

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications

Received: Sunday 22 October 2017
From: Bruce Devile
Head of Business Intelligence & Member Services
Chair, HEAT – Hackney's Safety Advisory Group

Hackney Council strongly object to the proposed event programme in Finsbury Park for 2018. It proposes an unacceptable and significant increase in use of the park for major events. These major events have significant and detrimental effects on residents and businesses in Hackney and disproportionately affect Hackney compared to Haringey, without any of the benefits. The proposed event programme would also place significant strain and financial burden on our services particularly around street cleansing, parking, ASB and enforcement.

Hackney residents and businesses have suffered intolerable issues from the large scale events in Finsbury Park, currently and most notably Wireless. 45,000 people daily arrive and depart from these events, many of them using Hackney's streets. The events also attract large numbers of non-ticket holders to the area which add to the significant ASB. There is widespread street and garden urination, drug dealing, threatening behaviour, littering and noise and for some vibration disturbance. The stewarding levels supplied/paid for by event promoters for our residential roads are wholly inadequate and as such do not afford any re-assurance or order for our residents and businesses. The policing of Hackney residential roads during events is woefully inadequate. Many residents feel forced to move out for the duration of the events and a number of businesses also involuntarily close.

Based on previous events, we would question whether these events will be able to meet their licensing objectives.

These large events place a significant strain on Hackney Council services, both in the planning for them, but also the execution and clean up. The Council is left with many of the costs which are inevitably passed back on to Hackney residents. The proposed number of events would require significant staff investment from Hackney Council both in terms of service planning and provision but also additional resources dealing with residents' complaints and disquiet.

There are long term potential social cohesion issues for the area if the number of events increases to the proposed levels. Event numbers at the proposed levels are likely to result in longer standing residents move out of the area. Many could decide to rent their homes out on short term lets or sell with houses likely to be bought and converted in to smaller units with a more transient population. Some local businesses may also be forced to close or relocate – unable to survive from the lost trade for the increased number of days.

We are extremely disappointed that Haringey Council feel the need to increase event numbers so significant without meaningful consultation or discussion with Hackney

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residents and without seemingly due consideration to moving the location to another section of the park so that the primary effects are experienced by Haringey residents. The proposals will result in a huge concentration of events in a short period of time – a concentration probably not experienced by residential properties so close to an event space anywhere else in London and without stewarding numbers and proactive policing to safeguard residents.

With the current proposals our residents will have ASB, noise, disruption and alike for 12 days/nights out of 30 consecutive Friday and Saturday nights from May to early July 2018. Around ½ million people will also attend in that small window. By comparison the same period in 2017 saw under

Received: Monday 23 October 2017
From: Friends of Finsbury Park

Just to clarify on our position with respect to the proposed Slammin' Events events:-

In terms of their size, we do feel that these events are closer to what we would regard as an acceptable size for events to be held in the park. However, we did receive a number of complaints this year particularly in relation to the noise levels emanating from the Slammin Events concerts, which many told us were louder and more obstructive than during the Wireless festival. Therefore, we do not object to future Slammin Events events being held, but only to the extent that the noise levels can be better managed and monitored at subsequent concerts.

This email represents the response from the Friends of Finsbury park to the six proposed event applications to take place in Finsbury Park over the summer of 2018.

Unfortunately we do not have the resources to respond to each of the events individually, so this response is in relation to all of the six proposed events.

- Friday 4, Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May
- Festival Republic music event, capacity 20k daily - Object

- Friday 1, Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 June - Object
- Ground Control Productions music event, capacity 45k daily

- Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 June - Do not object
- Slammin' Events music event, capacity 10k – 12k daily

- Friday 29, Saturday 30 June & Sunday 1 July - Object
- Festival Republic Community Event, capacity 45k daily

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- Friday 6, Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 July - Object
- Festival Republic Wireless Event, capacity 45k daily

- Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 September - Do not object
- Slammin' Events music event, capacity 10k - 12k daily

While the Friends are not against events taking place in the park in general, we do feel, as we have said before, that events should be limited in their size and number to a scale that is respectful to the rights of the local community to access Finsbury Park, one of Haringey's largest and most notable parks, as their public resource. As such we do not feel that the proposed series of events are suitable for being held in Finsbury Park. We give the following reasons for our response:

