

- 1. FESTIVAL REPUBLIC – RECORD OF A NON KEY DECISION TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (PAGES 1 - 46)**

This page is intentionally left blank

Report for: Leader decision – 18 March 2016

Item number: n/a

Title: Festival Republic Ltd hire of Finsbury Park for Wireless Festival 2016

Report authorised by : Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Community Safety

Lead Officer: Simon Farrow, Head of Direct Services (interim)
simon.farrow@haringey.gov.uk, 020 8489 3639

Ward(s) affected: Harringay Ward and Stroud Green Ward

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 An application has been received from Festival Republic Ltd to host Wireless, a three day music festival, in Finsbury Park on 8, 9 and 10 July 2016.
- 1.2 The application also requests to hire the park for a further 1 / 2 day concert the weekend before but this request has subsequently been withdrawn.
- 1.3 Festival Republic has requested to move onto site at 8am, Thursday 30 June and would leave site by 8pm, Friday 15 July, a total of 16 days.
- 1.4 The opening times of the event would be as follows:

Friday 8 July

Gates open: 1.30pm
First act starts: 3.30pm
Event ends: 10.30pm
Attendance: 45,000

Saturday 9 July

Gates open: 11.30am
First act starts: 1.30pm
Event ends: 10.30pm
Attendance: 45,000

Sunday 10 July

Gates open: 11.30am
First act starts: 1.30pm
Event ends: 10pm
Attendance : 45,000

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Leader is recommended to:

(a) Consider the replies received in response to the event notification being shared with Finsbury Park stakeholders. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 1, and full responses are attached as Appendix 2.

(b) Agree that Finsbury Park is hired to Festival Republic Ltd for the Wireless Festival taking place on 8-10 July 2016 which is inline with the Outdoor Events Policy.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 Major events in Finsbury Park are a long standing feature of the summer season in the park. They are met each year with a mixed opinion from most, with some objectors.

4.2 The rationale for holding events is both economic and cultural. Hosting events in parks supports the cultural offer in the borough, enables communities to come together and promotes economic growth benefiting local business. Overall a vibrant event programme supports the councils outcome of the Borough as a great place to live and work. Income derived from events are very much at the heart of sustaining the Parks Service rather than exposing it to further cuts which would mean a lower standard of parks maintenance across the borough and within Finsbury Park itself.

4.3 Many people will recall the no-go place Finsbury Park was prior to its restoration in 2005. It has now held a Green Flag Award, the national standard for excellence in parks, for 9 years and has benefited from further investment of £500,000 over the last two years, all funded from event income. But the benefit is much wider as income is used to support projects in other parks and raising standards across all parks.

4.4 The mixed opinion is further reinforced in the responses that have been received to this consultation. The proposals are now reduced to one weekend rather than 2 weekends and whilst this is positive in reducing disruption, it is of concern in terms of significantly reducing the amount of income available to the council to reinvest in the park and would lead to a reduction in the wider cultural and economic benefits of events in the borough.

4.5 The council remains committed to improving the experience for local residents and is continuing to work with partners in all three boroughs to ensure these events go ahead and residents see improvements in the delivery from 2015.

- 4.6 A total of 30 stakeholder groups including: local residents associations, Hackney and Islington council officers and park user groups and leaseholders; councillors from 6 adjoining wards including in Hackney and Islington; internal council stakeholders including licensing and emergency planning; and statutory bodies including the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade were sent notification of the application to hire Finsbury Park, and asked to submit their comments.
- 4.7 All stakeholders were given 10 days to respond, as outlined in the Outdoor Events Policy.
- 4.8 A total of 10 stakeholder groups responded to the consultation (attached as Appendix 1).
- 4.9 In addition, responses were received from Catherine West MP and the Gardens' Residents Association (also detailed in Appendix 1 and 2).
- 4.10 In summary:
- (a) 2 responses support the application, recognising the events were enjoyed by the community
 - (b) 1 response broadly supports the application and wants to work closely with the event organiser to build local opportunities for members of the community
 - (c) 4 responses recognise more work needs to be done with the organiser to mitigate effects on local people
 - (d) 4 responses object to the application citing various affects on local residents and the park
 - (e) 1 response informed of an event already planned for Clissold Park on the 3 July
- 4.11 In addition to the above one late response was received from the Stroud Green Residence Association. Although this isn't included in the above summary of responses, it is detailed in the attached summary (Appendix 1 and 2).
- 4.12 At the time the notification was sent to stakeholders, it was made clear that the Council wouldn't accept individual resident responses, but these should be fed back to the appropriate stakeholder group or ward councillor to form part of their overall response. Despite this some groups did encourage individuals to respond directly to the Council through a number of social media forums.
- 4.13 A total of 12 responses were received from local residents. All were against the events taking place due to specific issues arising from previous events including noise, anti social behaviour, litter and large parts of the park not being available to use.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 With the adoption of the Outdoor Events Policy in 2014, the Council established their commitment to using Finsbury Park for a limited number of major events each year.
- 5.2 The recommendations contained within this report are in line with that Policy and as such no alternative options have been considered other than to reject the Festival Republic application.
- 5.3 The rejection of this application would have significant implications for the Parks Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into Finsbury Park. It would also mean that the wider cultural and economic benefits to the borough were lost.

6. Background information

- 6.1 In January 2014 the Council introduced the Outdoor Events Policy.
- 6.2 The Policy recognises the value and benefit that a varied and well managed outdoor events programme can offer the residents of Haringey, and the Council is committed to supporting events that contribute to our vibrant culture, environment and economy.
- 6.3 The Policy assists the decision making process behind building a sustainable and varied programme of events and sets out how the council will notify and consult with recognised stakeholders for each park, for each park hire application received.
- 6.4 There is an existing premises licence that Festival Republic will use to offer licensable activities in Finsbury Park.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 Hosting large concerts within Finsbury Park contributes to supporting the local economy, developing the cultural offer in the borough and provides an opportunity for local people to enjoy this type of event with minimal travel.
- 7.2 The recommendations made will contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work'.
- 7.3 In addition there are links to the Corporate Plan in relation to:
Priority 2: 'Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives'
Priority 4: 'Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit'
- 7.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out an increase of £600,000 of income during the period up to March 2018. All money raised by events is ring fenced back to the Parks budget to maintain and improve parks in the borough.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance and Procurement

- 8.2 In accordance with Haringey standards for Financial Management, the Senior Accountant comments the Parks and Leisure Services budget for 2016/17 includes an estimated income from events of £545,000.
- 8.3 The income generated by the proposed event will assist greatly towards the achievement of that income target.
- 8.4 By agreeing to these recommendations a total of £446,264 will be generated, subject to the applicant agreeing to the Council's terms and conditions of licence and park hire agreement.
- 8.5 A deposit of 25% (£111,566) would be required at the point of the organisers signing the park hire agreement which is non refundable.
- 8.6 The income generated from this event equates to 82% of the 2016/17 income target.
- 8.7 A refundable grounds deposit of £15,000 will be paid to the Council before Festival Republic could move onto site. This would be refunded only after any associated costs / damages have been paid. If costs / damages incurred come to more than the deposit amount, Festival Republic are obliged through the park hire agreement to pay all outstanding costs.

