

## Appendix 2:

### Finsbury Park recognised stakeholders' full responses to Krank Events Ltd park hire applications – 2024-28

**From:** The Friends of Finsbury Park

1. We are writing to object to the applications by Krankbrother: i) to vary Premises Licence LN/000023717 to increase the capacity from 8,000 to 9,999 persons on event days; and ii) to vary Premises Licence LN/000025053 to increase the capacity from 8,000 to 9,999 persons and to add an additional event day on a Friday (together, "the Applications").

Background

2. Haringey Council first permitted Krankbrother to stage events in Finsbury Park in 2018. This was a two-day LGBTQ+ focused event (15-16 September 2018) with a capacity of 3,000 persons a day. In 2019, Krankbrother held events on two days (16-17 August 2019, one of which was LGBTQ+ focused) with a capacity of up to 3,500 persons a day.

3. In 2021, Haringey Council permitted Krankbrother to stage four days of events over two consecutive weekends (7-8 and 14-15th August 2021) with a capacity of 6,000 persons a day. In 2022, Haringey Council approved an increase in capacity from 6,000 to 8,000 persons a day, including an increase in all staffing and infrastructure to match the increased capacity. This allowed Krankbrother to hold four days of events over two consecutive weekends (6-7 and 13-14 August 2022) with a capacity of 8,000 persons a day.

4. In 2022, Haringey Council also approved Krankbrother's application to add an additional event day and to provide Live Music and Films as well as Recorded Music and Performance of Dance. As a result, in 2023, Krankbrother held five days of events (5-6 and 11-13 August 2023), with a capacity of 8,000 persons a day. Due to the time spent building up and de-rigging the event space, Krankbrother occupied the park for a total of 22 days in 2023.

5. In late 2023, Krankbrother made the current Applications to further increase capacity to 9,999 persons a day and add an additional event day. If granted, Krankbrother would occupy the park for an estimated total of 23 days, with up to 59,994 persons attending six event days. This would represent an increase of just under 54,000 attendees (899% increase) and three times the number of event days since 2018.

6. This history demonstrates the gross encroachment of Krankbrother events in Finsbury Park. It is submitted that the cumulative impact to the community in permitting these events to take place year on year, at a larger scale, over more days, is not consistent with the objectives in the Licensing Act 2003.

Our objections

7. Our objections are set out under the four statutory licensing objectives in the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Objectives"):

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

8. Krankbrother events cause major public nuisance, including noise nuisance, air pollution, light pollution, and litter. The noise levels and vibrations from the events cause significant distress to residents, severely impacting individual and community wellbeing. As well as distress during the events, many residents are now reporting to The Friends of Finsbury Park that they feel anxious all year round in contemplation of the summer events period.

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9. During the event period, dramatically increased vehicle traffic in the park and surrounding roads pollutes the air, negatively impacting residents' health. Event attendees leave litter in the park and surrounding areas, despite Krankbrother's assurances that they have procedures in place to clean the park. Following the 2023 events, The Friends of Finsbury Park found debris and litter, including dangerous items such as metal rods that were left embedded in the ground after the de-rig.

10. The Friends of Finsbury Park receive numerous complaints during the Krankbrother event periods. The below complaints were received during August 2023 and represent contemporaneous reports of public nuisance caused by these events:

Complaint - 5 August 2023, 8:22pm

"The noise levels have been terrible even as far as away as the Newington Green end of Green Lanes. I logged a complaint but given the phone number is going through to the festival organisers themselves, I thought I would pass on the complaint number (which callers have to ask for and is not automatically given): 2023/10."

Complaint - 6 August 2023, 9:47am

"I am writing to complain about several issues related to the current Krankbrothers event in Finsbury Park:

1. yesterday (Saturday) from around 6pm the music was unreasonably loud, so much so that we could hear it throughout our house, even with windows and doors closed. It is not fair to expect local residents to tolerate such invasive noise. We have decided to go away for the day/evening today to escape this disturbance, however I resent being put in this position.

