

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire application – 2022 events

From: Highbury Community Association

Application by Festival Republic/Live Nation for major commercial events in Finsbury Park in 2022 – Reference Number: HGYEVE000481

Feedback from the Highbury Community Association
(highburycommunity.org and facebook.com/highburycommunity)

The Highbury Community Association (a Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder) has over 700 members – mainly residents 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 usually held each year, and a quarterly newsletter is produced, with the primary purpose of protecting and improving our area.

We are **objecting to this application** to Haringey Council, in our capacity as a Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder, for the reasons below:

Events proposed	Dates in 2022	Daily capacity	Licence Holder / Organiser
Wireless Festival	On site: 27 June Event: 8,9,10 July	45k	Live Nation / Festival Republic
TBC, Lovebox, George Ezra	Event: 15,16,17 July	45k	
Total days in the Park= 27 days	Off site: 23 July		

1. Loss of much of the Park:

For most of July:

From 27 June to 23 July inclusive (27 days), nearly 30% of Finsbury Park will be closed off with high barrier walls for major events - during the summer period when people want and need to enjoy a park the most, particularly during these stressful times, with economic and health matters having affected many local people detrimentally.

And for most of August: As well, Krankbrothers have applied to use Finsbury Park for most of August (times including set up and clearance). If approved, this would result in the loss of much of the Park for two months in summer, and create disturbance throughout the Park during this time.

2. Disturbances throughout the Park:

2.1 The Park area facing Seven Sisters Road is where most Islington (and Hackney) residents enter the Park. During the days when major events are being set up and run, users of the park are disturbed by truck movements, high barrier walls, crowds, drug dealing etc - making the Park most unwelcoming and difficult to access. The huge walls stop many people wanting to walk up to the café from the Seven Sisters Road entrance. Many people give up and so young children are deprived of enjoying the three play areas near the café.

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire application – 2022 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 setting up and clearance, and during the events, are most disturbing and not conducive to trying to have some peace and quiet somewhere, or breathe in fresh air.

2.2 Impact on the grassed areas: The impact of major events on the fabric of Finsbury Park spoiling the grassed areas for months and years. It took nearly two years after the last major event in 2019 for the grassed areas to recover fully, and the Park now looks glorious with many more people of all ages enjoying the peace and greenery. The Park is now in the state that it should be in - as a public and essential resource for people.

3. Effects on children and young people:

3.1 Studying:

Most schools do not close until the third week of July and many students during early July have end-of-year exams. It is disgraceful that students living in the flats and houses overlooking the Park will be disturbed whilst studying, perhaps some having to put in extra work due to having missed too much school due to Covid. It is proposed that the events will end at midnight which is far too late when people have to go to school or work the next day. No matter how much the noise is controlled it can still be a disturbance throughout the area. And there is much noise in the surrounding streets as people leave the events.

3.2 Safety in the Park compromised:

Events involve many movements of vehicles before, during and after each one.

These traffic movements cause pollution in a wider area of the park, and are noisy and dangerous for joggers, cyclists, walkers etc

3.3 Loss of green open spaces to play and relax:

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- as proven during lockdown. Government (national and local) policies promote physical activity: holding major events in Parks contradicts these policies. Many local families cannot afford to go away and so Finsbury Park is essential during summer holidays for recreation, peace, meeting friends.

3.4 Vicinity to the play areas:

Brand new play areas have been developed near the café. These are so popular and will be greatly disturbed by these major events- with the noise, pollution from vehicles, the smell of the toilets, the crowds hanging around the perimeter of the high fences, the unpleasantness of getting to the play areas, particularly coming from the entrances on Seven Sisters and near Finsbury Park station (which most of our members use). Surely children's well-being is more important than a large, fee-paying event which could be held instead in a suitable venue or away from such a built up area?

4. Disturbance throughout the area outside the Park:

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire application – 2022 events

During major events in previous years, much anti-social behaviour has occurred in our area, including: people defaecating 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 the 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 – voluntarily given due to the need to monitor the situation, and care for our area. Despite all these actions, there was still noticeable anti-social behaviour at all times during the events, not helped by the amount of drug dealing which seemed to be going on.

5. The size and number of events:

These events 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.

There are still many other events held- fairs, smaller events, circuses during the rest of the year. 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.

