

**Application by Krankbrothers for commercial events in Finsbury Park in 2022 –
Reference Number: HGYEVE000467**

Opposition from Gina Harkell, [REDACTED]

Events proposed/licence holder/organiser= Krankbrothers

Dates in 2022

On site 31 July set up 5 days. Daily capacity

6 and 7 August. 8,000

12, 13 and 14 August. 8,000

Finish site take down
by 19 August

Total days in the Park. From 31 July to 19 August = 20 days

Prevention of crime and disorder

The application for the Krankbrother dance weekends has now increased to 8,000 people from 6,000 in August 2021. There are no site drawings provided on the Licensing website but presumably this will require an even larger site than last year. Last time the dancing and trampling of the grass in the area from the athletics track to the Manor House and Green Lanes exits caused about 8 acres of park grassland to be reduced to a mud bath after two wet weekends. Compounded mud has a serious impact on tree growth and obviously the grass was nearly all destroyed. This seems to be a crime against the environment of the park. This was given a layer of new top soil and reseeded but we have yet to see whether the new grass survives the winter.

Given that Finsbury Park is already rife with drug dealers even during broad daylight with little commitment from the police to stop the sale of drugs, presumably more drugs are changing hands within the festival boundary walls. Large groups of people who have usually consumed large amounts of drugs and/or alcohol are liable to incur disorder and harassment as they leave the event at around 11 pm. This is when women are particularly vulnerable to assault.

Prevention of public nuisance

The main area of public nuisance is the existence of a walled off area of our park during the busiest summer month of the year. It takes up a large area for 20 days of August when set up and pull down time are included with large diesel lorries devastating the grass and polluting the air. This park is now in the London Low Emission Zone introduced by the Mayor from the North Circular through central London and out to the South Circular. Haringey Council has been keen to support Cop26 policies and reduce diesel pollution within the borough but this seems to contradict these policies.

Obviously the main nuisance is the level of noise. Last year the loudspeakers faced Endymion Road and Green Lanes and this is where the residents of the Ladder roads felt the disturbance the worst. Usually it is the area south of Seven Sisters Road and the area of Stroud Green where the noise is most unbearable. In 2019 it was heard as far away as Stamford Hill and Queens Wood in Highgate.

Given that the use of the park for large events was prohibited in the summer months in its events policy agreed by an earlier administration, it is hard to understand why such a public nuisance is being allowed yet again in 2022.

Local residents do not understand why we have these mega events imposed on us when they are such a public nuisance and cause such problems locally: noise, rattling windows, disorderly behaviour, peeing in front gardens and loud bands and presenters shouting on microphones for hours on end. How can it be justified when the amount received by the Council is a paltry £5.12 p per each £70 ticket sold.

3. Public safety

The park has been a haven for local people during the COVID pandemic with thousands of people using it particularly on hot sunny weekends. During the height of its popularity in 2020 and 2021 groups of people sat at about 2 m social distance throughout the park. There is simply no room for walled off areas in the park any more. The future spread of the virus is still unknown for this coming summer but it seems likely that the park is likely to be just as heavily used as it was in the past two years. Large numbers of people dancing close up to each other and singing along has the potential to be a superspreader event. This seems a strange event to be promoted by a Council who is supposed to have our health and well-being at heart.

4. Protection of children from harm

The children's play areas, some recently opened, have no escape from the loud noise and drunken revellers on their way to and from the Krankbrothers' enclosure. Domestic violence towards both women and children has increased dramatically during lockdown. It is hard to imagine that children's enjoyment of a trip to the park in the summer holidays will be as enjoyable when there is background music so loud that no one can hear what each other is saying and it could result in lifelong tinnitus.

Signed. *Gina Harkell*

Date....Wednesday 19th January 2022