2. at around 8.30am this morning a black van (number plate starting with DV19) drove up to the Krankbrothers site, parked next to one of the 'no idling' signs, and the driver got out of the vehicle and entered the site on foot, leaving his engine running! Unbelievable that he did this right next to the sign, and that none of the staff nearby requested that he turned off his engine. I conclude from this that you really don't care about the damage you do to our park and our environment.

3. yesterday afternoon there were around 14 vehicles parked on the carriageway in Finsbury Park near the site, however Finsbury Park is now a no-parking area. You should insist that festival staff travel to the site by public transport.

4. This year you have taken up a larger area than previously, and blocked the route from Endymion Road to Manor House tube, without providing a clear route for pedestrians and cyclists to follow. This is unfair on residents and park users many of whom use this route daily.

5. This year the set up seemed to start earlier than previously, and we were deprived of this area of the park for the whole of the weekend prior to the events. In former years I am pretty sure that the set up started after the weekend prior to the events, why did the set up start so early this year?

6. I have already expressed that I consider this area totally unsuitable for such events, particularly because it is the most nature rich area of Finsbury Park, and the 150 year old Plane Trees should be treasured and protected, rather than subjected to the inevitable damage caused by the set up/take down/and extreme footfall of so many attendees over so many days. Haringey Council should not allow

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you to use this area, and you should take the lead and be more environmentally considerate and request a different site.

7. I did not receive the Information for Residents leaflet for these events, even though I live in one of the streets nearest to your event.

8. To reiterate, you are unable to mitigate the negative impact of this event - year on year the noise levels are unbearable for local residents, and the damage to the park both visible and invisible intensifies.”

Complaint - 6 August 2023, 10:03pm

“My family and I live opposite Clissold Park (still Green Lanes road) and growing up, we'd always hear music from Finsbury Park - late into the night, even with all the windows shut.

My grandparents are housebound due to their illnesses and they live directly opposite the park, so they can't escape the noise... The 'shouting/aggressive' music affects my grandmother the most. She has dementia and thinks people are being attacked outside and are yelling for help. My grandad doesn't wear his hearing aid and doesn't communicate much. Neither can advocate for themselves, they can't speak English or use technology. I've been looking after them overnight, so know they've been suffering for years.”

Complaint - 11 August 2023, 8:42pm

“[...] I am writing to complain about the unreasonable level of noise from the Krankbrothers event this evening. I came home from a demanding and stressful day at work, to be un-welcomed back by the loud, persistent, repetitive thudding music, which I can hear over and above the radio and tv which I have put on to try and drown it out.

I imagine you will say it is within the permitted levels, but I would argue that the permitted levels are too high, as they invade my home life, thudding on for hours on end, and no doubt it will be as bad tomorrow and Sunday.

Also, I have also seen photographs of more heavy equipment (toilets, food stands, lorries etc) next to the lovely old plane trees, which will undoubtedly negatively affect the trees' health, and, scandalously, a large branch appears to have been chopped off to accommodate the event.

It is shocking that you expect local residents to put up with such unreasonable levels of noise and thudding so often and for so long, and shocking that you have no regard for the beautiful plane trees.”

Complaint - 13 August 2023, 10:06pm

“I am writing to complain about the noise levels this evening (Sunday), from just after 7pm – the music was unreasonably loud, and yet again invaded my home life with the thudding base for hours on end. I know you will say that it was within the permitted levels, but [...] the permitted levels are way too high, and Krankbrothers should take responsibility for this and lower the sound levels, and Haringey Council should lower the permitted levels. I passed a neighbour in the street earlier and she mentioned how awful she found the excessive noise levels and when I told her she should complain she said there was no point, as she'd complained in previous years and neither the council or the event organisers did anything about it.