6. Making the Park pay for itself: Haringey Council stated in its Formal Consultation invitation (October 2020) to respond to events planned for 2021 that: 'Event income is vital to the continued upkeep and improvements to Finsbury Park.'

Haringey stated that the park would be used in 2021 for a total of only 25 days (overtaken by Covid); and that: 'This approach (of only 25 days) will reduce the level of income received but allow the park to generate sufficient income for its basic maintenance, enhanced staffing levels and a reasonable level of investment within the park each year.'

HCA response to this statement was: Does this mean that Finsbury Park has to pay for its own upkeep and improvements. We thought that a park is a public good and not an entity that has to earn its own keep. Do other parks in Haringey have to pay for themselves?

And now, if a total of 'only' 25 days is sufficient, does this mean that no other large events in 2022 (such as those proposed by Krankbrothers) will be approved?

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

From: Finsbury Park Parkrun

Parkrun has no objection to other events taking place in the park and we accept this means that we sometimes need to cancel. However, we appreciate when efforts are made to allow parkrun to take place alongside other events. For Wireless we would definitely expect to cancel on the two event days. Given that we are also likely to cancel for the two Krankbrother events it would be good if we were able to run on some of the set-up/take-down days for Wireless because otherwise we'll have quite a big summer break. If was a case of missing three weeks for Wireless event days/take down and then missing two for Krankbrother we'd

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire application – 2022 events

probably cancel the single run in the middle (30th July) as it's often hard to recruit volunteers for standalone dates.

If parkrun is to go ahead we would need access to the main carriageway from the Oxford Road gate to the traffic barrier by the Green Lanes entry with a traffic curfew from 8.45-9.45am (see attached map). Most other things we can work around but if there are things likely to block our route we need at least two, ideally three weeks notice to be able to submit and receive approval for a revised risk assessment.

From: Regulatory Services, Haringey

Response from Regulatory Services to application HGYEVE000481

Impact of major events in local area:

The proposed concurrent weekends of proposed events at 45,000 capacity will see a significant impact in the local area ranging from residents being impacted by just the sheer increase in people in the area, noise that is generated, anti social behaviour including street drinking, public urination, increased litter and traffic as well as the increased impact on the late night economy. Regulating these matters will be significant and large and well beyond BAU.

The events are always viewed as a work in progress with the expectation that Festival Republic address what worked well and matters that need to be improved upon for the next time as part of an ongoing process in staging events in Finsbury Park.

Residents have had over 18 months of no major events in Finsbury Park in Summer 2020/21 due to the Covid situation and there has been significant push back against subsequent applications for smaller events that were lodged to host event in the Park earlier in the Summer.

The return of Wireless in 2022 will bring significant challenges for residents that have experienced a quiet Summer 2020 and 2021 in their local park.

The major events season at Finsbury Park requires a 'whole Council approach' to ensure that the environmental considerations that impact on residents are fully addressed, this also means taking into consideration the same factors for residents of Hackney and Islington who are also affected.

Noise requirements:

There is work to be undertaken to review and clarify the measuring locations at the various points as a condition of the Premises Licence, in particular Rowley Gardens and Woodstock Road locations. The resourcing of a Specialist Noise Officer for these events will be an additional financial impact on the Service, but a necessary resource nonetheless.

Enforcement provisions:

A scaling up of resources at an early stage so that Haringey can better plan resources for the major events, this would include officers to carry out

Noise monitoring across the agreed nearest noise sensitive locations to the park

A robust cleansing plan that incorporates cleaning in the public highway and affected side

Appendix 2:

Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Festival Republic park hire application – 2022 events

roads, which is audited by Haringey Waste Enforcement officers.

Anti social behaviour officers to deal with street trading and a robust ticket tout operation on the major event days

Food Officers to carry out inspections onsite of all food stalls

Trading Standards Officers to undertake underage testing (these events attract a young crowd) and ensure compliance with alcohol measures and merchandise sales onsite.

In addition to the above the Council will need to ensure that Festival Republic have sufficient measures in place to support women and young girls who may find themselves in need of help either within the event space or outside in the crowds gathered. The requirement for WAVE training to be undertaken by Festival Republic staff and the Councils own staff should be compulsory. <https://nbcc.police.uk/guidance/wave-presentation>