Size of events

You will know that our current judicial review, which is to be heard next month, relies on the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Act 1967. This Act stipulates that no area greater than one tenth of the area of a park should be closed off from the public for use by concerts, exhibitions and so on. It is the view of the friends that this particular provision is a sensible one which, regardless of its legal force, ought to be adopted as a provision into Haringey's Events Policy. If any event is limited to a tenth of the size of the park, then this ensures that the majority of the park remains useable for local residents, sports groups, community groups and so on without disrupting their activities. The current proposals occupy up to three times what under the 1967 Act would represent the legal limit. We feel that this is too great a disruption and burden and to exert on the park and its users.

Duration of events

It is our view that a park, if it is to satisfy the proper definition of a park, must not be rented or leased out to private individuals or groups and open to the public for the majority of the time. The proposed events, if they are all to go ahead, will close off a very large section of the park for the majority of the summer, which is the period where the park would otherwise be most popular and used by members of the local community. In our view this means that Finsbury Park is no longer being treated as a park as far as Haringey Council are concerned, and in this regard we feel that Haringey Council have abrogated their duty to preserve, protect and maintain parks and open spaces for the benefit of the general public. We would note that there is no other park in Haringey, as well as no other park in London, as far as we are aware, that is being closed off from the public for private events of the frequency, scale and duration that Finsbury Park is being closed for.

Environmental damage

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We are seriously concerned by the potential damage that a series of consecutive festivals could do to the park. The state of the fields and soil in the park has already been greatly depleted by the number of events that have been held in the park since 2014. A further increase in the number of events is only going to exacerbate this problem, which will create longer term problems relating to the compaction of soil.

Safety and anti social behaviour concerns

The presence of multiple large-scale festivals in a single area attracts significant crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as fostering something of a drugs market in the area. There is a real spike in crime in the area during and after these effects. Dozens of people wrote to us during the Wireless Festival last year, for example, to inform us of their own experiences of anti-social behaviour and crime. Much of their experiences were really quite shocking. Please see attached our "Wireless Report", which documents some of the experiences that members of the local community had during these events. We are concerned by the long-term damage that the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour bring to our community.

In conclusion, we would not object to a minority of these events going ahead, to the extent that their anti-social effects were mitigated and that they were subject to the provisions of the 1967 Act, in particular in relation to their size. However, the number and size of events being proposed is of a ludicrous and wholly unacceptable scale which carries with it no benefit to Finsbury Park whatsoever.

Attachment: Wireless report.pdf

Received: Monday 23 October 2017
From: Jan Hart
Service Director – Public Protection, Islington Council

Thank you for your event notifications, which requires comment by today. Please take this as the collective response from Islington.

The larger events in Finsbury Park always impact on our residents and require us to resource our own response to address them despite the fact that we derive no benefit from the activities. We acknowledge that rubbish clearance and some stewarding is supplied by the event organiser however this is provided, in our view, to a minimum and only in the immediate vicinity of the park. The events have a wider impact and this increased last year when the Wells Terrace entrance to Finsbury Park station closed and changed the dynamics of egress from the events. We documented our concerns in relation to crowd management at egress to

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Haringey along with the suggestion that the event organiser's submission should be independently evaluated prior to them taking place.

In relation to proposals submitted for a two day 45,000 capacity event in June 2018, and the three day event in July 2018, Islington is strongly opposed to the intensification and increase in capacity on the basis that this will impact adversely on our area. We especially lack confidence in the organisers ability to egress 45,000 persons after the event, informed by our experiences in 2017 when the attendance was set below the suggested figure. Our serious reservation in relation to crowd safety with these numbers whilst Finsbury Park station is under reconstruction remains. Our officers have much experience of crowds in the area, having responsibility for Emirates, and their view was that the queuing time into the station was at its maximum levels for the numbers leaving. If an additional 7500 were permitted to attend the event, we believe the majority would find themselves coming into Islington and our residents would find this an unacceptable nuisance.

