

**Report for:** Cabinet Member Signing

**Item number:** 3

**Title:** Slammin' Events hire of Finsbury Park for Hospitality in the Park and Tranz-mission

**Report authorised by :** Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director – Commercial and Operations

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**Ward(s) affected:** Harringay Ward and Stroud Green Ward

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 A park hire application has been received from Slammin' Events to host Hospitality in the Park and Tranz-mission, two one day music events, proposed to take place in Finsbury Park on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2016 (respectively).
- 1.2 Slammin' Events has requested to move onto site at 8am, Monday 19 September and would leave site by 6pm, Wednesday 28 September, a total of 10 days.
- 1.3 The opening times of the event would be as follows:

### **Saturday 24 September – Hospitality in the Park**

Gates open: 11am  
Event ends: 10.30pm  
Attendance: 9,999

### **Sunday 25 September – Tranz-mission**

Gates open: 11am  
Event ends: 10pm  
Attendance: 9,999

## 2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Cabinet Member for Environment is recommended to:

- (a) Consider the reply received from the Finsbury Park stakeholders in response to the event notification. A summary of this response is detailed below, with the full response attached as Appendix 1.
- (b) Agree that Finsbury Park is hired to Slammin' Events for the music events taking place on 24 and 25 September 2016, which is in line with the Outdoor Events Policy.

### **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 Events in Finsbury Park are a long standing feature of the summer season in the park. They are met each year with a mixed opinion from most, with some objectors.
- 4.2 The rationale for holding events is both economic and cultural. Hosting events in parks supports the cultural offer in the borough, enables communities to come together and promotes economic growth benefiting local business. Overall a vibrant event programme supports the council's outcome of the Borough as a great place to live and work. Income derived from events are very much at the heart of sustaining the Parks Service rather than exposing it to further cuts which would mean a lower standard of parks maintenance across the borough and within Finsbury Park itself.
- 4.3 Many people will recall the no-go place Finsbury Park was prior to its restoration in 2005. It has now held a Green Flag Award, the national standard for excellence in parks, for 10 years and has benefited from further investment of £500,000 over the last two years, all funded from event income. But the benefit is much wider as income is used to support projects in other parks and raising standards across all parks.
- 4.4 Slammin' Events has successfully held a September house/drum and base music weekend in Finsbury Park since 2014 with very few complaints.
- 4.5 In June 2016 Slammin' Events was granted a Premises Licence for Finsbury Park, to host up to 4 music events per year, for the next ten years. Use of the park is still subject to individual park hire applications for each event planned.
- 4.6 The council remains committed to improving the experience for local residents and is continuing to work with partners in all three boroughs to ensure these events go ahead and residents see improvements in the delivery from 2015.
- 4.7 A total of 30 stakeholder groups including: local residents associations, Hackney and Islington council officers and park user groups and leaseholders; councillors from 6 adjoining wards including in Hackney and Islington; internal council stakeholders including licensing and emergency planning; and statutory bodies including the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade were sent

notification of the application to hire Finsbury Park, and asked to submit their comments.

4.8 All stakeholders were given 10 days to respond, as outlined in the Outdoor Events Policy. A full list of stakeholders is attached at Appendix 2.

4.9 1 stakeholder group, the Friends of Finsbury Park, responded to the consultation (attached in full as Appendix 1).

4.10 A summary of points raised by the Friends of Finsbury Park follows, along with a response to each point:

(a) That a full bat survey be undertaken in relation to this event.

Two bat surveys have been commissioned in the park over the last two years, The key routes for bats within the park are not affected by the location of the events in the park.

(b) Earlier end times on both event days.

Finishing times were reviewed as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees review of events in Finsbury Park and they concluded based on the evidence submitted to them that the finish time of events in the park was appropriate.

(c) A noise map for Finsbury Park is provided.

We don't believe a noise map will provide any additional information as the licence includes monitoring the sound levels at the eight identified noise monitoring points, as set out in the premises licence. In previous years this event has generated very few complaints.

(d) Reduce the number of sound tents.

The number of tents at this event was also discussed at the licensing hearing and the Licensing Sub Committee did not see the need to limit the numbers in order to meet any requirements under the prevention of public nuisance objective. The noise limits set in the licence are the same whether there is one tent or a dozen tents.

4.11 The application is brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member for approval in accordance with paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 of the Outdoor Events Policy in that:

(a) event lasts more than 2 days with 5,000 or more in attendance

## **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 With the adoption of the Outdoor Events Policy in 2014, the Council established their commitment to using Finsbury Park for a limited number of major events each year.
- 5.2 The recommendations contained within this report are in line with that Policy and as such no alternative options have been considered other than to reject the Slammin' Events application.
- 5.3 The rejection of this application would have implications for the Parks Service budget and reduce the opportunity for reinvestment into Finsbury Park. It would also mean that the wider cultural and economic benefits to the borough were lost.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1 In January 2014 the Council introduced the Outdoor Events Policy.
- 6.2 The Policy recognises the value and benefit that a varied and well managed outdoor events programme can offer the residents of Haringey, and the Council is committed to supporting events that contribute to our vibrant culture, environment and economy.
- 6.3 The Policy assists the decision making process behind building a sustainable and varied programme of events and sets out how the council will notify and consult with recognised stakeholders for each park, for each park hire application received.
- 6.4 In June 2016 Slammin' Events were granted a premises licence that they will use to offer licensable activities in Finsbury Park.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 Hosting large music events within Finsbury Park contributes to supporting the local economy, developing the cultural offer in the borough and provides an opportunity for local people to enjoy this type of event with minimal travel.
- 7.2 The recommendations made will contribute to policy and practice primarily in relation to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work'.
- 7.3 In addition there are links to the Corporate Plan in relation to:  
Priority 2: 'Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives'  
Priority 4: 'Drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit'
- 7.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan sets out an increase of £600,000 of income during the period up to March 2018. All money raised by events is ring fenced back to the Parks budget to maintain and improve parks in the borough.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

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

### **8.2 Legal**

8.3 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and makes the following comments.

8.3.1 In its reply to the notification of the application, the Friends of Finsbury Park (FoFP) allude to ongoing litigation between itself and the Council on the question as to whether the Council has the legal power to grant the application.

8.3.2 In common with FoFP, that argument is not developed within these comments. However, suffice to say that unless or until the decision of the High Court judge in the litigation is overturned on appeal – and as at the date of drafting these comments FoFP has still to obtain permission from the Court of Appeal to bring an appeal: the High Court judge having refused to grant permission himself – the law remains that the Council does have the legal power to grant the application.

8.3.3 Should permission to appeal be granted, or in the unlikely event that the appeal is heard and determined before the date on which this decision is to be made, notification will be given to the Cabinet Member.

### **8.4 Equality**

8.5 Haringey's Outdoor Events Policy was agreed by Cabinet in December 2013. An equality screening tool was completed in regard to the proposed policy and that the proposal had no impact on protected characteristics other than religion or belief.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 – Friends of Finsbury Park full response to Slammin' Events park hire application

9.2 Appendix 2 – List of Finsbury Park stakeholders who were consulted

9.3 Park B – Not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

10.1 Haringey Outdoor Events Policy -

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