8.8 Legal

- 8.9 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and makes the following comments.
- 8.10 As will be seen from Appendix 1 / 2, one of the objectors to the application to host the Festival in Finsbury Park (the Park) is The Friends of Finsbury Park (the Friends). That objection was supplemented by a technical legal governance argument put forward by a firm of solicitors acting for the Friends.
- 8.11 The argument centres on an assertion that the Council does not have the legislative power to sanction the Festival, on the basis that more than one tenth of the open space in the Park will be enclosed. Further, that planned events in the Park - to include the Festival – involving the sale of goods or services will exceed the permitted number of 35 days or more than 8 Sundays in any year. The quoted figures for 2016 were 40 days or 9 Sundays.
- 8.12 The solicitors place reliance for their argument on the provisions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 (the 1967 Act).
- 8.13 In considering the solicitors argument, officers sought advice from specialist Leading Counsel in the licensing field. That advice confirmed that the Council's powers under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 take precedence over the 1967 Act. That view was communicated to the solicitors, who responded that given that view, they were likely to receive instructions from the

Friends to commence judicial review proceedings to challenge any decision made by the Council to authorise the Festival.

- 8.14 In light of the advice received from Leading Counsel, whilst there may be legal implications arising out of any decision to authorise the Festival, there is no legal reason which would preclude the making of such a decision.

8.15 Equality

- 8.16 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2013. An equality screening tool was completed in regard to the proposed policy and that the proposal had no impact on protected characteristics other than religion or belief.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of stakeholder responses to Festival Republic Ltd park hire application
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Full stakeholder responses to Festival Republic Ltd park hire application

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Haringey Outdoor Events Policy -
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s48887/OEP%20-%20CLEARED%20COVERING%20REPORT.pdf>

Appendix 1

Stakeholder consultation

As set out in the Outdoor Events Policy, stakeholders were emailed on Wednesday 17 February with details of Festival Republic's park hire application. 36 stakeholder groups, plus internal council colleagues and statutory bodies including the police and fire service were emailed giving ten days to respond to the application with comments.

A full list of stakeholders is below. Those marked in green provided a response to the consultation.

External stakeholders	Internal council colleagues	Statutory bodies
Access to Sport	Cabinet Member for Environment	London Fire Brigade
Alpha Dog Club	Parks Service	Metropolitan Police Service
Ambler Primary School	Licensing	
British Military Fitness	Food Safety Team	
Edible Landscapes	Emergency Planning Team	
Finsbury Park Art Hut	Health & Safety Team	
Finsbury Park Boats	Highways	
Finsbury Park Bowls Club	Neighbourhood Action Team	
Finsbury Park Cafe	Parking Services	
Finsbury Park Sports Partnership	Veolia	
Finsbury Park Trust		
Furtherfield		
Harringay Green Lanes Traders Association		
Highbury Community Association		
Ladder Community Safety Partnership		
London Borough of Hackney		
London Borough of Islington		
London Mets Softball Club		
Manor House Development Trust		
Park View Cafe		
Parkrun		
Parkwood Primary School		
Pedal Power		
Regiment Fitness		
Saracens RFC		
Stroud Green Residents Association		
Stroud Green School		
Stroud Green Traders Association		
The Friends of Finsbury Park		
Try Tag Rugby		
Harringay Ward Members x 3 (LB Haringey)		
Stroud Green Ward Members x 3 (LB Haringey)		
Seven Sisters Ward Members x 3 (LB Haringey)		
St Ann's Ward Members x 3 (LB Haringey)		
Brownswood Ward Members x 2 (LB Hackney)		
Finsbury Park Ward Members x 3 (LB Islington)		

Summary of stakeholder feedback

A total of 10 stakeholder groups responded to the consultation. In addition, responses were received from Catherine West MP and the Gardens' Residents Association.

In summary:

- 2 responses support the application, recognising the events were enjoyed by the community
- 1 response broadly supports the application and wants to work closely with the event organiser to build local opportunities for members of the community
- 4 responses recognise more work needs to be done with the organiser to mitigate effects on local people
- 4 responses object to the application citing various affects on local residents and the park
- 1 response was informing us of an event already planned in Clissold Park on the 3 July

A summary of feedback is detailed below.

	Stakeholder Group	Summary of feedback
1.	Highbury Community Association	<p>The HCA opposes the proposed music concerts and is disappointed in the consultation process. They believe the affect on residents and the damage and detriment caused to the park far outweigh any potential public benefit.</p> <p>Consultation Consultation period is too short, and denies opportunity for local people to comment directly to LBH.</p> <p>Length of event, inc preparation and clean up The proposed length and closure of large section of the park represents significant loss of amenity over a long period. Disruption over a three week period at height of summer is disproportionate. Proposed finish times of 10/10.30pm is too late and should be brought forward.</p> <p>Noise Noise has been excessive not just during concerts but in preparation. Would like position of stages moved, redirected away from housing, and soundproofed. Doesn't want fireworks set off at end of concert but should be done earlier.</p> <p>Damage to park Significant damage to grass and makes reference to survey done by stakeholders last year listing damage.HCA believes damage likely to happen again.</p> <p>Addition of an unspecified 'community / charity event' HCA doesn't believe the recompense of the above event is worth the inconvenience of an additional weekend of disruption.</p> <p>Reduced access at Finsbury Park Station Believes the events shouldn't go ahead while works are being carried out at Finsbury Park station, which are going to cause disruption to normal travel.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour Believes the event attracts large scale anti social behaviour, and don't believe the event is aimed at families and older people as</p>

		<p>specified in the consultation. Most ticket holders do not live in the three boroughs so have no association with the area but have a negative impact.</p> <p>Local Information Previous supply of information in the lead up to events has been poor. Plus feedback suggests that contact numbers publicised last year did not work and reports of anti social behaviour were not answered or ignored. Would like to see the provision of information improved.</p>
2.	London Borough of Hackney – Events Team	Notifying us of a planned event taking place in Clissold Park on 3 July with an anticipated 3,000 attendees.
3.	London Mets Baseball Club	Has no objection to the use of the park and actually enjoy hearing the music whilst in the park.
4.	Manor House Development Trust	<p>MHDT is broadly in favour of the application to use the park and has submitted the following comments:</p> <p>The charity event Good initiative although note that any benefit would only be to regional and national charities. MHDT asks that the organisers revisit their intention and instead looks to support local charities, which may mitigate some of the ill feeling from the disruption that the event causes local communities. They would also like the organisers to provide free space within the event for local charities to provide information.</p> <p>Employment opportunities Believes the organisers should be working with local organisations who provide access to jobs to local residents such as stewarding, hospitality, catering.</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities Organisers should build on the success of last year's volunteering of the event by local people.</p>
5.	Park View Cafe	Overall supports Wireless and other events that take place in the park and recognises that they are enjoyed by the community.
6.	Pedal Power	<p>Overall the group understands the need to hold events in Finsbury Park however during the concert periods they lose their Saturday cycling venue and also suffer disruption in the run up to the events and after. In order for them to plan early enough they need accurate information re-laid to them, as early as possible so they can make alternative arrangements.</p> <p>They also note that as many of their members are disabled, many are reliant on being able to arrive by car and park. They note festival security have previously been very helpful and hope they will continue to do so and also request an improvement on signage clearly telling stakeholders that they may enter the park.</p>

