

Report for: Cabinet Member decision – 15 July 2024

Item number: N/A

Title: Park hire applications by Krank Events Ltd to hire Finsbury Park to stage two multi-event music weekends in August 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028

Report

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Ward(s) affected: Harringay Ward

Report for Key/

Non-Key Decision: Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1 This report seeks a determination of several applications made by Krank Events Limited (the Applicant) to hire Finsbury Park for a period in July/August each year between 2024 and 2028, to stage two consecutive multi-event music weekends.
- 1.2 The applications are required to be determined pursuant to the Council's Outdoor Events Policy (the Policy), which was approved by Cabinet on 17th December 2013, and implemented on 7th January 2014.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Leisure is recommended:

- 3.1 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02, to authorise the Director of Environment and Resident Experience to

(1) Approve conditional, in-principle agreement to hire Finsbury Park to the Applicant (for the events detailed in this report as set out in paragraph 6.11) and

(2) Agree the park hire terms and conditions to hire Finsbury Park to the Applicant (for the events detailed in this report as set out in paragraph 6.11) provided that the Director of Environment and Resident Experience is satisfied with the terms of any proposed agreements and permissions.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 Under the terms of the Policy, applications of the type detailed in this report are required to be determined with the prior agreement of the Cabinet Member. It is considered that this decision is non-key because it is (a) not likely to result in the

local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

- 4.2 With respect to (b) the impact of the proposed decision on communities is not considered to be significant because the area does not comprise an area of two or more wards. And whilst some Finsbury Park events sometimes receive strong local feeling from a section of the community, there is active engagement and opportunity for stakeholders to feedback. Feedback given on the applications covered in this report can be found at 6.35 below. Also, any impacts of the events are not significant and have no lasting effect given the short duration of the events during the year.
- 4.3 If authority is given, then officers will give in-principle agreement to the Applicant for the event applications to progress. The events will then be subject to lengthy discussions with relevant authorities - including Licensing and the police - before final approval is given.
- 4.4 The rejection of the applications would have implications for the Parks & Leisure Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into Finsbury Park (the park). It would also mean that the wider cultural and economic benefits to the borough were lost.

5. Alternative options considered.

- 5.1 In adopting the Policy, the Council established its commitment to using the park for a limited number of major events each year. Accordingly, the only other alternative option which could be considered would be to reject the applications. That option was rejected, on the grounds that the events did not fall within any of the grounds set out in paragraph 5.3 of the Policy for automatic refusal.

6. Background information

- 6.1 In January 2014, the Council adopted the Policy to recognise the value and benefit that a varied, and well-managed, outdoor events programme can offer the residents of Haringey.
- 6.2 The Policy assists the decision-making process behind building a sustainable and varied programme of events. It also seeks to protect the community and the parks and greenspace infrastructure and minimise or mitigate any negative impacts which events may cause.
- 6.3 Some of these restrictions, as set out at paragraph 5.2.2 of the Policy, specifically relate to Finsbury Park to ensure a balance of income generation and that of continued public use of the park through the busiest summer months is achieved. These restrictions include, but are not limited to, the following:
- *“Major scale events [more than 10,000 attendance] will be ordinarily limited to 5 per year, save where there is demonstrable community support for additional events*

- *Duration of major scale events will be of 1 – 3 days per event*
 - *No major scale events will take place during the school summer holidays”*
- 6.4 In October 2023, the Council received a number of applications from Krank Events Ltd (the Applicant) to hire the park to stage two consecutive three-day weekends of music festivals to take place in August of each year between 2024 and 2028.
- 6.5 The Policy details the approval process for determining applications such as these. Paragraph 5.2.3. of the Policy requires prior authority for the event to be given by the Cabinet Member before officers give in-principle agreement whenever the following criteria apply:
- *“Event lasts more than 2 days with 5,000 or more in attendance”*
 - *“Organiser occupies a site for more than 14 days including setup and take down periods”.*
- 6.6 All of the criteria detailed above apply to these applications, hence this referral to the Cabinet Member.
- 6.7 Public events have been taking place in Finsbury Park since it first opened in 1869. In recent years, Finsbury Park has been the prime location for many international music acts, playing to large audiences within the open arena of the park. This includes the first open-air symphony concert of the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1948.
- 6.8 The Applicant has a successful history of organising events in the park since the first two-day music festival held in 2018. In 2019 it increased its events to run for two consecutive weekends – one two-day weekend, and one three-day weekend - and this was repeated in 2021, 2022 and 2023.
- 6.9 In 2024, the Applicant successfully applied for a variation to its Premises Licence to provide a sixth day of events, enabling it to host two consecutive three-day weekends and increase capacity from 8,000 to 9,999 per day.
- 6.10 However, following consideration of the feedback provided by recognised stakeholders, and those of local residents during the 2023 events, the Cabinet Member took a view not to allow the park hire approval for the sixth event day.
- 6.11 Therefore, the applications being considered as part of this determination cover five event days – one three-day and one two-day weekend - with capacity of each day of up to 9,999.
- 6.12 In 2018 and 2019, the events included Sink the Pink, an LGBTQ+ led event. In recent years, the events have provided more DJ-led music, playing predominantly house, drum and base and funk.
- 6.13 It is standard commercial practice that, once a park hire application for a previously successful event has been submitted by the Applicant and initially accepted by the Council, tickets go on sale, subject to Cabinet Member approval or contract being in place. The Applicant does this at its own risk.

