

Appendix 1:

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

Received: Monday 19 December 2016
From: Cllr Tim Gallagher
Councillor for Stroud Green Ward, Haringey

Overall, I am concerned about the volume of events proposed for 2017, particularly given the possibility of Wireless festival taking place as well. The total set-up/take-down time for these events is as follows:

Holi – 6 days
Mama – 12 days
Rinse - 11 days
Slammin Presents Hospitality – 9 days
Slammin Presents – 9 days

This is considerable, particularly as some are very close to each other. The disruption to the park can be significant throughout these periods, with large areas cut off from the public. If Wireless is added on to this, the total may be two months during the summer. With all these events the organisers need to do everything they can to make sure all the park remains accessible for the maximum possible time.

Secondly, organisers need to do much more to repair the park after the concerts. After Wireless last year the grass immediately north of the tennis courts was damaged and never repaired properly. This cannot be allowed. Please can utmost emphasis be placed during negotiations on ensuring organisers are liable for all damage, and are expected to return the park to the condition in which they found it.

Received: Wednesday 21 December 2016
From: Cllr Zena Brabazon
Councillor for Harringay Ward, Haringey

I have had a first look at them and want to let you know my initial thoughts. Looking at the dates it seems to me that the park will be a venue for big events for much of the summer period. Each event has setting u and taking down time, so they effectively last for a lot longer than the actual day(s) of the vent set out in your list below. Could you please produce an easy to read table which sets out the actual length of time the area of the park used for these events will be out of public use – i.e the setting up time, and the taking down time. I think that might give us a clearer idea of just how many weeks during the summer that the front of the park will be cordoned off.

I note that these are just the events booked as of now so presumably there will be further events you will be adding and notifying us about . Do you know, for example,

at this stage, if Wireless are returning to Finsbury Park, and if they are, what is the tentative date.

Finsbury Park is in my ward and I would welcome an opportunity for a discussion with ward councillors about these events for next year, and what, effectively is the increasing commercialisation of the park and the implications of that process.

Received: Sunday 8 January 2017
From: Kit Greveson
Chair, Stroud Green Residents' Association

With apologies for not having properly combined residents' responses last week into an overall reply from SGRA and with thanks for your understanding and time extension, I herewith submit a more formal response.

SGRA continues on behalf of residents to actively discourage the use of Finsbury Park for large-scale events as this is detrimental to the park and its users. However SGRA appreciates that there is a policy in place and therefore would like to comment on the applications in question as follows:

It would appear that the current four applications, should they be approved, represent a considerable increase over the last two years, resulting in a very limited access to a large part of Finsbury Park for almost continuous blocks of time. Presuming that Wireless will take place at the beginning of July, this will mean that in 2017 there will be at least five music events planned instead of the two in previous years. Should Wireless takes place, large areas of the park will be out of bounds to park users from 22nd May until 10th July, with probably only a week from 15th-22nd June when there is no event activity taking place. The same situation recurs in August/September from Tuesday, 29th August until Friday, 29th September (we assume Friday, 27 October is incorrect?).

SGRA would like to make the following observations:

1. Is there a possibility of a Wireless event at the beginning of July?
2. The number of events planned is excessive compared with previous years. Why is this?
3. The plans ignore the fact that local people use the park for recreational purposes and that large areas will be out of bounds for weeks at a time. How will Haringey address this issue so that park users will not be so inconvenienced?
4. The noise from these events is a nuisance to people who live locally. Can we be sure that the events organisers/Haringey will effectively monitor the noise levels during the course of these events, should the applications be successful?
5. Slammin off site on Friday, 27th October - is this correct or are other events planned?

6. SGRA would like reassurance that, should these events be approved, Haringey will robustly enforce any contractual conditions.

7. The SLAMMIN applications suggest a lack of concern for local residents, the area and its amenities. SGRA would urge Haringey to actively pursue a green and sustainable policy for Finsbury Park from events organisers.