7.	Stroud Green Primary School	<p>The Chair of Governors responded stating that the main concern was the start time on the Friday which has implications for the school. She accepts the 3.30pm start time is good, but further thinking about the flow of children through the park at going home time needs to be considered.</p> <p>Also would like the funding that the school has received in previous years to be continued.</p> <p>In a subsequent email received two days after the consultation closed, the Chair urged the Council to reject the application for the event on the 8 July. This followed a PTA meeting held on the 3 March which identified the 8 July as the only date the school fair could take place straight after Ramadan.</p>
8.	The Friends of Finsbury Park	<p>The FoFP object to the application for a number of reasons summarised below.</p> <p>Lack of information Believe the lack of information submitted on the event application is inadequate and does not allow them to make an informed and meaningful decision, and believe that requested detailed information has been withheld. They are not reassured by promises given to improve management of events and such promises haven't been fulfilled from previous years including the movement of heavy vehicles.</p> <p>Damage to park Fabric of park was damaged last year and this is still evident including grass areas, carriageway, trees damaged.</p> <p>Loss of amenity Have yet to see the proposed footprint for this year, but last year's was excessive and unacceptable. Large area of most used park was enclosed and inaccessible for three weeks over summer. The areas left for public use once organiser has moved onto site, are adversely affected by noise and diesel fumes for the duration of stay. By leasing certain areas, park user groups are displaced without prior warning.</p> <p>Prevention of public nuisance and crime and disorder FoFP feel there were major security failings at last year's events disrupting areas of the park outside of the event space. Feel that the police presence is markedly reduced and was a clear factor in disorder last year. Claim that open drug dealing was markedly increased in 2015 and a number of concerns were raised by their members citing hotspots. Large swathes of the park and adjacent streets were littered with nitrous oxide cylinders.</p> <p>Noise Noise is unacceptable and particularly bad during sound tests. Noise monitoring measures are inadequate and neither being sufficiently scientific nor independent. Noise at these levels and duration impacts on the physically and mental health of those inflicted. Phone lines put in place to deal with complaints weren't sufficient.</p> <p>Public safety Vehicle movement turns carriageway into a busy and dangerous road having an effect on park users. For many weeks following the event</p>

		<p>scaffolding brackets, metal bolts and pins were found. Despite all former assurances there were still failings. FoFP claim the tobacco tent was inconsistent with Haringey's health policy.</p> <p>Protection of children from harm Events are forbidding for young children – with extra vehicle movement and pollution, drinkers in park. First day of event to take place on a school day which will lead to disruption and loss of access and use of park. Audible bad language heard, presence of people abusing drugs and alcohol presents risk of harm.</p> <p>Number of attendees 45,000 is excessive and damages the fabric of the park. Marshalling of events is challenging. Task of crowd management is going to be further challenged by the closures and road works in and around Finsbury Park station.</p> <p>Other Audience profile on application is misleading.</p>
9.	Try Tag Rugby	<p>The events do cause major disruption to the regular rugby leagues within the park, as they have to relocate to another park further away (Downhills).</p> <p>Recognised need for events to happen but would like them relocated to another park.</p> <p>If FP is to be used would like investment made into maintenance of pitches parallel to Seven Sisters Road, and installation of lighting between Manor House and athletics track.</p>
10.	Brownswood Ward, LB Hackney Cllr Potter	<p>Despite some improvements last year, there were many areas which could be improved if Haringey are serious in mitigating the negative aspects of holding large events. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent and sufficient stewarding so that ABS is kept to a minimum • sound checks occur outside school hours • event on Sunday closes at 9pm, as 10pm is too late when people are preparing for the next working / school day
11.	Catherine West MP	<p>Overall the MP objects to the length of the consultation and raises a number of concerns which are summarised below.</p> <p>Use of the park Large barriers preventing access for a considerable time, frustrating local people and disproportionate. Would like to see the amount of time barriers are in place minimised.</p> <p>Noise Noise during concerts is unbearable for residents. Sound checks cause additional disturbance and noise continues for days during the clean up resulting in inconvenience of local people for much longer. Particularly concerned of impact of noise on local primary school, and language used by artists.</p> <p>Anti social behaviour Would like to see enforcement action and increase patrols during</p>

		<p>events to limit/stop festival goers causing disruption to residential streets by throwing rubbish and urinating into front gardens.</p> <p>Benefit for the local community Believes the money raised should be spent in Finsbury Park improving lighting, facilities and the general maintenance. Also resources need to be focused on the rapid clean up.</p>
12.	The Gardens' Residents Association	<p>Although the GRA doesn't express a direct commitment to whether the events should be held or not, their feedback lists a number of comments regarding the improved delivery of events. These include:</p> <p>Event finish time They request that each event finishes at 10pm (except Sunday) as 10.30 is too late for residents and children living nearby.</p> <p>Sunday finish time This should be brought forward to 9.30pm</p> <p>Vehicles Movement within park should be banned until 9.30am so that users, commuters and parents travelling through the park can move safely.</p> <p>Condition of park Needs to be addressed after the event by full repairs including extraction of glass, waste, litter from grassed site, and reseeding and regular watering of grassed area</p> <p>Greater security Double the amount of last year to prevent drunken gate crashers</p> <p>Dates not acceptable Should not take place over two consecutive weekends and would rather two events take place over same weekend, as proposed will cause great disturbance.</p> <p>Income Publicise profits made so local residents and users can see the fiscal benefit to parks.</p>

Late stakeholder response

The response below was received on 4 March, two days after the consultation deadline date.

	Stakeholder Group	Overview of feedback
1.	Stroud Green Residents' Association	<p>Overall the SGRA doesn't support the use of Finsbury Park for the use of major events and urges the Council to reject the Festival Republic application. The Association cite a number of reasons within their response including:</p> <p>Loss of park Great area of the park is lost for prolonged periods of time and space left in park not practical to use due to sloping and tree cover.</p> <p>Health and safety hazard</p>

		<p>Controls and enforcement promised for last year's event sill not in place.</p> <p>Noise and nuisance So intrusive residents feel like they can't be in their own homes during the event.</p> <p>Degradation of ground Ground either gets churned up if wet or worn out if dry resulting from numbers of concert goers using the park.</p> <p>Charity event Not enough information provided.</p>
--	--	---

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 2



Consultation Response to the London Borough of Haringey

Please find following the consultation response on behalf of the Highbury Community Association (HCA) to the application by Festival Republic for a series of music concerts in July 2016.

The application reference is HGY02419. As requested this response is being sent to Sarah Jones (sarah.jones@haringey.gov.uk).

The Highbury Community Association's Position

The HCA is a volunteer led organisation with around 1,000 active members - both local residents and businesses - in the Highbury, Lower Holloway and Finsbury Park areas. We have represented the views of local people since 1997.

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 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.

We have also set out a series of questions that we believe need to be answered before LB Haringey grants permission for the application. This is because it is not possible to get the full picture of what is proposed in the limited documentation which we have so far seen; and the very short time we have been given to respond to the consultation.

Consultation Process

The HCA is disappointed that the consultation process is 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 - just 10 days - is far too short.

- Can you please justify the reason why local people are being denied an individual voice in this consultation?
- Can you also confirm that the people who will be most affected (residents of LB Hackney and LB Islington) will have their proper voices heard during this consultation?
- We would also like you to confirm that the event organisers submitted their application the required nine months before the event date as set out in your Outdoor Events Policy?
- If this is the case, can you also confirm why it has taken almost five months to consult on the application and why the consultation period is so short?

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 - some 21 days - represents a significant loss of amenity over too long a time period. We note with some irony that the proposed length of the event closure is twice as long as the amount of time we are being given to respond to the consultation!

The HCA also believes that a three week closure of a large section of the Park in the height of summer is a disproportionate inconvenience to local people. To many local residents, free access to the Finsbury Park is the only locally available open space which would be denied to them at the height of the summer months.

The HCA believes that the proposed finish time of 10:30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10:00pm on Sunday is too late and should be brought forward. We would be interested to know what measures are in place to enforce the finish times of the concerts.

Noise

From previous experience local residents have to endure excessive noise not just during the concerts, but also in the preparation for the events.

- Can you confirm that, if the application is granted, the location and position of the stage will be directed away from nearby housing and soundproofed to an acceptable level to reduce the noise and inconvenience of the concerts taking place?
- Can you further confirm that any fireworks will not be set off at the end of the event, but will be done so during less anti-social hours?

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 last year's Wireless Festival to survey the damage caused, which covered a large expanse of the Park.

