

Appendix 8

Holder

Resident in support of Premises Licence

Roye Chanel

From: e-mail mtreacy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 July 2018 13:19
To: Licensing
Subject: Wireless review on 02 August 2018

[REDACTED] I have no objections to the Festival (or any of the events that take place in Finsbury Park) and am mortified at the killjoys who seem to forget that they, too were once young and / or enjoyed music. Music brings us together. These events bring happy people and much needed revenue to the neighbourhood. The Park is never completely devoted to an event and we need to learn to share our resources and help cash starved Councils generate money. Long live music and creative, imaginative Council events organisers. I have over 30 years of involvement in the biggest Festival of Contemporary Arts in the UK and make my statement from a position of knowledge. It could well be that more volunteer staff could play a role in key areas making your events run more smoothly but I don't know enough about your contracts with event promoters to offer specific comments on this matter. Mary Treacy

Appendix 9

Haringey Licensing Authority Representation

Submission to Licensing Sub Committee

Title: Responsible Authority Representation in the review of the Live Nation Premises
Licence of Finsbury Park
For: Licensing Sub Committee
From: Eubert Malcolm, Head of Community Safety and Enforcement
Date: 2 August 2018

Introduction

As a Responsible Authority (RA) under section 13 (4) of the Licensing Act 2003 as amended under the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Licensing Authority have considered the review application submitted by the Friends of Finsbury Park giving reasons for the review of the Wireless Festival 2017 causing undue public nuisance and a rise in crime and disorder.

The representation from the Licensing Authority RA is submitted to give an overview of the plans and operations put in place during the 2017 event planning and delivery, their impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the improvements made following the 2017 event.

The premises license holder has a licence that enables them to provide regulated entertainment and the sale of alcohol in a designated area of Finsbury Park. The license and its conditions relate to how the premises licence holder promotes the four Licensing Objectives:

- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Prevention of Crime & Disorder
- Public Safety
- Protection of children from harm

The Wireless Festival has been held in Finsbury Park since 2014 and is a three day (Friday to Sunday) multi artist music event that normally takes place on the first weekend of July. It currently has a licensed capacity of 49,999 with a curfew time of 22:30 on Friday and Saturday and 22:00 on Sunday.

For 2017, the festival took place on Friday 7th- Sunday 9th July.

Event Planning

A Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is in place for the event planning, and is chaired by the Council. The SAG meetings includes the Responsible Authorities: Emergency Services (Police, Fire Ambulance), Transport for London, British Transport Police and various council service areas, including Environmental Health, Health and Safety, Licensing, Emergency Planning, and Traffic Management. These are the people who have a statutory position on the SAG and have formal powers to object and sign off the Event Management Plan no later than 28 days prior to the event. Individual representatives of organisations forming the SAG may have powers to require event organisers to comply with their legal obligations.

There are also other invitees to the SAG who attend including the council's Event Management Team, and Hackney and Islington are invited to send representatives. There is

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a separate Stakeholder Group for engagement with non-professional people, for example the Friends and local councillors.

The role of the SAG is separate from the operational management of the event. The SAG is there in an advisory capacity to:

- Provide independent advice to event organisers, who retain the legal responsibility for ensuring a safe event;
- Assist a local authority and other key partners in exercising safety and other public protection functions.
- Work in partnership to create consistent and co-ordinated processes that will oversee and enhance public safety.

The Premises Licence is conditioned to require the holder to submit an Event Management Plan (EMP) as part of the licensing process to enable the Responsible Authorities and the SAG to assess the plans being put in place for the particular event and make recommendations as to what they want the Event Promoter to do to promote the licensing objectives. The conditions on the licence reflects the matters covered in the Operating Schedule and EMP and include:

- Times of operation for licensable activity;
- Authorised DPS on licence;
- Crowd management requirements- for ingress/egress;
- Security Industry Authority (SIA) and Steward permission;
- Medical provision;
- Means of escape;
- Structural information;
- Noise management;
- Waste management;
- Sanitary requirements;
- Special effects to be used.

The contents of the EMP forms the basis for discussions that take place at the SAG meetings.

The responsibility for the management of the event still remains with the event organiser and therefore the SAG needs to be working closely with the event management team.

All plans presented in the run up to an event remain a work in progress and are taken to the SAG for comment and feedback. Planning for the 2017 summer events started from December 2016, including engagement with stakeholders including neighbouring boroughs Hackney and Islington.

