Krankbrothers: objection to licence variation

We, the Friends of Finsbury Park, a registered charitable trust, would be grateful if you would both record and acknowledge receipt of our objection to the Krankbrothers Application for a variation of their Licence, seeking an additional event and a significant increase in numbers.



Prevention of crime & disorder

Drug-dealing—that often goes on within the park in normal times—tends to increase during big events.

If the council lacks interest in combating the day-to-day drug dealing—on land for which they are responsible—then do they not turn a blind eye to the supply of potential customers available during their large-scale music events?

Drug-dealers are likely to recognise the enhanced marketing opportunity presented by the proposed Variation, not least because of a one-third boost in numbers (from 6,000 to 8,000).

Prevention of public nuisance

The Krankbrother event last year produced amplified music that was so loud as to be a nuisance to residents in our Borough, with some reports that the noise could be heard as far away as the North Circular.

The noise may also have affected residents in *Hackney* Borough, much closer. However, and as with all big events in Finsbury Park, Hackney residents are particularly disadvantaged, by virtue of having little-to-no democratic influence on Haringey Council conduct.

Councils hold parks in trust for the public:

All the park, for all the public.

Krankbrothers events—like all events held within steel-walls in our park—deny the use of that part of the park to the general public.

Stinking: The nuisance is not limited to the noise and loss of quiet enjoyment of the park during the event. The residue of the last Krankbrother event footprint was a large area of mud mixed with excreta, whose stench will be remembered by anyone witnessing and smelling the aftermath. This may present a health hazard.

Prevention of children from harm

Our park should be a place where children feel safe. The council cannot easily control patrons who are drunk. Events of this nature tend to increase the level of drug dealing, already a presence in the park (as above).

Parents should be able to feel confident that their children can go to our park without being exposed to drunks or drug-taking.

The Krankbrother experience from last year, stinking in more ways than one, would likely be worsened by the big increase in numbers sought; all the above points also relate to the original Licence, whose continuance the Committee may wish to consider. In any event, the Application for increased dates and numbers should be rejected.

Legal/administrative

We record that (a) the landlord for this event is Haringey Council; who (b) pro-actively promote rentals of land in our park; that is (c) pursuant to a council policy of exploiting our park for pecuniary purposes; and that (d) the Licensing Authority is a part of the Local Authority.

As with all such licensing of council-controlled land, there is therefore an appearance of conflict-of-interest for the Licensing Dept. and/or the Licensing Committee, not present in regular licensing Applications.

We note that the closing date for comment on this application differs between the notice on the Hornsey Gate and the date on the website (today's date). It would avoid confusion if dates matched.

<u>Information</u> on the council's webpage about this Application to vary a Licence is scant and contains gaps. It is likely to be unclear and confusing for ordinary residents.

In particular, no dates for the event are quoted and the word "variation" does not appear. Are these omissions consistent with minimum legal requirements?

Thank you for your attention,	
Yours sincerely	
Clive Carter and Tom Graham	
Co-Chairs	

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