The HCA believes this damage is likely to happen again and is a further reason why the event application should be rejected. It is clear LB Haringey consider their longstanding relationship with the event organisers is of greater importance than the good stewardship and maintenance of the Park.

- Can LB Haringey confirm that there is a guarantee will be no damage to the Park as seen in previous years if the event application is granted?

Addition of an Unspecified 'Community/Charity Event'

The HCA considers that the addition of another day where a 'community/charity' music concert will take place is not adequate recompense for the inconvenience of the main concerts taking place on the following weekend; and would simply be just another large-scale event that will produce the same problems of the 'paid for' events.

It is the HCA's view that this just means the Park will be inaccessible for an additional week, and that the community benefits much more from free access to the Park than it does from a vague proposal for a 'community/charity event'.

- Can LB Haringey please confirm that local charities will benefit from any proceeds if this additional event takes place, the consultation information just refers to an unspecified 'national/regional charity'?
- Please also confirm how much you expect to raise for this charity and whether the organisers will be making a direct contribution to the proposed charity?

Reduced Access at Finsbury Park Station

London Underground are currently undertaking step-free access works at Finsbury Park station on the northbound platforms. As a result there is reduced access for people travelling north into the station (which will be the vast majority of people attending the proposed music concerts). London Underground are advising people to avoid using the station due to this reduced access. During Arsenal match days this access is further restricted due to short-term closures and trains running non-stop through the station to avoid dangerous overcrowding. These works are due to continue until August 2016, so will be taking place during the time of the proposed music concerts.

It is the HCA's view that it would be inappropriate to approve this application whilst these works are taking place at Finsbury Park station.

- Can you please tell us of the discussions LB Haringey have been having with London Underground of the impact of their works with regard to this application?

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 anti-social behaviour that comes with such a large-scale event taking place for many hours over several days outweighs any 'public benefit' of putting on the concerts. We also do not believe the event is aimed at 'families' and 'older people' as your consultation document asserts. From previous years it is clear that the overwhelming majority of people are in your 'young people' category.

Most ticket holders do not live in Haringey, Hackney or Islington 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.

- Can you please confirm what arrangements are in place to prevent anti-social behaviour?

Your consultation letter makes some vague references that "security will be enhanced with resilience procedures further improved".

- Can you please explain what will actually happen in the local area to improve security and resilience?

You also make reference to the "deployment of dedicated teams with specific responsibilities".

- Can you please confirm how many people this will involve and what their 'specific responsibilities' actually are?
- Also can you confirm the advice LB Haringey has received from the Police regarding the application.

Local information

In previous years 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 of a dedicated contact number that people can call. Feedback from local residents has reported that the contact numbers provided last year did not work and calls to complain about noise and anti-social behaviour were not answered or ignored.

The HCA would like to see improvements of the provision of local information should you decide to grant the application.

- Can you confirm there will be a dedicated and working contact number and that local residents (including in Hackney and Islington) will receive leaflets delivered to their homes and businesses outlining the concert timings and who to contact in the event of a problem?

Conclusion

The HCA believes the residents of Hackney and Islington are disproportionately affected by these concerts which are intentionally placed as far away from Haringey residents as possible. 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 three weeks. We believe the loss of amenity over a three week 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.

We further believe the works taking place at Finsbury Park station potentially pose a threat to public safety as there is reduced access and it is likely the station will close during busy times to manage the crowds of the 45,000 people you expect to attend over several days.

The HCA further believes there will be 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 do not support the addition of a further concert on the preceding weekend, as the details are vague and any potential benefits are not clear; and actually involve closing the Park for a further week. We would want to see much more information about how this would be organised, and which local charity would potentially benefit before reconsidering our position.

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.

In the interests of openness we are copying this response to our local ward councillors, local MPs, members of the London Assembly, fellow community groups. We will also be making this response available on our website.

We look forward to you taking our views into account and to you answering our questions.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the Highbury Community Association

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Park Events
Sent: 18 February 2016 11:44
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Channer Thema
Subject: RE: Detailed Consultation for Application - 'Finsbury Park Concerts. Wireless Festival' ,
Application No - 'HGY02419'

Hi Sarah and Thema, many thanks for this.

We have an event at Clissold on Sunday 3 July (Daymer – Turkish Cultural event) which usually has around 3000 attendees. Not of the scale of the event at Finsbury but wanted to let you know as both on the same day could have slightly more of an effect on residents living between the two parks.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Events Officer
Leisure and Green Spaces / Health and Community Services
Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman St, Hackney, London, E8 1DY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.hackney.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2016 11:19
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Channer Thema
Subject: Re: Detailed Consultation for Application - 'Finsbury Park Concerts. Wireless Festival' ,
Application No - 'HGY02419'

Hi Sarah, Thema,

Thanks for sendign through this application. The London Mets Baseball Club has no huge objection to the concert--to be honest, we enjoy hearing the music over the hill :)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Chair - London Mets Baseball Club
www.LondonMets.org

Statement to: SARAH JONES – HARINGEY EVENT OFFICE
Report by: [REDACTED] – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MHDT
Subject: FESTIVAL REPUBLIC HIRE APPLICATION – HGY02419
STAKEHOLDER CONSUTLATION

1. Introduction

1.1 Manor House Development Trust is a resident led Charity based on the eastern side of Finsbury Park on Woodberry Down (www.mhdt.org.uk). MHDT has a keen interest in the application having carried out conservation work in Finsbury Park; as well as working with the applicant in previous years providing local volunteers to act as stewards in and around the Festival. MHDT has also given evidence to Haringey Councillors and Officers at a Scrutiny Panel Meeting regarding previous Festivals.

2. MHDT Comments

2.1 MHDT is broadly in favour of the application HGY02419 with the following comments.

2.2 **The Charity Event** is a good initiative and welcomed. However we note that local charities will not benefit from the event. With only regional and national charities being supported we fear that the good this event is attempting to create amongst those neighbouring the festival will be lost.

MHDT has consistently asked Organisers to consider supporting local charities in the Festival's charity work.

MHDT asks that organisers revisit there intention to work with regional and national charities and instead look to support local charities who are working in some of the UK's poorest and most challenging areas. Such intent may mitigate some of the ill feeling from the disruption that the events cause local communities.

MHDT asks that organisers provide a free space within the event so that local charities can provide information on their work to Festival goers.

2.3 **Employment Opportunities** - Organisers should be working closely with those organisations who provide access to jobs to local residents so that local people may directly economically benefit from the Festival. The Festivals will create many job opportunities such as: Stewarding; hospitality; catering etc. As with others working with LBH such as property developers Organiser should be given contracted targets should be set around the employment of local people.

2.4 **Volunteering Opportunities** – Organisers should build on last year's successful volunteering around the Festival by local people. As part of its contract Organisers should be obliged to engage a local

organisation to provide a range of volunteering services; such as directing festival goers inside and out-side the festival.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] parkviewcafe [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2016 13:52
To: Jones Sarah
Subject: RE: Detailed Consultation for Application - 'Finsbury Park Concerts. Wireless Festival' ,
Application No - 'HGY02419'

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for consulting me regarding the wireless festival and other events in Finsbury Park.

i confirm that I am happy for these events to go ahead. They are highly enjoyed by the community.

Kind regards;

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2016 11:11
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Finsbury Park Stakeholder Festival Consultation Submission: Pedal Power

Dear Ms Sarah Jones,

Thank you for including Pedal Power in this consultation. As you know, we are an all-ability cycling club with a several hundred strong membership of mentally and/or physically disabled individuals of all ages from 2 years up, with a high proportion of BME. Many of our members are reliant on Pedal Power as their one family weekend outing. Cycling sessions take place next to the basket ball courts on alternate Saturday afternoons and on the athletics track every Tuesday & Wednesday 10 months of the year. Weekday sessions include drop-ins as well as booking from schools and orthodox Jewish groups.