I want you to log my complaints, and to pause for a minute to consider the negative impact on one's well-being of loud thudding music for several hours for 3 consecutive days, for 2 weekends. I am sure you would also find it disturbing and stressful. I am also dreading seeing the state the park is left in

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once the set has been dismantled, and am particularly concerned about the health of the trees in this area, especially as most of the advice from the Woodland Trust is being ignored.”

#### Public Safety

11. Krankbrother events cause several serious public safety issues, both within the park and in surrounding areas. These issues are caused throughout the event period, including the build-up and de-rigging, and for the months following. Some of the issues are as follows:

12. Street safety: Event attendees congregate en masse on the streets surrounding the park before, during, and after events, causing safety and access issues for residents. A Committee Member of The Friends of Finsbury Park reported that on each of the Krankbrother event days in 2023, they were unable to safely enter and exit their home due to large crowds of event attendees gathered on the street, most of whom were drinking alcohol. The large crowds caused crowding and safety issues by blocking the footpath and forcing pedestrians, including families with prams and young children, onto the road into incoming traffic to pass.

13. Overcrowding: The application to increase capacity from 8,000 to 9,999 states that “all other elements of the Premises License to remain unchanged”, indicating that Krankbrother has not asked for an increase in footprint or an increase in the numbers of security and other staff to accommodate the proposed near 2,000 additional attendees per day. Clearly, an increase in capacity without an increase to footprint and security would raise the risk of overcrowding within the events and at the entry/exit points. Overcrowding within events and in surrounding areas also creates an increased risk of violence.

14. Disability access: Vehicles used to build-up and de-rig the events block footpaths within the park, preventing people with disabilities from accessing the park. In 2023, the walkway left open along the north-east side of the park during the event period became very muddy and dangerous. Within the first few days of the event period, the walkway was closed completely, leaving no accessible options for people who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

15. Safety within the park: The site becomes very muddy and this mud is traversed throughout the pavements in the park, which creates significant risk of falling/injury to park users, both during the event period and long after.

16. In addition, the noise from events disproportionately impacts people with health conditions. As detailed in the complaint in paragraph 10 above (6 August 2023, 10:03pm): “my grandparents are housebound due to their illnesses and they live directly opposite the park, so they can't escape the noise.. The 'shouting/aggressive' music affects my grandmother the most. She has dementia and thinks people are being attacked outside and are yelling for help.”

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

17. Finsbury Park is a hotspot for crime and anti-social behaviour. The park has a long and persistent history of violent crimes, harassment and sexual assault of women and girls, theft, and drug dealing. Large events attract an increase in levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, both within the park and in the surrounding streets. On event days, residents and park users observe a very noticeable increase in drug dealing and drug taking in the immediate vicinity to the park and within the park. Residents have routinely reported such incidents to the police and local authorities, as well as incidents where event attendees have trespassed in front gardens to drink alcohol and urinate.

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#### The Protection of Children from Harm

18. Haringey Council has a duty to protect children from harm. Events in the park cause harm to children by exposing them to consumption of alcohol, drug taking, crime, strong language, and sexual expletives. In addition, the significant increase in anti-social behaviour, high noise levels and pollution from vehicles (as detailed above) pose a serious risk to children's health. Local families have reported distressed children who cannot sleep during events due to the loud music and frightening vibrations and children being collected from local schools have reported scary walks home through crowds of people. The application to add an additional event day on a Friday would further impact children's safety returning home after school.

19. Furthermore, Children represent a majority of park users and events prevent children from accessing the park. Haringey Council claims that Krankbrother events only use 5% of the park, with all facilities remaining available to use. In reality, the noise, vehicle traffic and volume of event attendees mean that vast sections of the park are unusable for multiple weeks during summer. Families and children are put off from using the sections of the park that are open due to the disruption and lack of safety.

20. In addition, more dense housing stock is due to be built opposite the event site on Green Lanes which will increase the number of children and families affected by noise, vibration, loss of green space and crime.

#### Environmental concerns

21. Whilst we note that the protection of the natural environment is not one of the Objectives, we believe the damage to the environment caused by Krankbrother events ought to be taken into consideration when considering the Applications.