The basis on which we make this representation are :-

- In relation to the larger events in 2017 (Wireless and Catfish and the Bottlemen), there seemed to be a reluctance to share egress plans or have the travel arrangements put forward by the event organiser independently assessed as what we saw looked to be questionable. These activities directly concern Islington as they take place in our area. A written plan was eventually produced for Catfish which did not have egress into Islington but the event organisers then proceeded to abandon it. This plan had the audience contained in the park and looked unworkable on paper, but it would have meant the audience was contained in Haringey rather than on our streets.
- We were never provided with the egress plan for Wireless so we are not even sure if it was documented or adhered to.
- At the Catfish and the Bottlemen event on 1 July 2017, there was miscommunication to stewards at Finsbury Park Station. They directed people into the tube queue before the barriers had opened and directed people for the overground to turn right when it should have been straight ahead. People moved between queues and barriers as the barriers were insufficient in number. There was no provision for people exiting the overground into Station Place, BTP had to force a way through the queues to get them out. The queues began to ease at approximately 23.30.
- Despite concerns about travel, the event organiser put very limited travel information on their website which had not been updated from the previous year - a screen shot taken on the first night of Wireless Festival (copied below with some images of egress) continued to state no entry to Finsbury Park station from Seven Sister Road throughout the weekend.
- On the first night of Wireless, the barrier plan which extended towards the park was broken and poorly managed meaning that the barriers needed to be

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double skinned for the following evening. The event organisers failed to order any more barriers therefore the barrier line was effectively 50% shorter, encouraging more people to egress via Islington.

- People were directed on a three sign cycle to go to the tube, train or to walk home so it was not surprising then that 4,000 people each night walked into Islington to get onto the tube network at Highbury and Islington, Arsenal, and Holloway Road stations. When Islington officers requested resources to steward Islington stations, it was rejected on the basis people would not be directed into Islington.
- There was a significant problem in residential streets with taxis ordered through UBER or any other mobile transport apps, as they queued to pick up their clients, causing temporary blockages and noise nuisance
- The profile for Wireless demands an extensive policing plan but no additional policing is provided in Islington, so our own police are stretched.
- We received several complaints about the police helicopters used to monitor the events, which further exacerbates the impact on our residents.

In relation to the other events notified, the May Day event is suggested at 20,000 and will clash with an Arsenal match day. We have asked that events are not held on match days and hope that this will not be granted.

We strongly resist any increase in number and capacity for events given last year's experiences and ask that the restriction to 37,500 or lower be kept in place until a safe egress plan that limits nuisance can be devised and tested. Our residents are of the opinion that the infrastructure in the area cannot support these larger events and only significant changes will gain their confidence and that of the council.

Received: Monday 23 October 2017
From: CA
For and on behalf of residents

Dear Sarah

I am writing on behalf of myself and 25 neighbours, all residents of Tancred, Venetia, Conningsby and Lothair Rds North and South (listed below). We've not yet formed a Resident's Association, as we communicate a lot by email, which suits our purposes well, although I now gather this means we can't represent ourselves at the Stakeholders' meetings. Please can you let me know how a representative of our group can join the stakeholders group?

I have listed our concerns and objections to the proposed events for 2018 below, and hope you are able to accept this feedback from our group.

Many thanks
CA

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Feedack from residents in Lothair Rds N&S, Tancred and Venetia Roads

We were extremely alarmed to hear of the amount and size of large commercial events proposed for 2018 in Finsbury Park. There were various issues with the concerts this year, which made it very unpleasant to be at home/in the area at the time of the concerts, and it's a great worry to realise that the frequency, size and duration of these events could increase considerably next year. We understand that the council wants to make an income from Finsbury Park, but we strongly feel that the council should take resident's concerns into consideration, and come to a compromise (ie only hold the smaller events, and less frequently, with more restrictions on sound levels). I, and several people I know, try and go away for the weekend when large events take place in the park, but this isn't always possible, and it's unreasonable to expect us to go away for the 5 or 6 weekends of proposed events next year, or to expect us to put up with the disruption and noise caused by the concerts if we stay at home.

To summarise, our issues are:

noise – this varies a lot depending on the direction the wind blows, but at the last event in September noise levels were so high on the Sunday that we could hear the bass to the extent it disturbed us watching TV in our houses despite having our windows closed (one of my neighbours expressed it as “the noise is driving us potty!”, which summarises what it's like. I beg you to spare a moment to consider how it feels to have loud bass thudding through your house from 12pm-10pm. And then to have the threat of this happening more and more often each year.