Key changes for 2017

Following the summer programme of events in 2016, a number of changes were implemented by Festival Republic for 2017 to improve the event, reduce its impact on the local area and further promote the licencing objectives. These included:

- Reducing the capacity of Wireless to 37,500 to help ease concerns surrounding the egress into and through Finsbury Park station. The station had a reduced capacity during the 2017 events and TfL advised that it was unable to cope with the demand of the usual 45,000 capacity egress.
- Stage 2 (usually sited along Seven Sisters Road) was removed from the arena for 2017.
- The events finished 30 minutes earlier, at 10pm on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 July, and 15 minutes earlier at 9.45pm on Sunday 9 July.
- Purposed dedicated security teams were appointed to cover the arena for both events. They have worked with Festival Republic across their shows for many years and are a great asset. They are also contracted to provide response teams who can be called on when required during egress.
- The layout of the site exit gates has been changed to assist with egress and crowd safety.
- Entrance lanes remained the same as they were in 2016, as this worked well. The main egress gate was moved to the North East end of the site. This layout encouraged a better crowd distribution between Manor House and Finsbury Park Stations.
- A dry moat was patrolled by security dogs and infrastructure located close to the perimeter was positioned so as not to assist fence jumpers.
- LED signage was introduced for 2017. These signs were updated in real time to provide the egressing crowds with information relevant to their onward journeys.
- Advanced communications were improved in 2017, both to customers and regular users of the main transport hubs. Information regarding egress was printed on tickets, placed on various websites and used in poster campaigns.
- Medical support teams were based near Finsbury Park Gate should anyone in the queue for the station require assistance.
- New Counter Terrorism measures were in place for 2017.
- Reduction on the impact of noise on local residents was done using specific software to target individual frequencies which cause a problem and address low frequencies and ensure they are in line with permitted levels. Vanguardia was contracted again for 2017 to monitor sound levels using their MaeTrao system across both events.

- Vehicle movement during build, break and the events was monitored very closely to ensure all vehicles complied with the strict rules and regulations including speed limits. A buggy chaperone system for internal vehicle movements was again implemented, utilising an internal traffic manager, improving the vehicle pass system, revising key checkpoints for staff and ensuring the maintenance of pedestrian / vehicle separation.
- Egress plans were designed to ensure minimal disruption to Islington residential roads.
- There was enhanced signage and stewards to assist with any ASB concerns.
- There were break out points in the queues to assist customers that needed medical attention.

Festival Republic applied for the road closures to Islington Council directly. The Islington Highways Officer was provided with the egress plans in advance for feedback. Any specific concerns from Islington were addressed through Licensing or Parks Service contacts. Islington Council are also members of the Stakeholder Group which came about following the scrutiny review on events in Finsbury Park in 2015.

The above measures were successful at improving the management of the 2017 event compared to previous years. However, the below issues with traffic at egress should be noted.

Traffic Issues - Egress

There were some issues with the execution of the egress plans during the first night of the 2017 event, which were recognised as lessons learned and changed for future events including immediately for following nights at Wireless 2017. Some of the issues included:

- Road closure was implemented late which meant that the barriers for crowd control at Manor House were still being built as egress started, and therefore conflicting with people wanting to queue for the station;
- Initial attempts to let people onto Seven Sisters Road to turn them right and then bring them back into the park to queue failed, resulting in people walking down Seven Sisters Road;
- An immediate response to this was to release the barriers so the majority of the crowd egressed onto Seven Sisters Road. However, this increased the issue of egress down the side roads which may have led to some ASB in these areas;
- Those who headed for Finsbury Park walked down the road, turning right into Stroud Green Road. As this wasn't planned for, barriers and appropriate queuing systems were not in place and which resulted in people walking in different directions;
- Lack of communication about where to go and different messages were being given by different security companies;

- Despite the above issues, the crowds at Finsbury Park Station flowed well, with no need for the station to close due to numbers.

These issues were recognised immediately and egress plans were adapted for the remaining event days. The learning was also carried forward to the 2018 event days, resulting in an improved egress at our major events this year.

Prevention of Public Nuisance: Noise Management

A total of 42 complaints were received via calls and emails to the Finsbury Park Residents' Line and the Council's out of hours noise line in 2017. This represents a reduction of 75% compared to noise complaints received in 2014.

The numbers of noise complaints for each of the five years that Wireless has been held in Finsbury Park are as follows:

- 2014 – 170 complaints
- 2015 – 85 complaints
- 2016 – 40 complaints
- 2017 – 42 complaints
- 2018 – 75 complaints of which 62 were noise and 13 vibration

In 2017 Festival Republic introduced new noise monitoring software, which specifically targets individual frequencies which may cause a noise impact outside of the park. This software allows sound engineers on site to change real-time frequencies to reduce the noise impact on residents. Noise generated by an outdoor event can impact residents around the park differently from year to year depending on the direction of the prevailing wind, changes in temperature and other climatic conditions.

