

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

Received: Monday 28 October 2019
From: Cllr Sarah James
Haringay Ward, LB Haringey

Dear Danny,

Thank you for sending this notice of the proposed events in Finsbury Park for next year. I am sure that the reduction in the number of events being held will be very welcome.

However, the daily capacity for these events is very high at 45k. Can this be reduced?

I have received feedback from local residents complaining about the large footprint of the events and the fact that the carriageway falls within the perimeter fencing for the festivals making it difficult for cyclists and pedestrians to go through the park.

It would really help to reduce the level of complaints if the scale of these events could be more contained so that local residents (and other visitors) could continue to access the full carriageway.

Best wishes,

Sarah

Received: Thursday 31 October 2019
From: Bruce Devile
Head of Business Intelligence & Member Services, LB Hackney

Hi Danny

We would like to register our objections to the proposed schedule for 2020 please.

The new schedule will result in unacceptable disruption to Hackney residents for three consecutive weekends and almost doubles the major disruption to us from 2019.

Previously only the Wireless related events majorly affected Hackney residents, but now it seems all the major events will affect Hackney residents the most. The events which had ingress and egress on the Haringey side of the park have been withdrawn and replaced with events which cause the most disruption to Hackney. It is disappointing that Haringey have chosen not to speak with Hackney ahead of this wider announcement.

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

The consecutive weekend (and consecutive nights on those weekends) nature of the events is totally unacceptable for our residents.

The number of events and again the consecutive nature also places unacceptable demand and strain on our Council services. The increase in events places additional cost pressures as Haringey/FR do not fully cover our costs. It also gives capacity issues for the staff involved as they still have to complete the Hackney day job.

thanks
Bruce

Received: Monday 4 November 2019
From: Ian
Chair LCSP, Chair Haringay Police Panel

Dear Danny,

Thanks for your email regarding major events in Finsbury Park next year, as further discussed at the recent Stakeholder Meeting.

On behalf of our members, we very much welcome the approach of bringing together the major events in one concentrated period, the obvious advantages of which do not need repeating here. The fundamental issue is, of course, how to secure the essential income stream while causing the least impact/disruption to residents and the park itself. We believe that this proposal is a really positive and significant move in achieving that aim. We also welcome the accompanying proposal that there will be no other events with over 10,000 capacity throughout next year.

Best wishes
Ian
Chair LCSP
Chair Haringay Police Panel

Received: Sunday 10 November 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 (HCA)

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

10 November 2019

The Highbury Community Association (a Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder) has over 1,000 members - residents mainly living in the Highbury West ward 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 applications from event organisers to host major events in Finsbury Park during the 2020 season. The events are listed below:

Event	Dates 2020	Daily capacity	Licence Holder / Organiser
Community Festival weekend	26 – 28 June (3 days) On site: 16 June	45k	Live Nation / Festival Republic
Wireless Festival weekend	3 – 5 July (3 days)	45k	
TBC	10 OR 11 July (1 day) Off site: 17 July	45k	

In the invitation to the consultation process, Haringey Council states that the effects of such events will be far less in 2020 than in 2019. We will respond to these statements in turn:

Change 1 statement: A reduction, in comparison with 2019, in the number of major events across the events season for 2020, which will result in three weeks' shorter occupancy period of build and break days in the park (2020: 24 / 2019: 44).

HCA response: This is still over four weeks' disturbance in the Park. From 16 June to 17 July, nearly 30% of the Park will be closed off with high walls and used for major events, during the summer months when people want and need to enjoy a park the most.

Change 2 statement: Less chance of damage occurring to the grass and paths, and emissions from event vehicles cut by two thirds– one load in / one load out rather than three. Focusing events into these four weeks will ensure public usage of the areas can increase and the grass condition can be improved to reduce the intensity and severity of any damage to the grass areas during events.

HCA response: One load in and one load out does not take into account all the traffic movement during events. This traffic movement causes pollution in a wider area, and is noisy and dangerous.

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

Change 3 statement: Removes events that take place in the wetter months and thus significantly reducing the potential for damage.

HCA response: Summer months can be wet, as they were in 2019, which caused major damage to a large grass area from July to October 2019. There are photographs to show this damage which made the 'grass area' muddy and uneven, and most unpleasant to sit in or walk over.

Change 4 statement: With Steel Yard not going ahead, the park would be free of events during the May half-term school holiday.

