

To: Haringey Licensing Department (by email)
From: Diane Burridge,
21 June 2022

Re: LatinoLife Ltd in Finsbury Park – New Premises Licence Application

Application Number: HGYEVE000529- for 20 and 21 August 2022
Name of Licensee: Jose-Luis Seijas
Name of Premises (if applicable): Finsbury Park- Areas A, B, D and E
Premises Address (where the Licence will take effect): Finsbury Park, the
London Borough of Haringey; Postcode: N4 1EE

Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to **oppose** the above application on the following grounds:

Fill in reason/s for your representation in the space provided under each Licensing Objective it relates to.

General: The application notice fixed to the Park railings describes this application as being for a 'community' event with music, a parade of community folk dance groups, a football tournament, food stalls and bars.

However, the website (see link) publicising this event indicates that a **major music festival is planned**. <https://www.latinolifeinthepark.com>

A concern I have is on the numbers coming to this event- where there seems to be no way of controlling these. And this is in a much-loved and used public park needed so much by many local people.

I support small community events but object to large events which take over the park, creating noise and disturbance throughout, and harming the park's grassland for months afterwards. This event, although previously small, seems to be **planned to be a major event without the concomitant safety requirements**, as required by other large event managers.

I am objecting to this licence, as an individual local user of the park, and as someone who firmly believes that parks should not be used for major events - but are there for the well-being of people, and to support biodiversity. Please see the specific reasons for my objection below:

1. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Other major music events in Finsbury Park, including Wireless and Krankbrothers (with a limit of 8,000 people), require the licenced area to have a perimeter fence to control entry. This enables: bag searches on entry; those under the influence of alcohol and drugs being prevented from entering; and checks to be made on the numbers attending. It also provides a public signal to people that they need to have entrance tickets- even if these are free.

LatinoLife has **no fencing** and will therefore have **no control on entry** or the **numbers attending**. Although LatinoLife states that 'any criminal activity (will be) easy to spot' [Application M(b)], how can this be possible with a crowd of up to 9,999 people? And with people spread out over a large area? And perhaps with many more people attending than the stated 9,999 in the application for the event?

Why does LatinoLife not have requirements, as needed by other organisers of events of similar size?
In the absence of entry controls, I feel that a licence should not be granted.

2. Public Safety

Most of the public safety issues are mentioned in the above section on the prevention of crime and disorder.

2.1 One concern is regarding the **need for instant communication** in the event of an emergency. The LatinoLife application states Section M (c) that, 'There will be a team of security professionals liaising throughout the day via mobile phone.' Mobile phones are notorious for sometimes having no signal, batteries needing charging, not being heard when there is a lot of noise etc. In another section of the application, it states that there will be 2-way radio contact between key staff.

And so it needs to be clear what systems are to be used.

2.2 Many people may turn up and the Areas A, B, D, and E cover a wide area. It is not clear **how such crowds will be controlled throughout the park** as people come to this event. What happens if there are crushes of people if the numbers as shown on the LatinoLife's website materialise?

3. The Prevention of Public Nuisance

3.1 Noise and vehicle movements:

The area of the park where the event will be held is just across the road from homes (mainly blocks of flats) on Seven Sisters Road. From the experience of previous events, these homes will hear the sound quite clearly, and other streets in the area will also be affected. The noise means that nearby residents will have to keep their windows shut- which is not healthy during the summer. And it is not fair on people who need to sleep during the hours of the events (11am to 10pm) - shift-workers, children, people who are ill etc.

Park **users throughout the park** will also be affected by increased noise, as the sound can be heard nearly everywhere. It is most disturbing to have to listen to loud music for hours when you need some peace, for a wide variety of reasons.

The servicing and delivery vehicle movements in the park can be dangerous for the many joggers, dog walkers and pedestrians using the roads at all times.

A licence should not be granted because of the noise which will be generated, and the vehicle movements which will occur, in a park which should be there for peace and quiet, and safe exercise.

3.2 Sale of Alcohol: There are **plans for six bars**. As the licenced area has no perimeter fencing there is nothing to stop customers taking their drinks to other areas of the park, so the **whole park could become an unrestricted drinking area** with the possibility of drink- related problems.

3.3 Toilets: The organisers are expecting an attendance of up to 9,999, though, as stated, this could be considerably more as there are no restrictions on entry. There are planned to be **six bars serving alcohol all day, plus 40 food stalls** so there should be toilets. I could not find information on toilet facilities to be provided. As it is, there are often queues for the public toilets adjacent to the café even without events – these only have four cubicles in each.

Living near the entrance on Seven Sisters/Finsbury Park (in Islington), I can vouch that local residents have experienced people urinating in front gardens when other large events have been held.

I feel that **without adequate and clean toilet facilities and hand washing facilities** a licence should not be granted.

4. The Protection of Children from Harm:

4.1 Although this is stated to be a community event, what controls are planned to protect people **under 18 who attend** – for example to stop them from drinking alcohol, even if they do not buy this themselves?

4.2 The event will take **place near the play areas** and I am concerned about the detrimental effect of the noise, pollution and drinking which could affect children using these much-loved and needed facilities. Surely children have the right to play in a safe environment; surely a park is meant for them rather than for large music festivals?

Unless there are controls to protect children, including those using these play areas, I object to this event taking place.

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

Signed: Diane Burridge,