- 6.14 Initial figures show that, on average, over 80% of tickets are purchased by people living in London.
- 6.15 The current proposal seeks to hire the park to the Applicant to host two consecutive weekends of music festivals – one three-day weekend and one two-day weekend. By approving these applications, the disruption to the park will be shorter than having two separate weekends of events with their own build and break periods.
- 6.16 This approach will reduce the income level received but will allow the park to generate sufficient income for its basic maintenance, enhanced staffing levels and a reasonable level of investment within the park.
- 6.17 The Applicant allocates a number of tickets for residents living in the immediate vicinity of Finsbury Park. These are available through a resident ballot. In 2023, over 300 local households applied for free tickets to attend the events.
- 6.18 Due consideration as to the effects these events could have on the park, park users and local residents has been given, with detailed plans in place to ensure public access is maintained to the park and all facilities, whilst ensuring the events provide increased recreational enjoyment within the park environment.
- 6.19 The Applicant has applied to hire a section of the carriageway and surrounding grassland to the north of Finsbury Park for both weekends of events. For 2024 - 2028, it has submitted a new site plan to incorporate more of the open grass space south of the northern carriage way to increase its site. The increase is to accommodate the additional 1,999 people and also to alleviate pressure on the plane trees in the northern section of the park to further enhance tree protection. Much of the heavy infrastructure (such as the stage and footfall) takes place on the carriageway, minimising damage to grass areas. It also means that vehicles involved in the build, break and supplies for the event have ease of access on the internal park carriageway, from the Endymion Road vehicle entrance, through to the event space, with minimal need to cross grass.
- 6.20 The site location to the north of the park and the fact that large London plane trees overhang the site helps contain some sound emanating. In the years of previous operation, only a small number of noise complaints have been received compared with the number of households in the vicinity of the event.
- 6.21 The majority of visitors to the event travel on foot or by underground, exiting at Manor House tube station. This provides ease of access into the event arena which is located a few metres within the park's Manor House gate. Egress from the event takes place in the same way, meaning that the majority of visitors do not pass residential properties.
- 6.22 The event space is designed to accommodate up to 9,999 attendees, all infrastructure and staff and to hold 5 regulated music event days in the park.
- 6.23 The total area used for these two weekends of events equates to approximately 7% of the park. The remaining 93% of the park, and all facilities, remain open to

the public at all times. The revised design of the site for 2024 and beyond is an increase of 2% of the overall park site space.

- 6.24 The areas used for quieter, informal recreational activity including all formally laid out horticultural spaces such as the Mackenzie Gardens, and the wider expanses of grass areas including the bandstand field, reservoir and Seven Sisters Road field all remain open and accessible to the public while these events take place.
- 6.25 Visits to the park continue while these events take place, by ensuring that all public facilities including the ball courts, play areas, cafes and lake etc remain open.
- 6.26 During the build and break, thoroughfares are kept open to park users to transgress the park north to south, east to west.
- 6.27 As part of the carriageway and pavement is encased within the event area, the Applicant installs trackway along grass areas where the path is unavailable. This is done so access is maintained.
- 6.28 The Applicant's premises licence (which regulates the multi-weekend events) requires that all music and supplies of alcohol cease at 9.30pm on Sunday in consideration of the start of the working week, and 10pm on Friday and Saturday.
- 6.29 It is accepted that, due to the high footfall experienced during events, some short-term damage to the grass used may take place and is weather-dependent.
- 6.30 A full programme of grass restoration is undertaken by the park operatives once all event infrastructure is removed from site and when weather conditions allow. As the proposed events take place within a contained 3-week period and no other events are held in this area, this ensures that the grass has a long recovery period between events each year. Mitigation works to trees within the event space are also carried out, including aeration, to de-compact the soil.