For June/July 2015 we had an average Saturday turnout of 115 people (not including the Wireless Festival weekend when our numbers were reduced to 75). It's not unheard of for us to reach over 150 disabled & their carers/families on a good summer's day.

We understand the need to hold events in Finsbury Park, however during concert periods we lose our Saturday cycling venue. Not just on actual concert days (this year the wireless festival will coincide with the Pedal Power Saturday) but during the lengthy build up and take down periods. As there is also a concert the first week of July, past experience tells us they may start the build up the previous weekend, which is also a Pedal Power day. If we are able to book the track all affected days, we can still run our sessions - assuming it is not already in use. To do this we need accurate information of exactly when the basketball court area will be used. In the past festival organisers have filled the space with equipment several days earlier than we had been told to expect and we have turned up to find we cannot use the area. It is of increased importance from this year now that the ball sports area has been fenced off and is no longer available for multiple use. **We request that the exact dates the open area will be out of use be made plain to all parties and strictly adhered to.**

Also as our members are disabled, many are reliant on being able to arrive by car and park. We note that festival security have been very helpful on festival days and hope that they will continue to do so. **We ask that festival security be officially informed to allow our users entry by car.** Secondly seeing only no entry signs at the Park Gates puts our members off attempting to drive in. We welcome the information that there will be improved signage and **request that this includes a clear sign telling disabled Pedal Power members they may enter the park by car.**

We look forward to continued positive engagement with the Haringey Parks and Leisure Services and heartily welcome the setting up of a new stake holder group for Finsbury Park.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Chair of Pedal Power Cycling Club

[REDACTED]
www.pedalpowercc.org

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2016 08:50
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Farrow Simon; Cllr McNamara Stuart; [REDACTED] Cllr Kober Claire
Subject: RE: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation

Dear Sarah

Many thanks for sharing this with me. I'm a little confused about the process now and where/when I should be sending comments?

Great news on the traffic ban at school run times, thank you, and for the opportunity to discuss the events in advance.

My main concern is for us to think through the start time on Friday 8th July and the implications for the school. So starting at 330pm is good from a sound perspective. However, we need to think practically about the flow of children through the park going home at exactly the time the concert starts and the likely crowding, and probably afternoon drinking that will impact. We don't need a repeat of what happened for the Stone Roses concert where very young children were getting abuse from passing people on the way to the gig who had been drinking all day.

I'd like an urgent review and discussion of that as a group please - you, us and Festival Republic, and for us to think this through from the childrens' safety perspective before any decisions are made.

Please let me know when best to do that - I suggest we do so at the school one Friday so we can experience together what it is like to be at the school around that time, and how the children disperse at 315ish.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 March 2016 15:03
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Farrow Simon; Cllr McNamara Stuart; [REDACTED] Cllr Kober Claire
Subject: RE: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation

Hi Sarah

Yes, please do use my email as feedback. I'd also like to make sure we are considering how to create more value for local schools affected. Wireless liaised with schools on an individual basis to provide funding for music provision as part of their CSR responsibilities (I assume).

I'd like to make sure the offer is at least as good as from Wireless - our school always suffers from these events so really there needs to be an element of compensation. I'd prefer for you to negotiate a good offer centrally, or at least set up meetings with us to do so, and make sure it's part of the expectations from the organisers.

Please can you make sure that gets into the feedback too?

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 March 2016 10:22
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Farrow Simon; Cllr McNamara Stuart; [REDACTED] Cllr Kober Claire
Subject: RE: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation

Hi Sarah

Sorry, I know I'm past the deadline but I want to give you more feedback following our PTA meeting last night - we're trying to set a date for our summer fair which is our big fundraiser for the year. It's always towards the end of June, early July as that's the best weather and best timing for getting everyone out and spending money.

This year it's Ramadan in June/July and we have a large and important Muslim community at our school so you can imagine we want to find a date that works for them. That's the 8th July. There's no way we can hold a fair when there's a concert due to the noise and disruption levels so we're going to have to move our fair into the time of Ramadan. This is a bad situation for many of our parents and children and for our community generally. I'd like you to reconsider that weekend for the Wireless festival for that reason. It's too late the week after, and too early before Ramadan. If you don't think that's appropriate I'd like to get your reasoning in writing please so I can make sure our Muslim community is fully informed that we have done everything that we as a school can to be inclusive, and have lobbied you to make the change. I'm interested in how this sits alongside the Prevent strategy that we are delivering at school.

I'd appreciate your quick response.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

The Friends of Finsbury Park

Manor House Lodge
Seven Sisters Road
London N4 2DE

Patron

The Right Honourable
Jeremy Corbyn MP



RESPONSE TO THE GENERAL CONSULTATION FOR APPLICATION - WIRELESS FESTIVAL: FINSBURY PARK: JULY 2016 – APPLICATION NO: 'HGY02419'

The Friends of Finsbury Park is a charity that was formed in 1986 by people who care about Finsbury Park – its past, present and future. We support the use of Finsbury Park for the benefit of all local residents and park users, with events organised that are accessible to all who want to use the Park. We do not support the use of the Park for major events such as Wireless Festival which are simply too big, too noisy, unmanageable, unsafe and prevent local people and residents from enjoying the park.

The Friends of Finsbury Park (FoFP) object to the London Borough of Haringey granting a license for the above application on the following grounds:

Lack of Information:

We believe that the information supplied on the event application is wholly inadequate and does not allow us to make an informed and meaningful response. Our request to see crucial information such as a Risk Assessment, Noise Management Plan, Green policy, Event Management Plan and a site map of the event has been refused, and detail about the vaunted community event is non-existent.

We are not reassured by the promises given to improve control and management of the 2016 events. Such reassurances ring hollow as similar undertakings were given last year and then broken. Movement of heavy vehicles was neither effectively monitored or observed. Speeding heavy vehicles on the carriageway were regularly unaccompanied by buggies, particularly in the final days when Live Nation were 'racing' to leave site on time and avoid the incurrance of 'overstaying' charges. When FoFP members questioned stewards on the non-accompaniment of speeding heavy vehicles we were told that, "We can't possibly get this job done in time if all the heavy vehicles are accompanied". We have photographic evidence of this (supplied to the Scrutiny Committee) and further video evidence is also available.

Damage to the Park:

The very fabric of the park was damaged last year and the serious degradation to the Park caused by last year's Wireless Festival event is still evident. Swathes of grass were badly damaged with whole fields being reduced to dust, which have still not recovered properly. Carriageways were damaged by heavy vehicles and trees were broken and damaged by the erection of the 8 foot high barriers designed to keep residents and park users out.

Similar damage is likely to arise from the proposed festival and constitutes further grounds for rejecting this application.

Loss of Amenity:

We are yet to see the proposed footprint for this year's Festival. However, the footprint occupied by last year's Wireless Festival was excessive and completely unacceptable. A very large area of the most used part of the Park was enclosed and inaccessible to park users for three weeks over the summer.

Although a narrow public route was provided through the event last year, the promoters have conceded that, from the date their contractors arrive on site until the day they leave, the enclosed area becomes a designated building site. They insist that, consequently, health and safety regulations demand that they must not allow public access to their building site for the duration of their stay in the Park which is a major loss of amenity for three weeks or more when the park is most used. As we have no information on a proposed area/map for the event, we have no way to tell what public access is proposed this year.

The very limited areas of the Park remaining freely accessible to the public once the concert site and leased areas are taken into account, are very adversely impacted by noise and diesel fumes for the duration of the promoters/contractors stay and present a considerably diminished amenity for families and other park users.

