



Haringey Council

Briefing for:	Scrutiny Panel on Animal Welfare
Title:	Zippos Circus – Application for Trial use/Event in Finsbury Park
Purpose of briefing:	To seek approval for the trial to progress or to delay pending clarification of the Council's policy on use of animals in performances.
Lead Officer:	Andrew Gill
Date:	17 November 2008

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following correspondence between Zippos Circus and the Leader, the Parks Service has been approached by representatives from Zippos Circus to hold an event in November 2008.
- 1.2 The dates suggested are two consecutive weekends of 7-9 and 14-16 November performing for six days in total. Alternative dates suggested by Zippos are 14-16 November and then 21 - 23rd November.
- 1.3 An existing Policy exists within the Council which prohibits the use of performing animals at organised events on Council land.

Progress update

2.1 Correspondence. The Head of parks & Bereavement Services (Andrew Gill) has received and responded to correspondence from David Hibling (Tour & Creative Director, Zippos Circus). Correspondence received has included details of Zippos' Code of conduct For the Care of Horses and Dogs on Tour with Circuses and a letter of commendation from the London Borough of Newham's Animal Welfare Unit.

2.2 Meeting Parks Officers have met with Zippos personnel on 23rd September 2008. Zippos Circus operates within many London Boroughs who have demonstrated a relaxed approach towards allowing performing domestic animals. There are no wild animals within the circus i.e. performances include four horses, one dog, and several birds (Budgerigars).

2.3 Animal Welfare. Zippos have demonstrated their commitment to animal welfare by having regular independent inspections of their animals. This would continue at their expense should they whilst in Haringey.

2.4 Concessions. Zippos have offered free tickets at performances for identified disadvantaged families within Haringey.

2.5 Operational Requirements. (Lead Officer Lewis Taylor) Finsbury Park is well equipped to accommodate the infrastructure associated with an event of this kind through regular practised process and procedure.

Briefing note ends.