22. The Krankbrother events take place in the most bio-diverse area of Finsbury Park. There are several veteran Plane trees which, during the event period, are surrounded by toilets, food stalls, and lorries. In 2023, a large branch on one of the Plane trees was cut off to make way for event infrastructure. To prevent tree damage from soil compaction during events, the Finsbury Park Events' 'Contract for Hire' contains a requirement of a 3 metre minimum distance for any equipment sited within close proximity to any trees. Krankbrother were clearly in breach of this requirement in 2023, as observed on multiple occasions by The Friends of Finsbury Park and other residents/park-users. Indeed, following the event period in 2023, a large area around the avenue of trees had to be "air-jetted" due to root compaction caused by the events.

23. Furthermore, the park is home to a great variety of wildlife, including several species of bat. Haringey Council is aware that all bat species and their roosts are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017), having continually cited this as a reason for refusing to install safety lighting in the park. Allowing Krankbrother to hold events which cause significant light pollution and disturbance to bat species is wholly inconsistent with the legislative protections and the Council's position on lighting in the park.

24. The park is also home to a number of nesting birds: mistle thrush (protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and classified as a red species Bird of Conservation Concern), dunnoek (classified as an amber species Bird of Conservation Concern), long-tailed tits, woodpeckers, and treecreepers. These birds are disturbed by the noise and lights from the events, which creates a very real danger of causing these birds to abandon their nests.

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#### Conclusion

25. The Friends of Finsbury Park strongly object to the Applications.

26. It is clear that the current capacity of Krankbrother events and the number of event days is causing serious harm to the community. If an additional event day on a Friday and an increase in capacity on all event days is permitted, the issues detailed under each of the Objectives above would increase significantly. .

27. Haringey Council's Licensing Policy Statement 2021-2016 states that: "this authority does not consider that it is reasonable for Haringey communities to suffer because of the actions of irresponsible profiteering business operators or the inconsiderate few." The policy, therefore, seeks to provide a balance between promoting "a vibrant business and night-time economy" while ensuring that the quality of life of those who live and work in the borough is protected.

28. Haringey Council must protect the quality of life of its residents, particularly the lives of children and vulnerable individuals, who are disproportionately affected by large Events in Finsbury Park

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**From:** Ladder Community Safety Partnership

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the LCSP and Harringay Police Panel. Residents who were present at a very well-attended joint LCSP/Ward Panel meeting on 23 January discussed this series of applications and unanimously expressed their strong opposition to the new Krankbrother proposals for capacity and duration.

Sadly, the Licensing criteria do not include Protection of the Natural Environment, which makes it even more important that officers and councillors are fully aware of the damage to the fabric of the Park which is being caused by these events, not least because of the specific location in which they are held.

This area of the Park is one of the most biodiverse and especially vulnerable to large numbers of people, causing impacted ground, damage to the habitat, harm to wildlife and degradation of mature trees (both above and below ground). It is a totally inappropriate site for the Krankbrother events, the more so as they have been allowed to increase in size and duration year by year. It is self-evident that a substantial increase in numbers attending will intensify all of these harms to the fabric of the Park. The initial programme in 2018 was for a 2 day event with a maximum of 3000/day. We are now being presented with a proposal for 6 days and 9,999/day for 2024-28. These figures alone should give the Council pause for thought. Leaving aside all the issues about noise, air and light pollution, vibration, asb and crime, is this mission creep really in the best interests of Finsbury Park itself, which is ultimately what we should all be nurturing and defending.

In conclusion, I note your comment that proposed events should be 'of a high standard and not only meet but improve on previous years'. I applaud the sentiment, but it is very hard to see how the proposed massive increase in numbers (and duration) could be construed as an 'improvement'.