3 consecutive days of noise disruption is too much – events should be restricted to a maximum of 2 consecutive days

No concerts should take place during exam time – there are many children of GCSE age in the surrounding streets, and any event during May and June could seriously hinder a student's ability to study and revise at home, if the wind blows the sound waves in the direction of their house (as happened in September for residents in my area, on the north side of the park).

Access to the park – the large 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 the large events such as Wireless.

damage to the park caused by the events gets worse every year - be it in broken branches, damaged paths and road surfaces, damage to grassy areas, most of which take months to recover (or even years – the grassy area near the Oxford Road

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entrance still hasn't recovered since Wireless 2016). The proposed increase in number and duration of events would make this even worse, and the park would have no time to recover in between events, and would get more and more run down.

Oxford Road gate. During big events, the Oxford Road gate (the pedestrian bridge across the railway) is shut at 4pm (I think that still happens – there are still signs up saying so, anyway). This started a few years ago at the request of neighbours on the other side of the bridge, and I think followed unruly post-concert scenes at one of the pubs on that side. Closing that gate so early on a summer weekend cuts our access to Parkland Walk – and indeed, cuts the Capitol Ring path for all users – for several prime hours, each time, and at a time when we can't use much of the park so naturally want to walk somewhere else. The Council and the concert organizers should find a way of preventing disruption on the Oxford Road side without preventing people from using this valuable outdoor resource.

Rubbish. During the most recent Wireless concert, the baseball field was a sea of plastic waste. This doesn't happen when there isn't a concert, which suggests there is some deficiency in agreements with the concert organizers to keep waste under control. What will be done to correct this?

Parking in the park. A significant amount of park space is devoted to parking, and this problem becomes worse during concerts. At one concert last year it seemed as if the parking was being managed by the concert organizers, and they had a number of cars parked on the grass near the Hornsey gate. That, obviously, should not be permitted.

We'd appreciate your comments, and any advice you can offer on whether you're able to represent us, or who could.

Many thanks

Signed by 26 residents in Lothair Rds N&S, Tancred and Venetia Roads

Received: Monday 23 October 2017
From: KG
Acting Chair, Stroud Green Residents Association

I am responding on behalf of the Stroud Green Residents' Association to the consultation on the above applications to use Finsbury Park in 2018 for various large-scale events. I note from your email to the Stakeholders Group of 6th October that Haringey is considering either the application from Ground Control Productions for a music event from on site 18/05 to off site 10/06 with the actual event scheduled for 01/06 to 03/06 (50,000 daily) or that from Slammin' Events for a music event from 09/06 to 10/06 (12,000 daily), although neither the applications from Slammin'

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Events nor those from Festival Republic give any indication as to the length of time they will actually be using the park. It is therefore very difficult for Stakeholders to give a reasoned response to those applications although it can perhaps be assumed that for events organised for such large numbers of attendees, the park will be out of commission for a considerable length of time. Indeed should the applications received from Slammin' Events and Wireless Festival be agreed as well as that from Ground Control, the likelihood is that a large part of Finsbury Park will be out of commission to regular users from mid April to mid July, straddling both the early and late May Bank Holidays. On top of that there is a further application from Slammin' Events for an event on 22nd and 23rd September 2018 (HGY06565) with whatever set up and clear up time before and after.

In view of this complete lack of information regarding on- and off-site dates for preparation and clear up from both Slammin' Events and Festival Republic, SGRA feels that Haringey should have returned the applications to ask for more details, especially as both organisations have used Finsbury Park in the past and are aware of the general negativity from residents when it comes to these music events being staged there. It is noted that the application from Ground Control Productions for Field Day (HGY06585), whilst in itself undesirable in Finsbury Park, has at least very detailed information on the event itself.

After this year's events there were still reports from locals of anti-social behaviour in and around the adjoining streets to Finsbury Park. Streets and gardens were still being used as "toilets" despite the extra facilities provided by event organisers. Mini gas canisters were strewn in the gutters and not cleared away. This is distressing for residents and is not to be tolerated. Haringey needs to further stress the paramount importance of care and consideration for those who live and work in the local area.

