no parking restrictions in our streets which meant that residents felt unable to leave the area for fear of losing a space on their return, and there were cars tripled parked, which made our usually quiet streets dangerous during the Wireless weekend.

In short, the Wireless events are too big, too loud, too long and too damaging for Finsbury Park. Something along the lines of the Fleadh, which used to take place in Finsbury Park, is far more suitable for our park.

It seems as if Harringey Council never listen to the concerns of residents (some of us have been to several meetings, where we've been told that they will learn from the mistakes made each year and 'mitigate' all the issues raised for the following year, but year on year these issues persist). We are not against all concerts in the park, but strongly feel Wireless is excessive, especially in the context of all the other concerts planned for 2017.

Please can you let us know what you're able to do to address our concerns.

Yours sincerely

Carrie Anker, 4 Tancred Road, N4 1EH  
Mike Ash and Danny Ash, 4 Tancred Road, N4 1EH  
Bob & Josie Ingram, 10 Coningsby Road, N4 1EG  
Cora Kaplan and David Glover, 113 Lothair Rd North  
Juliette and Roland Darby, 44 Lothair Rd North  
Adrian Budd, 7 Venetia Rd, N4 1EJ  
Richard Gay & Juliet Denison. 133 Lothair Road North, London N4 1ER  
Matt and Natasha Armstrong, 12 Tancred Rd  
Ben Swift and Indira Arnautovic. 47 Lothair Rd South N4 1EN  
Frederick Guy and Simona Iammarino, 115 Lothair Road North, N4 1ER  
Marian Broderick, 111 Lothair Road N4 1ER  
Sarah and Leo Sudea, 3 Tancred Road, N4 1EH  
Anna-Zohra Tikly and Karl Young, 8 Tancred Road, N4 1EH  
Andy and Catherine Cheattle, 127 Lothair Road North  
Ian and Debbie Shepherd, 11 Coningsby Road  
Andy & Elinor Stone, 69 Lothair Road South, N4 1EN  
Adam Banks and Caroline Bartlett of 6 Coningsby Rd, N4 1EG  
Elizabeth and Austin Dorsett, Flat 1, 5 Tancred Road, N4 1EH.  
Debby Potts, 38 Lothair Road North  
Elizabeth Blunt, 14 Venetia Rd N4 1EJ  
Roy Immanuel & Pamela Cardenas, 7 Tancred Road, N4 1EH  
Sarah Caton & Ahmet Yener, 8 Lothair Rd, N4



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**Received:** Thursday 26 January 2017  
**From:** Cllr Zena Brabazon  
Councillor for Harringay ward, Haringey

Dear Officers

I am writing further to my email of 24 January regarding objections to the proposed concerts in Finsbury Park. In addition to the objection received below from local residents, I have also received a letter from Mr Bruce Kent who lives at 11, Venetia Road, N4 1EJ. He has written to me setting out his objections to the concerts which in summary are:

- The extensive time a large section of the park will be out of bounds to park users
- Noise and traffic congestion
- That the park is being seen by Haringey Council as a source of revenue rather than as 'an open space for relaxation and enjoyment given to us by some far-seeing and civic minded Victorians'.

Please ensure that this objection is recorded and once again please confirm this in writing to me.

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**Received:** Thursday 26 January 2017  
**From:** Kit Greveson  
Chair, Stroud Green Residents' Association

In reply to the Stakeholder Consultation re the above, Stroud Green Residents' Association finds it unacceptable that a large part of Finsbury Park would be unavailable to the general public, should the 2 applications by Live Nation be approved by Haringey Council. The period under consultation, viz from 20<sup>th</sup> June through to 15<sup>th</sup> July, would mean that over 4 weekends at the height of the summer, during months when the park is at its busiest, the area of the Finsbury Park available to local residents and park users would be greatly reduced.

As the applications under consultation are from the same company (Live Nation), SGRA finds difficulty in understanding the dates given for prep and clear up. Live

Nation is firstly applying to be on site on 20<sup>th</sup> June for a 1 day, 2-stage concert on 1<sup>st</sup> July, clearing up by 6<sup>th</sup> July. The second application is to be on site from 27<sup>th</sup> June when Live Nation will actually already be in the park. This is for the Wireless Festival taking place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July on 3 stages, 2 days after the clear up date for the first application! Live Nation will actually only be completely off site on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Both events are being organised for up to 40,000 ticket holders on 2 consecutive weekends.

SGRA can only assume that Live Nation will not in fact be clearing up at all after the first concert but will be building yet another stage for the Wireless Festival. Is it therefore rather disingenuous of Live Nation to apply separately for these two events?

As the applications both mention a benefit to the local community as being “*work (sic) in partnerships with local organisations in need of support*”, SGRA would also be keen to know to which organisations this actually refers.

When added to the other applications from Rinse and Slammin, this could mean that large areas of the park would be out of bounds to local resident park users from 22<sup>nd</sup> May right through to 15<sup>th</sup> July, almost two months. There would only two days, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June, and five days from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 19<sup>th</sup> June when no event activity would be taking place. Apart from the extreme physical wear and tear to Finsbury Park, these current applications ignore the fact that the park is well used by local residents during what are often the best months for outdoor activities.

A further negative aspect of these applications for residents in the immediate vicinity of the park is of course the noise which these events inevitably generate, meaning that summer weekends are to be dreaded not enjoyed, as well as possible anti-social behaviour which large scale events tend to promote.

Although aware of the income stream that events in Finsbury Park provide for the council, SGRA feels that the number of events is excessive and that, as the park is now hired out on a more commercial basis than previously, financial targets could surely be met by just 5 days instead of the proposed 12.

SGRA would urge Haringey Council to really consider its residents and the strain on their leisure time before agreeing to these applications.