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**From:** Ladder Community Safety Partnership

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Since my submission of 24 Jan, I have been contacted by residents with appropriate expertise who have provided more scientific evidence of likely damage to mature trees and other plant life, already noted in layman's terms in my representation as 'degradation below ground level'. I would therefore like to add the following comments to my initial statement:

The Karnkbrother site is widely recognised as a mature and previously settled area of biodiversity. Under the surface is a fragile network of mycorrhizal fungi [a beneficial association between plant roots] and micro-organisms that exist unseen, but are continually sustaining life in the manner of a 'wood-wide web', sourcing nutrients, minerals, water and so on.

A 20% increase in footfall (with bigger staging, sound systems, props and machinery) will lead to greater degradation of the delicate hyphae [threads] within the mycelium [the overall network of threads] particularly during times of seasonal water shortages. This will be further exacerbated by the impact of virtually ten thousand pairs of feet jumping and dancing in unison, compacting the soil with the confines of the site.

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**From:** Highbury Community Association

On behalf of Highbury Community Association, opposition needs to be expressed to both the increase in numbers attending and the increase in days of attendance, since these are likely to make a detrimental impact on the park in terms of the space taken up and the time in which local residents using the park are affected. Residents have reported noise, vibrations, intimidating crowds and drug dealing, and the set up and take down period at present is already 22 days. The area of the park affected is one in which there are veteran trees, important protected bird species, and bats, which are also protected.

In 2025, it could be that climate change brings somewhat hotter summers, making this event more problematic for local residents, attendees and the environment of the park.

In 2026, it could be that climate change brings hotter summers, making this event more problematic for local residents, attendees and the environment of the park.

In 2027, it could be that climate change brings hotter summers, making this event more problematic for local residents, attendees and the environment of the park.

In 2028, it could be that climate change brings hotter summers, making this event more problematic for local residents, attendees and the environment of the park.

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**From:** Finsbury Park Parkrun

We have submitted the same information for all five applications.

parkrun respects that Haringey Council is the appropriate body to decide how the park is used and as such we do not make objections against other events happening. Instead, we make clear the likely impact on parkrun so that decisions can be made with full information. We understand that other events may mean we have to cancel, although we appreciate when efforts are made to allow parkrun to take place alongside other events.

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parkrun is a free community sports event where around 500 local people walk, jog or run 5km each Saturday morning, supported by 25+ volunteers each week.

If the Krankbrother event is located in the same place as it has been in previous years the festival site blocks our route and we will need to cancel on event days as a minimum. It is useful to us when more specific location information is included in event applications.

In 2023 we were cancelled on 17th June, 24th June, 1st July and 8th July (for the Live Nation events) and then again on 29th July, 5th August and 12th August for the Krankbrother events (one set-up day and two event days). In 2023 we were told on 19th July that we could not go ahead on 29th July, following a pro-active email from our event team to confirm that we were still able to go ahead as agreed.

No dates are included in the application for when site build and take down will take place. For us, it is much easier if clear dates can be given well in advance. We understand there may be unexpected delays due to e.g. poor weather, but it puts additional work on our volunteer organising team if we have to chase whether or not we can go ahead or if we have to cancel at short notice. We also find our community more accepting of cancellations when announced well in advance so that they can make alternative plans.

We typically find it difficult to recruit volunteers for events in the middle of cancellations. If take down/set up times for the two festival series leave only a single Saturday morning where we are able to go ahead we would normally also cancel that week as it's just too difficult to get everything going again for a one-off event.

We are sometimes able to run during the set-up and take-down period. In order for us to be able to run while event infrastructure is on site we would need:

- A traffic curfew on the main carriageway around the park between 8.45 and 9.45 am
- The carriageway to be clear of barriers.
- At least 3 weeks prior knowledge of anywhere where we may need to divert from our normal route, to give us time to risk assess any diversion and have them approved by parkrun HQ (we have not historically been able to find a workable diversion around the Krankbrother site).

We have previously found contractors for this event quite aggressive when we have been in the park taking photos to demonstrate why we are not able to go ahead. If contractors don't personally want to be in photographs we are happy to respond to polite requests, but aggression towards our volunteers (or indeed any other park user) is unpleasant and unnecessary.