Consultation Exercise

- 6.31 As part of the approval process, the Policy stipulates the need for consultation on the applications to take place. Paragraph 5.1.6. of the Policy states, "*Consultation will involve all stakeholders, including Friends Groups, Area Parks Managers, Ward Councillors, Cabinet Member for Environment and the members of the Haringey Safety Advisory Group. Other consultees may be added where appropriate to the specific park or open space*".
- 6.32 In discharging the requirement to consult, officers sent details of the applications to 38 external stakeholder groups by e-mail dated 15 January 2024. Details of the list of consultees appears at Appendix 1 to the report. Stakeholders (including: local resident associations; Hackney and Islington Council officers; park user groups and leaseholders; councillors from 6 adjoining wards including those in Hackney and Islington; internal Council stakeholders including licensing and emergency planning; and statutory bodies including the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade) were given 10 working days to respond.

- 6.33 Of the list of consultees, those highlighted in green at Appendix 1 provided a total of 8 responses, broken down as follows:
- (a) 1 response received from the Friends of Finsbury Park
 - (b) 2 responses received from the Ladder Safety Community Partnership
 - (c) 1 response received from the Highbury Community Association
 - (d) 1 response received from Parkrun
 - (e) 2 responses received from Harringay Ward Councillors
 - (f) 1 response received from a Stroud Green Ward Councillor
- 6.34 The comments are set out in full at Appendix 2. However, they can be summarised in the main as being concerns around: increase in attendance and event days and ecological impact.
- 6.35 Officer responses to the comments raised are as follows:

The Friends of Finsbury Park

Issues: ecological effects, increase in event and site layout; public nuisance including noise, air and light pollution, litter, vehicle traffic including idling and parking, complaints, blocking of routes, duration on site

It is apparent that The Friends of Finsbury Park submitted their objections to the revised Premises Licence application, rather than specific feedback on the park hire applications. Issues covered by the Licencing Act have been reviewed as part of the Premises Licence application. However, issues that the group raise which do specifically relate to the park hire applications are detailed below.

In relation to environmental impacts on the park and its trees, ecology etc a Biodiversity Management Plan for Finsbury Park is currently being developed with completion of it expected by the end of 2024. This is being co-produced with the Friends and will be informed by an assessment of baseline ecological conditions of the site, and an assessment of net change in biodiversity using the Defra Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (Natural England). Assessments which will inform this were conducted during 2023 including during and after the Krank Events. Once the baseline information has been assessed and identified, an 'Events' section will be included within the Biodiversity Management Plan, looking at mitigation, management and enhancement measures to be implemented before, during and after events. This will serve to provide guidance on minimising the degradation of any features of ecological importance identified through the survey works.

In regard to tree protection, guidelines are already stipulated to hirers to ensure trees are protected from any infrastructure brought and located on site. Officers are on site during much of the hire and ensure that any conditions are being adhered to. This includes designating 3-metre zones around tree routes to ensure infrastructure isn't placed on top of them, trackway is used etc. That said, officers are aware that there is always more to be done, not just during the hire periods but throughout the year to enhance the health of all trees within the park.

During the hire period, the Applicant will be hiring, at its own cost, a qualified ecologist to be on site at all times during the build and break, overseeing contractors and ensuring that not only the park hire contract conditions are being adhered to, but ensuring that ecological good practice is being achieved. In

addition, the Council has instigated a programme of aeration and decompaction around the trees which have the most footfall from the events. This first took place following the Applicant's 2023 events and officers will continue to implement improvements that will benefit the health of trees. No hirer is allowed to cut tree branches. The Council hire expert tree contractors each year before the event season starts, to ensure that all dead or dying wood within the event sites have been removed. All works are overseen by the Council's Arboricultural Manager.

Air quality monitors have now been calibrated and placed within the park. These will be left in place at designated locations for a minimum of five years to understand patterns of air quality within the park, and if these change during the hire periods and on event days. The first year will provide a baseline of air quality readings which will then inform of any improvements needed.

There is no current evidence to suggest that this event has any short or long-term effect on species within the park such as bats or birds. As previously mentioned, ecological surveys were carried out in 2023 and findings will inform the Biodiversity Management Plan.