This year (2018) Festival Republic took steps to carry out some vibration monitoring in homes that had complained last year, to get a better understanding of the issue. Whilst the findings have not yet been analysed in depth, it is clear so far that the simultaneous crowd jumping is the cause of the vibrations felt, rather than the noise itself.

Prevention of Public Nuisance: Cleansing

The organiser is required to contract a cleansing service that cleans within the event space and agreed external streets in the area. In 2016 Islington asked for additional streets to be included and these roads were incorporated into the cleaning regime for 2017.

An integrated approach is taken to street cleaning in the area surrounding the park and over the years a comprehensive service has been developed in partnership with Hackney Council. Hackney are contracted by the event organisers to provide cleaning services to roads in Hackney, Islington and Haringey and on TfL land to ensure that a higher level of cleaning and a consistent level of cleaning is executed throughout the event period. The cleansing operation runs until the early hours of each morning to ensure that residents do not wake up to the rubbish remaining from the previous event day. Likewise there is a comprehensive cleaning operation in the park and event area.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder: Role of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

It is not the responsibility of the MPS to in any way design or facilitate ingress and egress infrastructure of the proposed event but as a RA they do take a view on the plans submitted under the public safety and prevention of crime and disorder licencing objective. The MPS provide a policing presence based on their own risk assessment of the event. There is also a local policing presence on nearby roads from all the three boroughs. There are specific policing teams within the footprint of the event which is paid for by the organiser.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder: Analysis of Crime figures for 2017 (See Appendix 1)

Over the weekend of the event there 23 reported crimes:

- 39% of incidents were theft related;
- 13% related to sexual assault against females (inappropriate touching);
- 17% related to possession or offer to supply drugs;
- 31% related to either criminal damage, laughing gas, or counterfeit currency.

In 2018 approximately 40 arrests were carried out over the weekend of Wireless. For comparison, in 2015 there were 110 arrests and the year before there were 160 arrests. The police used a range of resources from constables, horses and helicopters to support their operation. Intelligence gathering prior to the event and any national threat levels are all taking into account in planning the events.

In terms of Wireless in 2017, there was a good, practical policing presence that served its purpose in sending a message of reassurance to residents and visitors to the area.

The crime figures should be noted in the wider context that over the course of a year in Finsbury Park there are on average around 200 reported crimes that are not related to events. Not all of these result in arrests. As part of the planning for each major event all agencies involved give great consideration to designing out crime and the opportunity for disorder at events held in the park. This work ranges from messaging about what they can and cannot bring to events to considerations of more significant threats such as those related to counter terrorism.

The Partnership Policing Team worked pro-actively with the Council's tactical enforcement team, tackling ticket touts and illegal traders, which resulted in a number of dispersal notices being issued, and then arrests made when the offenders returned to the area. In 2017 during the Wireless Festival weekend the following actions were concluded:-

- 38 Wireless Festival tickets were seized from ticket touts. Single day tickets are officially sold for £62.50 non inclusive of booking fee. Tickets touts were selling tickets for up to £300;
- 5 people were prosecuted for alleged unlicensed street trading, these include ticket touts;
- 3 people were caught attaching posters to street furniture;
- 1 person was prosecuted for alleged fly-posing;

- 5 people were issued with fixed penalty notices for fly-posting;
- 13 fixed penalty notices of £150 were issued for unlicensed street trading. Offenders have 28 days to make payment in order to discharge their liability for prosecution. The fixed penalty is reduced to £90 if payment is received within 14 days.
- 36 dispersal orders were issued by the Police along with stop and searches;
- 4 people were arrested for breaching the dispersal order;
- Hundreds of nitrous oxide or 'laughing gas' capsules were seized. These are used as a legal high;
- Civil Enforcement Officers served 75 penalty charge notices to illegally parked cars around the Wireless Festival.

Lessons learnt going forward

As a result of the learning from 2017, the following adjustments were made for 2018. These have further promoted the Licencing Objectives and will be further refined for future events.

- Adjustments to front lawn fencing to address queues before the event – this was successfully implemented for 2018;
- Front lawn cleaning – this started earlier and the whole front lawn was cleared well in advance of the egress and again following egress;
- Better communications with stakeholders and residents.
- The stewarding of Hackney's side roads (off Seven Sisters Road) was significantly improved, helping to alleviate ASB down these residential roads. The stewarding was contracted out to a specialist provider and numbers increased significantly. Side roads were also closed at the junction with Seven Sisters Road with barriers. This was much more effective and resulted in some positive feedback during stakeholder engagement on the 2018 event days.