Restricted access for this period of time also forces sports groups in the park to stop for the best part of three weeks.

The hard surface area adjacent to the Ball Courts was used as Wireless' main marshalling yard (Bone Yard) and where all materials and vehicles were based was not included on the Event Map/Area plan, closing an essential area of the park used by children, cycling groups and sports groups, without prior knowledge.

After last year's Wireless Festival event, most of our members formed the view that we had effectively lost use of Finsbury Park for about a month.

The Prevention Of Public Nuisance And The Prevention Of Crime And Disorder:

There were major security failings at last year's event with break-ins and attempted break-ins along the perimeter fencing which resulted in large and intimidating crowds of people disrupting public order in areas of the park outside the event itself, which Live Nation were unable to control. We spoke to a number of Live Nation stewards who told us that they felt intimidated and unsafe. The evidence of the TV footage and press reports arising from the 'break-ins' reinforces our view that, despite all assurances to the contrary, the Stewards

are not, and cannot be, effective against concerted and organised attempts at a break-in. We also challenge the Haringey and Festival Republic narrative that the break-ins were not effective and that those attempting to gain free access were all successfully repelled. A number of young people gathered round the skate-board area in the days following the break-ins were boasting openly about having managed to get in and stay in. We also strongly refute their assertion that they can effectively police the lengthy perimeter fence, Their claim is partly contingent on the assumption that stall holders will intervene to repel those attempting to scale the fence. Given the evidence from last year, this is clearly a ludicrous claim.

The markedly reduced police presence was also clearly a factor in the disorder last year. But how many police would it require to effectively secure the lengthy perimeter? Certainly more than they would be able or willing to provide.

From the numbers of reports we received, it is clear to us that open drug dealing was markedly increased at the 2015 Wireless Festival. We received a number of representations from concerned local residents who had observed drug dealers operating with apparent impunity and making no efforts to conceal their activities. Hot spots observed included the Oxford Road area, closely adjacent to Stroud Green School. Some parents of schoolchildren attending this school expressed their alarm at having to run the gauntlet of these open drug-dealers when collecting their children from school. Other drug-dealing hot spots were the area just outside the entrance to the VIP area and also adjacent to Manor House Gate café. Some drug dealers operated on bicycles and seemed to make no effort to conceal their activities.

Large swathes of Finsbury Park and many adjacent streets were littered with large numbers of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) cylinders. Whilst this may not yet be illegal, it is clear that, albeit briefly, these are 'behaviour altering' and can and do lead to very anti-social behaviour.

Noise:

The noise from Wireless Festival is unacceptable. It was particularly bad during sound tests and often caused buildings to vibrate. The noise monitoring measures put in place are wholly inadequate, being neither sufficiently scientific nor independent to allay reasonable concerns about excessive noise.

Noise at these levels and for this duration impacts badly on the physical and mental health of those inflicted with it. It forces residents to close their windows during the height of summer, prevents young children from sleeping, makes it impossible for local residents to work from home and deprives those fortunate enough to have access to a garden from enjoying the amenity of their own home. For many local residents, the noise was clearly and dominantly evident even when watching television indoors with the windows closed.

The special phone lines put in place to deal with complaints seemed to be monitored by one person and often it was impossible to get through to complain. Last year one of our members tried ringing the two numbers on the letter they were sent by the council and event organisers to complain about the level of noise; the council number said "sorry, this number has not been recognised" – She tried the number several times carefully checking it was right. She then tried the Live Nation number (which said 'operational show days only'), and there was no answer, despite holding on for some time.

The impact of loud noise on local schools during term time, particularly in Stroud Green, constitutes a serious impediment to learning.

Public Safety

Speeding, heavy lorries and large numbers of vehicles and equipment transform the normally quiet carriageway into a busy and dangerous road. Park users cross at their peril and stewards see their role as facilitating the flow of vehicles rather than pedestrian park users. Many weeks after the concert promoters had left site, scaffolding brackets and large metal bolts and pins were found at a number of sites. These presented a serious risk to health and safety. We can provide photos.

Despite all former assurances given on effective clearing of site after Wireless 2015, large quantities of seriously hazardous materials were left on site; many of these remained on site for some days after Wireless' departure. We have provided Haringey's Scrutiny Committee with irrefutable photographic evidence of this.

The Tobacco Tent erected at Wireless 2015 (a family event) was inconsistent with Haringey's stated Health policy, which states, *Reducing smoking rates is a key priority for Outcome 2 of the Haringey Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS): a reduced life expectancy gap across Haringey (see JSNA life expectancy chapter)*. Even the proposed scaled-down tobacco sales unit singularly fails to remedy the hypocrisy exposed by the clear conflict between Haringey's stated aims and their actions.

The Protection Of Children From Harm:

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, often with event go-ers hanging round the cafe and playground areas, drinking alcohol during the day time before the concerts have started, causing far fewer families to use these areas during event times.

The first day of the proposed event, Friday 8th July, is a school day. This will inevitably lead to disruption to learning in nearby schools. It will also lead to the loss of access and use of park amenity for schoolchildren both before and after school hours. During the summer the park is well used by parents and children for games, picnics and relaxation. With so much of Finsbury Park off bounds, children may well seek play areas in surrounding streets with the possible subsequent endangerment to them. The enclosure of the Children's play area adjacent to the boating lake during last year's event was seen as particularly unacceptable. This deprived children of a very well used and popular amenity.

Clearly audible bad language was heard through school windows, kept open during the heatwave. The presence of large numbers of people abusing drugs and alcohol also present an added risk of harm to children. As mentioned, children and their parents have to run the gauntlet of open drug dealing and are frequently intimidated by anti social behaviour. The measures proposed by Haringey to allow a halt to vehicle movements within the park during conventional schools arrival and departure times are essential but they do not address the

issues related to the disruption of children's schooling and sleep with the very necessary sleep of young children seriously disturbed by the excessive noise generated by these concerts, and most event days ending after 10pm.

For the 16 plus days that the Wireless Festival promoters are likely to be on site, the presence of their contractors and frequent movement of their heavy vehicles and equipment introduces a range of additional hazards for children and vulnerable adults.

The noise from these events, both that generated during the concerts and the inevitable noise generated by contractors erecting a major concert site with many stages, also prevents families from benefitting from the physical and mental wellbeing that a normally 'peaceful' park can provide.

The increasing density of local housing has led to larger numbers of families without access to a garden. The green space afforded by Finsbury Park is a vital lung for all, but particularly for children. One of our members has told us that she does not have a garden and finds it very difficult to explain to her children why they have to be cooped up in their flat because the Park which they normally use is now inaccessible for many weeks over the summer due to these concerts.

Number Of Attendees:

45,000 per event day is excessive. The damage to the fabric of the park caused by such a concentration of people over three days is evident from past events and would be unavoidable at the proposed events. The marshalling of events of this size is extraordinarily challenging and most of our feedback from last year's event was predominantly that it was a challenge too far for the stewards both within and outside the enclosed area.

The Finsbury Park Safer Neighbourhood Police Team even stated at a public meeting that they were strongly opposed to these events and regarded them as badly managed.

The task of crowd management is going to be further challenged in 2016 by the closures and roadworks in and around Finsbury Park Station. Attracting such a concentration of large numbers to the Finsbury Park area during this period will create an unacceptable risk of harm to festival goers, other park users and members of the local community seeking to use their streets. Access, egress and safe evacuation of the Park cannot possibly be made safe with compromised access to Finsbury Park Station.

Other:

Much is still unclear and misleading on the application.

