

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2019 events

Received: Wednesday 2 January 2019
From: Gary Jeffery
Tri Tag Rugby

Hi Danny,

Thanks for your email and full details of the events.

I do however have to object to the new Steel Yard event. Each year the various festivals have ripped up the turf on the Seven Sisters Road side of the park leading to poor conditions for playing sport. Try Tag Rugby have been running leagues in the park for what will be 10 years this summer. The festivals have caused a lot of annoyance amongst our growing community of players and to have another that will cause us to lose the pitch for three weeks in May and more damage early on in the season will basically spell the end of our leagues here.

Over the summer we have approximately 400 loyal players that play Tag Rugby each week most of which are local to the area. There are not a lot of available and playable pitches in North London where the players can reach from work in central London in good time and to displace them would be a tragedy. It would also hurt our business.

Can we please urge you to not let another festival in. This is a wonderful sport with a great community and while we can't get more parkland nearby it would stop a great number of them from playing.

Received: Thursday 10 January 2019
From: Jan Hart
LB Islington

Danny

In relation to the Festival Republic events, we are having direct meetings with them so will be using those to ensure the conditions we've had added to the licence are kept and address the issues Islington have had in past years.

In relation to the Slammin' Event

- This is scheduled in the football season and as we were not notified of this in sufficient time to ask for an away Arsenal fixture on that weekend, the date shouldn't be agreed until the fixture list is available and we can confirm that there is no clash. From next season, kick off times can include Friday evenings, 12.30, 3, 5.30 and 7.45 on Saturdays and 12, 2 or 4 on a Sunday. The last of these events did clash with a major home game and the increased crowd adversely impacted on local businesses and residents

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- We would welcome a discussion on security and stewarding at the station and in the immediate area for the event. Local businesses have raised issues at the Tri-borough Finsbury Park Town Centre Board which need addressing by the promoters as although this is a smaller crowd, crime, ASB and drug dealing were prevalent
- The current noise condition needs updating to reflect the levels agreed for Festival Republic events as we have received more noise complaints about this event than others.

For all events, we have been informed by Network Rail that there will be various times in this year when Kings Cross Station will be closed with all trains terminating at Finsbury Park and trust that you will have checked these dates with the contact I shared with Zoe Robertson last year as the increased numbers generated from even a small event would be unmanageable.

Received: Friday 11 January 2019
From: Diane Burridge
Highbury Community Association

To: Danny Singh, Senior Events Officer – Active Communities, Environment and Neighbourhoods, Haringey Council

From: Diane Burridge on behalf of the Highbury Community Association
11 January 2019

The Highbury Community Association (a Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder) has over 1,000 members - residents mainly living in the Highbury West and East wards in Islington, an area greatly affected by these major events. The Association is run by local residents and has no paid staff. An Annual General Meeting and other events are held each year and a quarterly newsletter is produced, with the primary purpose of protecting and improving our area.

We are responding to the official consultation organised by Haringey Council which has received a number of park hire applications from event organisers to host major events in Finsbury Park during the 2019 season. The events are listed below:

Event/Organiser	On site date	Off site date	Event dates	Total days in Park	Capacity
Steel Yard/Festival Republic	13/5/19	1/6/19	25/26	20	15,000
Community Festival/Festival Republic	17/6/19	30/6/19	28/29/30	14	45,000

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Wireless Festival/Festival Republic	1/7/19	12/7/19	5/6/7	12	45,000
Hospitality in the Park/Slamming Events	16/9/19	25/9/19	21/22	10	12,000

As noted several times, the Highbury Community Association objects to Finsbury Park being used so much for such events for these reasons:

1. Scale of events:

From 13 May to 25 September 2019 a large section of the Park will have disturbances of truck movements for the setting up, holding and then the taking down of all the paraphernalia associated with such large events, creating much noise and other pollution. This activity will be for a total of 56 days = 41% of 136 days. This means that for nearly half the summer the area of the Park facing Islington and Hackney will be used for events.

2. Disturbance to students and others:

School exams (GCSE and A levels) start mid-May and continue to end of June. The noise for people living nearby can be most distressing for people having to study and wanting to do well in their exams. No matter how much the noise is controlled it can still be heard throughout the area, particularly for the many people living in the higher floors of flats, which comprise much of the type of housing nearby.

3. Loss of the Park area for much of the summer:

The Park area facing Seven Sisters Road is where most Islington (and Hackney) residents enter the Park. During the 56 days when major events' organisers will be in the Park, this area will be disturbed by truck movements, barriers, high walls, crowds, drug dealing etc - making the Park most unwelcoming and difficult to access.

Fifty six days totals nearly half (41%) of the summer period when people want to enjoy peaceful and green open spaces, and when children want/need to play in a clean environment. Finsbury Park is situated in a densely-populated, deprived inner-city area and the Park is essential for mental and physical well-being. Government (national and local) policy promotes physical activity; such a use of the Park contradicts this policy.

Even in the areas of the Park away from where the events are being held, the noise and pollution from the machinery being used for the events is most disturbing and not conducive to trying to have some peace and quiet somewhere.

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The impact of major events in Finsbury Park lasts for months after these have ended - with the green areas spoiled and litter left accumulated along the edges of the Park, as well as damage to trees, benches, pavements etc. The loss of the Green Flag is testament partly to this negative impact.

4. Disturbance throughout the area outside the Park:

The anti-social behaviour (as itemised in the Highbury Community Association's submission to the Licensing Review Sub-Committee in October 2018) was intolerable. This included: people defecating in front gardens; open drug-dealing; cars tooting and groups shouting after the events due to the lack of stewards to direct and control movement of people and cars going through the area to Arsenal Tube Station, and further afield. These disturbances lasted to midnight (and even later along Blackstock Road) in 2017 and 2018, keeping children awake, as well as affecting people needing to sleep for work or to sit exams the next day.

5. The Principle:

Finally, no matter (as stated in your email, 17 December 2018) that: 'Further discussions will take place over the coming months between all the relevant statutory bodies and stakeholders to ensure that events are well managed and safe with as limited an effect on the local area as possible.'.... the point is that even if this happens, the Park should not be used as planned.

Wireless (and now the Community Festival) are on average three times larger than other events held in the Park, and therefore have impacts that totally eclipse those of other events - which is why the Highbury Community Association supports the Friends of Finsbury Park in opposing Wireless specifically. We do not believe the mitigation/restrictions imposed go far enough to manage the local community impacts.

A Park should be a Park, and not a venue for large events for much of the summer, ignoring the mental and physical well-being of local residents, particularly children.