The hired space is proposed to increase in size to accommodate the increase in capacity, but this will also alleviate the pressure in key areas of the event site such as those spaces around trees. The increase is proposed to encompass amenity grass only, on the slope to the north-east of the track. The overall event site in 2023 equated to 5% of the overall park. With the site being redesigned in 2024, this will increase to 7%. All facilities within the park including playgrounds, sports courts, gyms etc will remain outside of the event space and open at all times.

Some footpaths are closed during the event, with diversions put in place. Although this may cause some short-term disruption to people's regular journeys, they are still able to progress along many of the remaining paths to get through to various facilities which remain open. During the 2023 event, a desire line – a path people choose to walk which isn't a tarmacked path - did become muddy and, due to this becoming a potential hazard, Council officers decided to close it off. Pedestrians still had other routes to progress their journey. For 2024, this route will be closed off completely. However, a gate on the other side of the New River, on Green Lanes, will be open so entry can be made into the northern part of the park on the designated, tarmacked footpath.

Vehicle movement within the park is monitored very closely by both stewards and security personnel. A 'no idling' policy is in place and anyone breaching this will be reprimanded and could lead to the contractor not being used again. As previously mentioned, air quality monitoring is now in place within the park, and this will be monitored to ensure improvements will be made. Officers have not received any complaints of this event causing issues for residents in regard to increased local traffic or parking issues. Nearly all event attendees come to the events either on foot or using public transport.

Park hire conditions stipulate that the hirer is obligated to not only clean the hired event area of rubbish, but also areas outside of their space but within the park which may be caused by event attendees. This takes place on a regular basis

throughout the events, with a bigger programme of cleaning taking place once the events have concluded and attendees have left the park.

During one of the 2023 event days, a Keep Britain Tidy judge visited the park to carry out a mystery shop assessment to ensure the park was maintaining the Green Flag Standards. The judge noted *'Given it was such a busy day at the time of this visit, with the whole park packed with people and events, litter and waste management was excellent throughout the site. Bins were well placed and had just been emptied, and at both events running at the same time of the visit, staff were doing the rounds picking up litter, and even participants were putting litter in bins provided'*.

In regard to safety and the welfare of children, the Green Flag judge commented *'For such a large and complex site, it had a very strong sense of being safe for its many different users. Even though the park, at the time of the visit, was playing host to two large-scale events, an open access basketball tournament on the western site, and an enclosed dance music festival in the northern park of the site, it still felt safe and event attendees were polite and behaving responsibly. The strong sense of community being safe was evident in the enormous diversity of people using the park including families from Orthodox Jewish, Muslim, Asian and African-Caribbean communities, and making full use of all available parts and facilities in it.'*

The Metropolitan Police Service is a key member of the Safety Advisory Group who are required to sign off the event management plan 30 days before the first event day, giving approval for the events to go ahead. Concern around increased crime or anti-social behaviour has never been raised as a significant issue around these proposed events.

The proposed increase in attendance numbers and event days has been determined through the Premises Licence application process. The proposed events also fall within the remit of the Outdoor Events Policy.

Ladder Community Safety Partnership

Issues: ecological impact of events

There is no current evidence to support the claim that where the proposed events are held is 'one of the most biodiverse' parts of the park, as addressed previously in the above comments.

Highbury Community Association

Issues: increase in attendance and event days, crime, ecological impact

These issues have been addressed above.

Parkrun

Issues: communication around event dates.

We note the comments made around the communication of event dates and will ensure that discussions take place in a much more planned way, rather than reactively.

Cllr Abela, Harringay Ward Councillor

Issues: Increase in attendance and event days, ecological impact, noise, crowd management

In regard to the proposed increase in attendance and event days, this has been addressed above.

In addition to what has already been said above regarding the ecology of the park, it is worth noting The Woodland Trust's guidance provided relates specifically to veteran or mature trees. None of the trees located in Finsbury Park, including the London plane trees, are classified as veteran or mature. Furthermore, as custodians of the park, it is for the Council to detail what protection measures hirers need to put in place to protect the infrastructure and ecology of the park. These will be reviewed once the Biodiversity Management Plan has been completed.

In regard to noise, this is regulated by the Premises Licence. However, in the years that the event has been taking place, none of the noise limits put in place have been breached.

Crowd management is part of the Event Management Plan which is overseen by the Safety Advisory Group. This will only be signed off allowing the events to proceed if all members of the Group are satisfied with all aspects of the Event Management Plan.