We note that section of carriageway between the traffic barrier at the Green Lanes entrance to the park and the cafe at Manor House is in moderately poor condition in some places (potholes, raised ironworks etc) and would be interested to know what maintenance plans are in place for this section over the five-year period.

As ever, once the application process has been completed, please let us know what is agreed so we can make arrangements to cancel or go ahead as needed.

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**From:** Cllr Abela, Harringay Ward Councillor

I am writing to you in my capacity as one of the local councillors representing Harringay ward.

I am writing to express my concern about Krankbrother's application to increase both the number of attendees and the number of days for its annual Krankbrother in the Park event in Finsbury Park.

As a local councillor representing the residential streets neighbouring Finsbury Park, I receive a high volume of resident complaints about this event each Summer.

Many of these resident complaints centre around the noise emanating from the event. The thudding of bass music in an open air venue disrupts nearby residents' daily lives, making it difficult for them to rest, work, watch television or listen to the radio. The impact of this excessive noise is particularly felt by elderly residents in the area, some of whom are unable to leave their bedrooms due to poor health. Increasing the number of days on which this event will run will prolong this disruption of residents' daily lives.

Secondly, residents are concerned that this event is having a harmful environmental impact, particularly as it takes place in an area of the Park that is rich with visually spectacular plane trees that may be damaged due to the compaction of the surrounding soil. The Woodland Trust's guidance on tree protection at events states: "It is recommended that nothing takes place within an area that has a radius 15 times the diameter of the tree at breast height or 5m beyond the crown whichever is the greater."

Krankbrother's Event App application does not provide assurances that the event will follow this guidance, while an overview of the event's sustainability plan has not yet been provided. In my capacity as a local councillor, I wish to receive assurances from Krankbrother that every measure will be taken to protect Finsbury Park's vibrant biodiversity during this event. The need for these assurances is even greater now that Krankbrother wish to increase the duration and capacity of this event. I strongly urge Krankbrother to share their environmental impact assessment and details of any environmental protection measures they intend to take with all Harringay and Stroud Green councillors, as well as local community groups, so that these can be duly scrutinised.

As Krankbrother is applying to increase the capacity of this event to 9,999 persons per day, it is also concerning that an overview of how the company will conduct crowd management for an event with a higher attendance has not been provided with this event application. As poor crowd management could pose a safety risk to attendees, I ask for this to be provided promptly.

Thank you for kindly considering my letter.

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**From:** Cllr Brabazon, Harringay Ward Councillor

I understand Krankbrothers want to increase their numbers up to the 9,999 limit from their present capacity. Being literally just under the 10,000 limit means they continue to pay the same fee whilst the impact on this ecologically sensitive area of the park of the increased numbers is likely to be considerable. In addition, I understand they want to add an additional day to their events. Given the likely impact on the park, and the additional noise and inconvenience to local residents, if this goes ahead, I would like to know if, and how we can

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- Secure additional income from this company and/or
- Relocate them to a less sensitive area of the park
- Ensure there are plans in place, and plans implemented, to protect the trees and ecology wherever they are sited -especially if they remain in the same area of the park as in previous years

I also note the budget for this event is c£2m – can you please let me know how much income LBH earns from Krankbrothers

And finally, they say, in the section on community benefit *Donations made to local environmental groups*. Do you have any information on these donations?

- How much is donated?
- To which groups?
- Is there an application process? If so, is this managed by Krankbrothers?
- Is there any documentation on the donations and beneficiaries?

I would appreciate a response to the point is Have raised.

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**From:** Cllr Worrell, Stroud Green Ward Councillor

I hope you are well. I have just realised that I've missed your deadline to submit our own response to the below, apologies. But if it's not too late, I'd like it to be noted that Cllr Dunstall and I support wholeheartedly the response made by Cllr Abela, and would have made our own representation along similar lines.