Under 'Audience Profile' you state that the audience profile is: 'Families, Young People, Older People, Other'. The profile at last year's event certainly did not comply with the family criteria. This is not an accurate description of a Wireless Festival audience. In fact at one stakeholder meeting a Live Nation representative clearly stated that the target audience for Wireless were women in the 18-25 age range.

It is also worrying that you claim events will bring a great opportunity to the park and help raise the profile of the park and area nationally as a venue. Finsbury Park is not, and should never be promoted as a venue for this kind of event.

We urge you to decline this application.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chair

The Friends of Finsbury Park

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2016 12:32
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Farrow Simon; Cllr McNamara Stuart; Keeble Andrea
Subject: Re: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for providing the opportunity to comment on this event.

Our feedback from previous years of this event is that it does cause major disruption to our regular Tag Rugby leagues within the park (for which we formally book pitches through the council), where we have 400 people participating weekly on Monday and Wednesday nights. We've had to relocate to Downhills Park for three weeks the last two years due to the set-up and pack down of this event and when we come back the seven sisters road pitches we use are generally in a far worse state than prior to leaving.

Hence we've had to strongly reconsider moving to Downhills Park permanently in the back end of our season (July and August) based on Health and Safety concerns of our players getting injured on the damaged pitches. Downhills Park is far less popular with our players, as Tag Rugby is a social sport played after work. Finsbury Park works well for us and other sporting groups as it's easily accessible by public transport in the evening and Downhills Park takes another 20 minutes at least to reach.

I understand in the current climate that councils need to hire out their parks for these types of events to raise much needed revenue, but I would strongly ask you to consider a park further north in Haringey which isn't as popular for regular summer sport. If Finsbury Park is to be used, I would suggest some of the money raised is re-invested into some much needed ground maintenance on the pitches parallel to seven sisters road and the pitch known as the Thames Water pitch which has been unplayable for a number of years.

I would also suggest the funds should be used to fund some lights between Manor House station and the Finsbury Park Athletics stadium. I know the reason there is no lights (local bat population), but in the presence of the councillor I'd thought I'd raise this as a major concern. Having no lighting poses a serious risk of mugging or worse for any sports participants walking between the floodlit Finsbury Park Athletics Stadium and the station.

Many thanks.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Managing Director
Try Tag Rugby
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.trytagrugby.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) & [Twitter](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 March 2016 22:07
To: Jones Sarah
Cc: Channer Thema; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Detailed Consultation for Application - 'Finsbury Park Concerts. Wireless Festival' , Application No - 'HGY02419'

Dear Sarah,

I am writing on behalf of Brownswood residents living on Seven Sisters road and the adjacent side roads; many of whom have experienced great inconvenience during the previous 2 Wireless festivals. Despite some improvements last year, there are many areas which could be improved if Haringey are serious in mitigating the negative aspects of holding large events in residential areas.

I request consistent and sufficient stewarding so that ASB is kept to a minimum. I also ask that sounds checks occur outside school hours and that the event on Sunday closes at 9 O clock. 10pm on a Sunday is too late when people are preparing themselves and families for work/ school the next day, particularly when people were still hanging around the side roads last year until midnight waiting for taxis and making lots of noise.

I hope you will consider these requests on behalf of Brownswood residents when considering the Wireless festival application.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Brownswood Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.twitter.com/BrownswoodClIrs



CATHERINE WEST MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green

Nick Walkley
Chief Executive, Haringey Council
Civic Centre
High Road
London N22 8LE

24 February 2016

Dear Nick

Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park

I have been contacted by a number of local residents concerned that the application made by Festival Republic to use Finsbury Park this summer is only subject to a 10 day stakeholder consultation period. You will be well aware that residents and local stakeholder groups including the Friends of Finsbury Park have serious concerns about the impact of the concerts and I formally objected to the original proposals.

Whilst I appreciate the need for the council to raise funds as a result of massive government cuts, I am concerned that 10 days is a very short window for responses on such an important issue and would urge the council to extend the consultation window and widen participation to local residents who bear the brunt of the disruption. Please can you consider this as a matter of urgency?

I would also welcome an update on what action the council is taking in advance of this year's proposed events to tackle the following issues that have been raised by local residents.

Use of the park

For many local people, particularly those who don't have their own gardens, Finsbury Park is a much-loved public space that they want to enjoy during the warm weather. Large barriers preventing access some weeks before the concerts and continuing for some time afterwards prevent access for a considerable period of time. This is frustrating and many feel disproportionate. I would like to see every effort made to significantly minimise the amount of time barriers are in place.

Noise

During the concerts themselves a number of people have told me they need to leave their



homes, or at the very least stay inside with all doors and windows closed, because the noise is unbearable. Before the concerts, the soundchecks cause additional disturbance and after the concerts noise continues for a number of days due to the huge clean-up operation. This means local people are inconvenienced for much longer than the actual length of the concerts. Further restriction on noise levels and times together with strict enforcement of any excessive noise nuisance would be much welcomed.

I am particularly concerned by reports from a local primary school about the impact on their pupils when Wireless Festival started in the early afternoon of Friday 3 July. Due to the adult language coming from the stage, together with the extremely loud noise, the children were forced to stay inside on one of the hottest days of the year. I would support calls for any events to be held outside of school term time.

Anti-social behaviour

I've received numerous reports of rubbish thrown into gardens and drunk festival goers causing disruption on residential streets including urinating in gardens. Local people should not have to put up with this and I would like to see tough enforcement action and increased patrols during any concerts.

Benefit for the local community

Finally, I believe that local people who are bearing the brunt of the disruption caused by these events should enjoy the benefit of the proceeds. I would like to see all the money raised spent in Finsbury Park and the local area on important improvements such as lighting, improving the facilities and general maintenance. Sufficient resources also need to be allocated to rapid clean-up and tough enforcement of anti-social behaviour to reduce the impact on local residents.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Catherine

Catherine West MP

cc Ullr McNamara

Cabinet Member for Environment

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: **Re: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation**
Date: 1 March 2016 23:52:27 GMT
To: simon.farrow@haringey.gov.uk
Cc: Cllr Barbara Blake <[REDACTED]>, Cllr Morton Peter
<[REDACTED]>, Cllr Ozbek Ali Gul <Ali.Gul.OZBEK@haringey.gov.uk>
<[REDACTED]>, Cllr [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cllr McNamara Stuart <Stuart.McNamara@haringey.gov.uk>, [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>

Dear Simon Farrow - Head of Direct Services
Re: Festival Republic Park Hire Application - Stakeholder Consultation

I write in response to the Stakeholders Consultation concerning the proposed festival event in Finsbury Park in July 2016

Our comments are set out below;

1. That the event finishes every night at 10pm at the very latest (except Sundays)
10:30pm is too late for residents and our children who live near by.
 2. On Sundays the event should finish at 9pm as residents and children will need to go to school and work on the Monday morning.
 3. Vehicular Ban should be until 9:30am so that users, commuters and parents traveling through the park can travel safely.
 4. The condition of Park needs to be addressed after the event by full repairs i.e. extraction of glass, waste and litter from the grassed site.
 5. Re-seeding and regular watering will encourage quicker growth and recovery to the bare earth exposed by 2 weeks of preparation and concert going.
 6. Greater security (i.e. double the amount last year)is required to prevent drunken gate crashers making the site and local users safer in the park.
 7. The event dates are not acceptable - The event should not take place over two consecutive weekends.
We suggest that the Charity event is on Friday 8th July and the other 2 day events Sat 9th and Sunday 10th are on consecutive days (Three days in Total)
- To present the event over two consecutive weekends causes great disturbance to residents wildlife and users of the Park. We feel this in the strongest terms as users and local residents who have had to put up with such concerts over the years.
8. Publish broadly the profits of such commercial events to residents and users, so they can see the fiscal benefit to the Parks Dept.