Cllr Brabazon, Harringay Ward Member

Issues raised: income and community benefit, relocate event site, ecology protection.

The hire fee is subject to commercial sensitivities; however, all hirers are charged in accordance with the hire fees and charges set by Cabinet. As the fees and charges are based on capacity and number of event days, if the current proposals are approved, then the hire fee charged, will increase.

As part of the hire fee, an addition charge is added called an Environmental Impact Fee. This charge is set aside for Finsbury Park stakeholders to bid for, with the aim of providing activities or making improvements within the park. In addition to this, the Applicant has a sum of money which it donates to local groups such as food banks, and it provides free event tickets to local residents.

As previously mentioned above, there is no evidence to currently suggest that the event site needs to be moved. This will be led by the findings of the ecological assessments and through the Biodiversity Management Plan.

Cllr Worrell, Stroud Green Ward Councillor

Although Cllr Worrell's feedback was submitted after the deadline, it has been included for reasons of transparency. It is noted that both Cllr Worrell and Cllr Dunstall support the submission made by Cllr Abela.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 Hosting large and major events within the borough's parks contributes to supporting the local economy, developing the cultural offer in the borough and provides an opportunity for local people to enjoy these types of events with minimal travel.
- 7.2 The recommendations made will contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to the Corporate Delivery Plan 22/23 and 23/24. However, much of this is focused on Theme 7: Culturally rich borough, which sets out how the Council will build a fairer, greener borough by 2024.
- 7.3 Theme 7: 'Culturally rich borough' within the Corporate Delivery Plan 'prioritises this because of the role we know that arts, culture and heritage will play in helping us to build a vibrant and inclusive economy, welcoming and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities, and healthy and fulfilling lives for our residents'.
- 7.4 This can specifically be seen in the following intermediate outcomes:
- The Council will have a more fully developed vision for the role of arts, culture and heritage in the borough which reflects what is important to Haringey's diverse communities, creates wider opportunities for residents and attracts the interest of visitors;
 - Celebrating and inspiring will enhance Haringey's cultural reputation and profile in London and beyond;
 - There will be an increase in resident, cultural sector and community collaboration and participation in arts and culture.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

- 8.1 Haringey Council has been a leader in carbon dioxide (CO₂) reduction and in its work on climate change. The borough delivered its 40% (and exceeded by 3%) carbon reduction by 2020 from its 2005 baseline. It has a better performance than neighbouring authority areas and officers will continue to work with hirers to ensure that all events are delivered as sustainably as possible.
- 8.2 The Applicant is fully aware of the importance of protecting the environment and limiting its carbon emissions and is guided by its own Sustainable Statement. A post-event monitoring report is used each year to inform future efforts to conserve energy at all events.
- 8.3 Whilst it is acknowledged that outdoor events can generate considerable waste, the Applicant makes a concerted effort to address this. Strict onsite recycling systems are implemented to ensure as little waste as possible ends up in landfill, as well as a ban on single use plastics. A reusable cup system is in place, along with reusable water bottles being permitted, filled at water stations located across the festival site. Plastic food ware isn't permitted on site and serving materials used include wood, recycled paper/card and bamboo/vegeware.
- 8.4 Food traders use locally sourced produce, with vegetarian and vegan options encouraged.

8.5 The Applicant will be working with an ecology expert to monitor supplier movement within the park, to ensure contractual obligations are being met and, in addition to a number of charitable donations made to local organisations, a donation has been made to the Council's partner Trees For Streets which will see a number of additional trees planted in the park

9. The Open Spaces Act 1906

9.1 The income generated from these events is for the benefit of the park itself and is fundamental to keeping it open as a viable facility.

9.2 All income generated through events specifically held in Finsbury Park, will be spent in the park as required under the Open Spaces Act 1906 (the Act). In the first instance, this will assist with all management and maintenance costs associated with running the park. Any surplus event income derived will be used to make improvements to the park's infrastructure, as set out in the Outdoor Events Policy at 8.2.5.

9.3 The said above, the Cabinet Member is made aware of the fact that the Council does have a statutory duty under the Act as trustee to hold the land comprising the park on trust for the public. As such, in coming to a view on the recommendations contained in the report, account has to be taken of the existence and impact of all material circumstances which arise from a decision to grant in-principle approval for the events to take place prior to the Cabinet Member coming to a settled view.

