

Dear Daliah

Thanks for the link. I attended the meeting and made some comments in the chat. Please forward the below to the representations file. It is not good enough to say it is 'too late'.

In summary I can barely believe the council is seriously considering this.

Five months?! Alcohol sales from noon to 9pm?

This is a park. Has the council no sense of public responsibility?

Please at least reduce this to 20 weeks maximum and allow alcohol sales only when events are actually on. Selling beer from noon, especially on sunny days, will ruin the atmosphere of the whole park. The argument by the organiser that you 'cannot walk away' from a bar area — because there is a deposit on the glass -- is ludicrous. It is the case at every festival that people carry drinks far and wide and then maybe return the glass for the deposit. We will have drunken or semi-drunken people all over the park from 1.30pm each and every day this is on. And they will not all use the compostable toilets obviously. And I would suggest only a minority will be taking any notice at all of the 3-hour long sessions of poetry and acoustic music being mooted. There is not a venue in London which would consider trying to commission three whole hours of this sort of material for four days a week for five solid months. All of that is pure fantasy and a cover for lucrative alcohol sales, which the council seems content to collude with.

I realise [from the reaction of Sarah Jones in the meeting] that the council has already made up its mind on this, so in desperation: please consider licensing only for the evenings [from 6pm maybe] when at least most young children will not be there. And please reduce the duration of this cynical pseudo-artistic exercise. I believed nothing the organisers said about 'giving back' to the community through the arts, and when questioned it was clear they had not made any serious efforts in this direction.

Obviously I would rather this application is turned down completely, as would most park users I believe, whatever the organisers — Assemble Bars Ltd [clue in the name!] — claim.

best wishes

Tim Richardson

Hi Daliah

Thanks for forwarding this, it's very informative and sounds much more interesting and less obtrusive than I was expecting!

Kind regards

Carrie