25th October 2017

Sarah Jones
Events and Partnerships Manager - Parks and Leisure Services
Commercial and Operations

via email

Noise levels continue to be a problem which SGRA finds unacceptable. If the wind is blowing in a certain direction during a concert, the noise for residents can be unbearable, with no music as such being discernible only a loud booming bass beat!

As always the park itself was in a sorry state this year. No matter how much money is thrown at refurbishing the pathways, roads and grass, it is a fact that total

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devastation occurs when so many thousands of people plus heavy good vehicles are underway in the Park over such a length of time.

Residents continually ask what revenue these events bring to Haringey's coffers and how exactly is the money spent. A more open forum on the income and expenditure streams would be welcome.

SGRA continues to stress that the number of large-scale events is excessive and would urge Haringey Council to again put its residents and the negative impact on them and their families to the forefront before agreeing to these applications. SGRA acknowledges that Haringey will also receive applications from other organisations for events that are more in keeping with the use of a public space (fun runs, community-based activities) and generally speaking would find these far more acceptable.

Received: Wednesday 25 October 2017
From: Cllr Tim Gallagher
Councillor for Stroud Green Ward

Dear Thema

I would be grateful if you could include the comments from the resident below in the consultation for this year's Finsbury Park concerts.

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you all in connection with the applications for six major music in Finsbury Park next summer which were circulated to you and others by email from the Council on 13 October.

As the Council will not accept comments direct from individuals I have been advised previously by Sarah Jones (Haringey Council Events and Partnerships Manager) that I can make representations via my local councillor. I would appreciate it if you could therefore forward this email to Haringey Events Office [thema.channer2@haringey.gov.uk] and also to the Chair of the Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder Group who I believe is Councillor Ahmet. I would also appreciate it if you could also show support for my concerns. If you can't support I would be interested to know why.

My comments:

Details of of applications for six Finsbury Park music events for the summer of 2018 have been circulated (16 days over six weekends - 4,5,6 May; 1,2,3 June; 9,10 June;

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29,30 June/1 July; 6,7,8 July and 29,30 September). Whilst the consultation asks for comments on the individual events I am of the opinion that these six events have to be considered together as it is the number and frequency of events which most affects local residents and park users.

For the early summer events it is looking as if between Friday 27 April and Friday 13 July there will only be two weeks when the Park is not being used (i.e. for set up, take down or the actual event) for events purposes. These plans ignore the fact that the park is well used by local residents during what are often the best months for outdoor activities, they will be prevented from enjoying these because of the construction work going on.

Local residents will also have to put up with the event noise on the six weekends . This noise can be very intrusive and means that residents have to keep their windows shut even when the weather is fine and hot. I live in a top floor flat at the higher end of Stapleton Hall Road (near to Quernmore Road). When these major events are held the noise can be heard quite clearly in my living room which faces towards the park. Going into my kitchen at the back, I can't escape the noise as the sound echoes back from the houses further up the hill.

On event days this noise starts at about 1pm and goes on 'till 10/10.30pm. In addition, there are sound checks from 10am and on the preceding day. All this noise makes staying in my flat an unpleasant experience, especially on warm days when I have to keep the windows shut [I am right underneath a flat roof with no protection from the sun and on hot event days I am faced with the choice of either keeping the windows open and having to suffer the noise or keep the windows shut and suffer the heat - some choice].

I could reluctantly put up with three days of Wireless in July plus one or two days in September, but six weekends is just too much. I ask that the Council restrict the number of days events to five. I believe that the Council's income target could be met by just having five days of events.

If the Council / event promoters refuse to reduce the number of event days I want the Council / event promoters to compensate me and other residents who feel that they cannot put up with this noise and want to go away for the event weekends. I would expect the payment of hotel bills and travel expenses as a minimum. I also ask that the Council / event promoters provide air conditioning equipment for residents who have to stay and have to keep their windows shut.

With regard to the individual events I note that of the six events only the Field Day event gives the on site/off site dates, the other five omit this information. This information is essential in considering the impact that the work will have on the park. In the absence of this information these five applications should be rejected as the

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lack of information means that an informed judgement about the impact cannot be made.

Finally, I note that if all the applications are approved, this will breach Haringey Council's Outdoor Events Policy 2014 which limits major events (more than 10,000 attendees) to five per year with a duration of 1 to 3 days each - maximum of 15 days. The applications under consideration are for six events over 16 days.