Further lessons learned are reflected in the submission from the Landlord.

Conclusions

The licencing review was submitted on the grounds that the 2017 Wireless event caused serious disturbance amounting to a public nuisance, and that the event has given rise to crime and disorder. Whilst recognising that events such as Wireless do cause disruption in the local area, in the view of the Licencing Authority, the licencing objectives were not undermined.

In the view of the Licencing Authority, the event organisers have demonstrated a clear willingness to engage appropriately with the Responsible Authorities and to learn from previous events to better improve the management of the events. This has been evidenced in demonstrable improvements year on year.

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Appendix 1 – Police Crime stats Wireless 2017

Date	CRIS	Classification	Location	Result
07/07/2017	2817121/17	Common Assault	Wireless Festival, N4	Suspect arrested and NfA - Victim unwilling. 18 year old slapped by her 15 year old sister.
07/07/2017	2817109/17	Possession of Class A	Seven Sisters Rd nr Finsbury Park Entrance, N4	Suspect found in possession of 11 wraps of Class A drugs and charged
07/07/2017	2718324/17	PWITS Class B	Wireless festival, Finsbury Park, N4	2 Suspects detained by Wireless Security for search found to be in possession of cannabis down trousers
08/07/2017	4618932/17	ABH	O/S Finsbury Park, N4	Staff assisting egress into Green Lanes assaulted when trying to stop concert leavers jumping barriers
08/07/2017	2718421/17	PWITS – Laughing gas	Near to Finsbury Park Station	S23 MDA search male found in possession of large amount of laughing gas - Suspect arrested
08/07/2017	4618853/17	Offer to supply Class A	Finsbury Park Road, N4	Suspect in park offered plain clothes police officers class a drugs took them to Finsbury Park Rd N4
08/07/2017	2817217/17	Possession Counterfeit Currency	Wireless Finsbury Park, N4	2 Suspects found by Security to be in possession of counterfeit currency. Sold 2 spare ticket and paid counterfeit currency. Not charged.
08/07/2017	2718430/17	Offer to Supply Cannabis / POCD Cannabis	Seven Sisters Road, N4	Suspect approached plain clothes officers offering to sell them 'weed'. Arrested.
08/07/2017	2718440/17	Criminal Damage	Wireless Finsbury Park, N4	Staff member dismissed damaged property in workplace
08/07/2017	4618905/17	Theft from the person	Wireless Finsbury Park, N4	Concert ticket stolen from victims handbag whilst queueing to enter concert.
08/07/2017	1219796/17	Theft of mobile phone	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park, N4	Phone stolen by suspects unknown whilst at Wireless
08/07/2017	3019801/17	Theft from the person	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park, N4	Lost phone - Victim discovers phone missing and reports theft
08/07/2017	2817243/17	Sexual Assault Female	O/S Perimeter of Wireless Festival in park	Female listening to concert outside perimeter. Suspect grabbed victim around waist and kissed her neck twice.
08/07/2017	2817440/17	Sexual Assault Female	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park N4	Suspect in crowd grabbed victims breasts from behind and kissed her face
08/07/2017	2817251/17	Sexual Assault Female	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park N4	Suspect stroked her thigh and buttock from behind in crowd
08/07/2017	2718530/17	Theft from the person	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park N4	Victim had shoulder bag stolen. Found later intact but with cash missing.
08/07/2017	2817285/17	Theft	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park, N4	VIW1 and VIW3 property has been stolen by 4 or 5 males during a concert in Finsbury.

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09/07/20 17	2817338/ 17	Theft	Wireless festival, Finsbury Park, N4	Suspects snatched tickets from victim - Arrested
09/07/20 17	2817345/ 17	Theft	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park, N4	Two tickets missing from victims purse have been used to gain entry to concert.
09/07/20 17	2817346/ 17	Theft	Seven Sisters Rd nr Finsbury Park Entrance, N4	Victim has left Underground and taken her concert ticket out ready to use and suspect snatched it and ran off down Blackstock Rd.
09/07/20 17	2817356/ 17	Theft	Wireless Festival Finsbury Park, N4	Victim at cocktail bar in Wireless unable to find phone believed stolen
09/07/20 17	2817362/ 17	PWITS - Laughing gas	Seven Sisters Rd nr Finsbury Park Entrance, N4	Suspect seen by officer selling laughing gas

Appendix 10

Haringey Noise RA representation