[REDACTED]

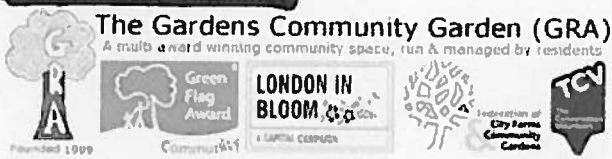
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Usually the St Anns Ward residents are not included with such input into Finsbury Park but are greatly affected by noise traffic parking and loss of resources to residents.

I would be grateful if the GRA are invited too and consulted in the future on such matters at the park.

With kind regards

[REDACTED] Acting GRA Chair
and Community Garden Co-Ordinator
The Gardens Residents Association (GRA)

[REDACTED]



SGRA
STROUD GREEN
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

as from: [REDACTED]
email: [REDACTED]

Simon Farrow
Head of Direct Services
Haringey Council

via email

09:00:30 March 2016

Dear Simon,

Re: FESTIVAL REPUBLIC PARK HIRE APPLICATION

On behalf of the Stroud Green RA I have received comments from residents regarding the above application for the use of Finsbury Park this year.

As you are aware, there is continued strong local opposition to holding major events in Finsbury Park, especially ones that considerably reduce the areas available to residents for prolonged periods of time, in the above case for 3 weeks in the summertime when families without outdoor space at their disposal rely heavily on the park facility for their recreational pursuits. The area free for use during the Wireless Festival event is extremely limited and not particularly practical, a large part being sloping and tree covered.

These major events pose a health and safety hazard to park users despite controls and enforcement implemented by the council. We note in the letter to stakeholders that the planned improvements on last year's concerts are still not all in place and would urge that no application be authorised until such improvements have been satisfactorily agreed with the organisers. This should not however infer that residents would be any happier with this or any other large scale event taking place in the park.

One of the main areas of concern is the noise and nuisance to the local community. The level of noise is so intrusive that residents find being at home and using their gardens during the period of the event extremely unpleasant, so much so that they feel they have no other option but to spend the time with the windows shut or to actually be out of London for the duration. As was experienced last year, the noise levels are affected by the weather, strong winds exacerbating the problem.

There are still issues with the degradation of the ground resulting from 45,000 concert goers per day using the park, hundreds of vehicle movements and food and drink stalls, marquees and other temporary structures in place for 3 weeks. In wet weather the grass is churned up; if hot it dries out. The tarmac surfaces also suffer.

SGRA would be interested in further information on the "charity event" that "will bring an amazing event to the borough and benefit a national/regional charity greatly". Which charity exactly and just how amazing will be this event? The description is sketchy to say the least and not acceptable as part of an application to use a large area of Finsbury Park. It is also unclear as to which day this charity concert will

2.

3rd March 2016

Simon Farrow
Head of Direct Services
Haringey Council

be staged, Saturday, 2nd or Sunday, 3rd July. It is disingenuous to promote this at the top of the application when the event details refer only to the large-scale music festival the following weekend.

Stroud Green RA has not changed its stance regarding the use of a large area of Finsbury Park for prolonged periods for major events and urges Haringey Council to reject this current application.

Yours sincerely,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature of the sender.A horizontal black redaction mark covering the name of the sender.

Chair

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



Faint, illegible text or a small mark at the bottom right of the page.

RECORD OF A NON KEY DECISION TAKEN BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Present: Cllr Claire Kober, Leader of the Council

In Attendance: Simon Farrow

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
CMS1	<p>Application by Festival Republic Ltd to hire Finsbury Park for major event – 2016</p> <p>Declarations of interests – None</p> <p>The Leader considered a report which advised that an application had been received from Festival Republic Ltd to host the Wireless, a three day music festival, in Finsbury Park on 8, 9 and 10 July 2016.</p> <p>The application also requested to hire the park for a further 1 / 2 day concert the weekend before but this request has subsequently been withdrawn.</p> <p>Festival Republic had requested to move onto site at 8am, Wednesday 29 June and would leave site by 8pm, Friday 15 July, a total of 17 days.</p> <p>The opening times of the event would be as follows:</p> <p>Friday 8 July Gates open: 1.30pm First act starts: 3.30pm Event ends: 10.30pm Attendance: 45,000</p> <p>Saturday 9 July Gates open: 11.30am First act starts: 1.30pm Event ends: 10.30pm Attendance: 45,000</p> <p>Sunday 10 July Gates open: 11.30am First act starts: 1.30pm Event ends: 10pm Attendance : 45,000</p> <p>The Leader noted the replies received in response to the event</p>	

notification being shared with Finsbury Park stakeholders. A summary of these responses was attached as Appendix 1 of the report , and full responses were attached as Appendix 2 of the report.

The Leader agreed the park hire request from Festival Republic Ltd which was in line with the Outdoor Events Policy and signed the non key decision cover page.

Reasons for decision

Major events in Finsbury Park are a long standing feature of the summer season in the park. They are met each year with a mixed opinion from most, with some notable regular objectors.

The rationale for holding events is very much at the heart of sustaining the Parks Service rather than exposing it to further cuts which would mean a lower standard of parks maintenance across the borough and within Finsbury Park itself.

Many people will recall the no-go place Finsbury Park was prior to its restoration in 2005. It has now held a Green Flag Award, the national standard for excellence in parks, for 9 years and has benefited from further investment of £500,000 over the last two years, all funded from event income.

The mixed opinion is further reinforced in the responses that have been received to this consultation. The proposals are now reduced to one weekend rather than 2 weekends and whilst this is positive in reducing disruption, it is of concern in terms of significantly reducing the amount of income available to the council to reinvest in the park.

The council remains committed to improving the experience for local residents and is continuing to work with partners in all three boroughs to ensure these events go ahead and residents see improvements in the delivery from 2015.

A total of 30 stakeholder groups including: local residents associations, Hackney and Islington council officers and park user groups and leaseholders; councillors from 6 adjoining wards including in Hackney and Islington; internal council stakeholders including licensing and emergency planning; and statutory bodies including the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade were sent notification of the application to hire Finsbury Park, and asked to submit their comments.

All stakeholders were given 10 days to respond, as outlined in the Outdoor Events Policy.

A total of 10 stakeholder groups responded to the consultation (attached as Appendix 1 of the report).

In addition, responses were received from Catherine West MP and the Gardens' Residents Association (also detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report).

In summary:

- (a) 2 responses support the application, recognising the events were enjoyed by the community
- (b) 1 response broadly supports the application and wants to work closely with the event organiser to build local opportunities for members of the community
- (c) 4 responses recognise more work needs to be done with the organiser to mitigate effects on local people
- (d) 4 responses object to the application citing various affects on local residents and the park
- (e) 1 response informed of an event already planned for Clissold Park on the 3 July

In addition to the above one late response was received from the Stroud Green Residence Association. Although this isn't included in the above summary of responses, it is detailed in the attached summary (Appendix 1 and 2 of the report).

At the time the notification was sent to stakeholders, it was made clear that the Council wouldn't accept individual resident responses, but these should be fed back to the appropriate stakeholder group or ward councillor to form part of their overall response. Despite this some groups did encourage individuals to respond directly to the Council through a number of social media forums.

A total of 12 responses were received from local residents. All were against the events taking place due to specific issues arising from previous events including noise, anti social behaviour, litter and large parts of the park not being available to use.

Alternative options considered

With the adoption of the Outdoor Events Policy in 2014, the Council established their commitment to using Finsbury Park for a limited number of major events each year.

The recommendations contained within this report are in line with that Policy and as such no alternative options have been considered other than to reject the Festival Republic application.

The rejection of this application would have significant implications for the Parks Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into Finsbury Park.

| |

| |