

To: Licencing Department, Haringey Council regarding:

Application by Krankbrothers to Haringey Council for New/Variations to the Licence for commercial events in Finsbury Park, summer of 2022

Response from Friends of Gillespie Park objecting to this application for a new licence and variations. 20 January 2022.

From: Diane Burridge, Committee Member, Friends of Gillespie Park

Introduction:

The Friends of Gillespie Park was set up in 1988, as part of a successful community-led campaign to save the Park from development. The group is run by local residents and has no paid staff. An Annual General Meeting and other events, including fundraising activities, festivals and talks, are held usually each year, with the primary purpose of protecting and improving the Park. Gillespie Park is now an award winning 2.8 hectares Local Nature Reserve which was made a Fields in Trust Park in 2011.

We are responding in support of Friends of Finsbury Park, as we feel that parks are so precious to many local people. There is a well-used path (The Parkland Walk Extension) linking Gillespie Park via Finsbury Park station to Finsbury Park. The two parks provided during the pandemic open and tranquil green spaces, and were so crucial to local people's mental and physical well-being.

To use them for large, commercial events is anathema to the whole purpose of a park.

Planning Application made by Krankbrothers in November 2021= HGYEVE000467

There is no number for the Licencing Application on Haringey Council's website. And no dates for the proposed events are given.

Name of Licensee: Krankbrothers/Eventapp

Premises address: Finsbury Park, Green Lanes, Haringey; Postcode: N4

Reasons for representation/objections:

1.The prevention of crime and disorder

The Finsbury Park area is a known 'hot spot' for crime and there is a very specific problem with alcoholism in the park with groups of drinkers regularly gathering around Manor House Lodge. Drug dealers operate very openly in the Park and the police response over the past few years is that they do not have adequate resources to deal with these activities. Having 6,000 people (at any one time) – let alone 8,000 people now being **requested as a Licence Variation (a 33% increase)** at such an event each day, and many more people trying to attend (many of whom would have been drinking) can lead to crime and disorder, within the Park and nearby. This has occurred in the past with similar events held. Accordingly, we object strongly to Krankbrothers' request for a New Licence Application to provide alcohol on the premises.

2.Public safety

What happens when people turn up and are not able to get into the event? Many people will be coming and going throughout the day and evening, and will need toilets and bins for litter- outside the parameters for the event. How will crowds be controlled? How can the toilets in Finsbury Park continue to be able to be used by families? How will vehicle movements through the Park - to service and set up the events- be controlled?

With the request to increase capacity by 33%, what does this mean for the increase in staffing and infrastructure? And the consequent impact on disturbances due to vehicle movements etc. This information is not provided.

There are more people now using the park- jogging, walking, trying to relax etc. The noise, pollution and danger of vehicle movements can be a danger to public safety: what plans are there to monitor and manage, and reduce the impact of, this activity?

3.The prevention of public nuisance

In all, for two weekends, as listed in the Planning Application, in November 2021, such activity would total about 20 days. (From 31 July to 19 August - including setting up, having the events and then clearing away.) With an **additional day being requested**, will this impact on these dates? And we do not know the dates planned?

Setting up, holding the events and then clearing away involves many disturbances (noise, pollution, vehicle movements, barriers being built to delineate the area where people will be paying to enter, gathering crowds who may get angry when they cannot enter the events, the need for toilets and litter clearance outside the event area etc) – during the summer when local residents and others need the park so much.

And allowing for live music, as now requested as a Licence Variation, would cause more noise pollution and disturbance to park users who want peace and quiet.

Even in the areas **within** the Park away from where these activities are proposed, the noise and pollution from the machinery being used for and during the events is not conducive to trying to have some peace and quiet somewhere.

4.The protection of children from harm

This application is for events during August when many young people living nearby have to study due to the catch up required because of the pandemic, for example, retaking exams, having extra lessons. There is a real risk of noise pollution, from loudspeakers and people, as has happened during previous events in Finsbury Park.

Many families cannot afford to go away for holidays to relax: Finsbury Park is key for their well-being. The duration of disturbances for these weekends, with more disturbance from Wireless planning to be on site for 27 days- from 27 June to 23 July 2022, means that large areas of this precious Park will no longer be able to be used in peace and safety by children - a park built for the public, a much-lauded claim by Haringey in its anniversary booklet.

The summer period is when people want to enjoy peaceful and green open spaces, and when children want/need to play in a clean and safe environment- not have vehicle movements and noise echoing throughout the Park. 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 lockdowns. Government (national and local) policy promotes physical activity; such a use of the Park contradicts this policy.

People campaigned to have Finsbury Park, as we did to save Gillespie Park from development. These campaigns aimed for local people to have open, green and tranquil places in this densely-populated inner city area – where many families live in flats or have little garden area. To contemplate agreeing to so many commercial and large events in Finsbury Park is just unbelievable.

I, Diane Burridge, hereby declare that all information I have submitted is true and correct.

Signed: Diane Burridge. Date: 20 January 2022.