9.4 Officers have set out the concerns from objectors and how they can be overcome at the sub-paragraphs under 6.33 above. Officer responses to the concerns raised recognise that a large proportion of the park will remain open whilst the events take place, and that the event days take up no more than 7% of the park for 1.6% of the year / 6% of the year, including build and break days. These responses also take into consideration the outcome of the EqIA at Appendix 3.

10. Statutory Officers' comments

10.1 Director of Finance (including procurement)

This information is exempt and is attached as Part B of this report.

10.2 Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

10.2.1 The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.2.2 The law which governs the Council's powers to hire Finsbury Park in these circumstances was settled in a High Court challenge for judicial review brought by the Friends of Finsbury Park (the Friends) against the decision to permit the application to stage Wireless 2016 in the park.

10.2.3 In summary, the judge ruled that the provisions of section 44 of the Public Health Amendment Act 1890; The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 and section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – all of which govern

the ability to permit entertainment in open spaces such as the park – “*creates different powers for different places subject to different limitations*”. Accordingly, the judge went on to rule that “*s145 of the 1972 Act, of itself and standing alone, provides the Council with the necessary power to permit Wireless 2016 to take place in the Park*”.

10.2.4 The significance of that ruling, was that the restriction placed on the amount of the park which could be enclosed or set apart to facilitate the event, and the duration for such enclosure as prescribed under the 1890 and 1967 Acts – “*one acre or one tenth of the [park] whichever is greater*” / “*12 days in any one year, nor four [six in London] consecutive days on any one occasion*” – simply did not apply.

10.2.5 The Friends then appealed to the Court of Appeal. However, the appeal was dismissed on 16th November 2017, with all three judges ruling that the High Court judge had correctly identified what the legal power position was.

10.2.6. The Friends then sought permission to appeal to the Supreme Court. However, that application was dismissed on 26th June 2018 on the grounds that it “does not raise an arguable point of law”.

10.2.7 The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Leisure from approving the recommendations in the report.

10.3 Equality

10.3.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

10.3.2 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

10.3.3 An equality impact assessment was completed to accompany the decision in December 2013 to adopt Haringey’s Outdoor Events Policy, which governs the assessment of event applications to Finsbury Park. The policy does not permit events where the sole purpose is as a religious act of worship. The impact assessment acknowledged that this restriction could have the effect of discouraging religious or belief organisations from using the park for major worship-based events. However, it reasoned that this restriction could be justified because such religious/belief-based events by their very nature could exclude

others who do not share that religion/belief from attending the event or using the park more generally.

10.3.4 The Council's Outdoor Events Policy ensures that event providers operate in accordance with the Equality Act and do not discriminate against groups who share a protected characteristic.

10.3.5 The Policy aims to strike a balance between ensuring that parks can be used as a community asset for all groups to access for the majority of the year, against the need to generate income from hosting events and for these to contribute to the borough's cultural and leisure offer.

10.3.6 An equality impact assessment has been completed to accompany the Krank Events Ltd applications and can be found in Appendix 3. The assessment explores impact on residents with protected characteristics, in particular those living in wards immediately surrounding Finsbury Park: Stroud Green (LB Haringey), Harringay (LB Haringey), Brownswood (LB Hackney), Finsbury Park (LB Islington).

10.3.7 The assessment identifies that children, women with children and people with disabilities will be, to a limited extent, impacted negatively by the proposal, as they are more likely to use the park and have accessibility needs. However, this needs to be balanced against the identified benefits for the community, improving equality of opportunities and fostering good relations. The Council is taking a number of actions to mitigate the negative impact on specific groups with protected characteristics arising from the events including ensuring that the 93% of the remaining park and all facilities including play and sports facilities, remain open and disabled parking bays are still available to use while these events are taking place.

10.3.8 The Council is committed to working with event organisers to reduce the effects of noise from events on all residents living near the park and will enforce the individual conditions that accompany the event's permission including those related to reducing disruption, number of days (including set up) and maximum event space.

11. Use of appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – List of Finsbury Park stakeholders who were consulted.

11.2 Appendix 2 – Finsbury Park stakeholders' full responses to park hire applications.

11.3 Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment: Applications by Krank Events Ltd to hire Finsbury Park for two multi-event weekends each year from 2024 to 2028.

11.4 Part B – Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

12. Background papers

12.1 Haringey Outdoor Events Policy -

<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s48887/OEP%20-%20CLEARED%20COVERING%20REPORT.pdf>