HCA response: Thank you for this respite! What about the summer months when Finsbury Park should be a park for the benefit of local people who so much want to relax in a green open space- free from noise and truck movements- in this very congested, inner city area?

As noted several times in responding to consultation on the use of Finsbury Park, the Highbury Community Association objects to Finsbury Park being used so much for such major events for these reasons:

1. Scale of events:

From 16 June to 17 July 2020, nearly 30% of Finsbury 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 means that for 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 a disturbance, 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 and disturbance within the Park:

The Park area facing Seven Sisters Road is where most Islington (and Hackney) residents enter the Park. During the 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.

The summer period is 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.

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

Even in the areas within 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.

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.

4. Disturbance throughout the area outside the Park:

During major events in previous years, much anti-social behaviour has occurred in our area, including: people defecating in front gardens; open drug-dealing; cars tooting and groups shouting after the events. These disturbances lasted to midnight (and even later along Blackstock Road), keeping children awake, as well as affecting people needing to sleep for work or to sit exams the next day.

These disturbances were mitigated in part in 2019 due to concerted action by London Borough of Islington with local residents, funded mainly by the event organisers – closing roads, diverting buses, more noise monitoring, community enforcement patrols, more complaints lines, and more cleaning of streets. Review meetings were held before and during the events, taking up much officer and local people's time.

5. The Principle:

5.1 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 these - which is why the Highbury Community Association supported the Friends of Finsbury Park in opposing Wireless specifically.

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.

5.2 We note a recent judgement affecting Lambeth Council's use of Clapham Common for major events:

In future Lambeth Council will have to seek permission from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs before structures can be erected on Clapham Common. Vast tents, domes, stages and other structures had been allowed by Lambeth Council, causing huge damage to the common.

The Open Spaces Society, with local amenity societies, had repeatedly told the council that all structures require the council to obtain permission from the Secretary of State for works on common land- whether temporary or permanent. The

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

concession applies only, however, to Clapham Common and not to other parks and open spaces in the borough. And only to commons land.

However, the Open Spaces Society and other groups, will be campaigning for such legislation to appertain to most public open spaces- spaces which people often had to campaign vigorously for many years to get, and which are now being seen as simple income-generators.

Received: Sunday 10 November 2019
From: Simon Hunt
The Friends of Finsbury Park

Hi Danny,

Please see below for the FoFP consultation response to the proposed major events.

Many thanks,

Simon

Event consultation – Friends of Finsbury Park response

We welcome the reduction in the number of days' closures for major events in 2020. This is a step in the right direction in terms of the management of Finsbury Park. However, we note that the proposed events mean that the central area of the park will be closed for a full month. Many residents who might be prepared to tolerate one weekend of events are now being asked to have to endure three consecutive weekends of events. We worry about this potential impact that this can have on the mental and physical health of local residents, many of whom lack the financial means to escape the area.

We note that the proposals entail a reduction in the number of events companies that Haringey Council will be working with in Finsbury Park down to one. We are concerned about the idea of the council being beholden to one singular events organiser for the entire income for Finsbury Park, and the effect that this will have on their negotiating position and their scope to turn away festival organisers for breaching license conditions. If the majority of park income is linked to one single events company, what power does the council have either to reject their application, or to seek new licensing conditions or fees?

We also note the increase in the number of event attendees for the June/July events to 315,000. This is a high footfall in such a short period of time. We are concerned

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire applications – 2020 events

about this high number of attendees for two reasons. The first is the potential damage to the park by this high concentration of footfall in such a short time, which could cause further damage to grass and excessive compaction of soil. What assurances can the council give that the increased damage to the park can be mitigated. The second is the increased disruption to the local area which is caused by the high-capacity 45k events. How will this be managed? What will be the levels of security and what assurances can the council give that there will not be continued antisocial behaviour after the events?

We understand that the Council is looking at adopting 5-year contracts with event organisers. We are concerned about a potential 5-year agreement with festival organisers as this can only reduce the level of scrutiny of licenses and accountability of the events organisers over this 5 year period. Will the contents of any 5-year contract be presented to the stakeholder group for approval before any such contract is signed.

Finally, we would like to repeat the concerns expressed by the Highbury Community Association with respect to the loss of the Park area and disturbance within the park:

The Park area facing Seven Sisters Road is where most Islington (and Hackney) residents enter the Park. During the 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.

The summer period is 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 within 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.

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.