

Finsbury Park Events Stakeholder Group Meeting

6.30pm – 8.30pm, Tuesday 7 June 2022

Online via Teams

Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Attendees

Chair – Cllr Davies (LBH)

LB Haringey (LBH) - Sarah Jones (SJ), Simon Farrow (SF), Dan Wales, Andrea Keeble, Daliah Barrett, Joe Benmore (JB), Tony Healey

Festival Republic - Claire Armstrong

LB Islington – John Woolf

Highbury Community Association - Sarah Potter

Stroud Green Residents Association – Kit Greveson

Hermitage and New River Residents Association - Tristan Appleby

London Heathside – Adrian Essex

Finsbury Park Ward, Islington - Cllr Heather

Harringay Ward, Haringey – Cllr Brabazon, Cllr Abela

Alpha Dogs Club – Sue Evans

Arsenal Ward, Islington – Cllr Craig

Finsbury Park Trust – Talal Karim (joined at 18:50)

Apologies

Edible Landscapes London – Beth Anderson

Friends of Finsbury Park – Tom Graham

Michael Hickey – Finsbury Park Sports Partnership

Stroud Green Ward, Harringay – Cllr Worrell

Pedal Power – Jo Roach

Brownswood Ward, Hackney – Cllr Potter

2. 2022 major events planning update – Festival Republic

Claire Armstrong from Festival Republic provided a brief overview of the event plans for 2022.

FR move into the park on the 29 June to start the build. Will be done in phases and will start at the bottom of the bandstand field. Move out of the park by the 22 July.

Weekend 1 – Wireless

Friday 8, Saturday 9, Sunday 10 July

Weekend 2 – Sam Fender, Community Festival, George Ezra

Friday 15, Saturday 16, Sunday 17 July

Fridays – doors open at 1.30 with music starting at 3.30 to allow schools to finish.
Saturday / Sunday – doors open at 11am with music from 1.30.

Curfew on Friday and Saturday is 10.30pm, and on Sunday is 9.30pm

3 female headliners playing for Wireless.

2 stages used on each of the days, apart from George Ezra event where everything will take place on main stage.

Schools' music concert planned for 13 July, on smaller stage, near Oxford Road Gate.

Road closures will be put in place to accommodate main egress on each of the event days. Seven Sisters Road will be closed for approx 1 ½ hours with the agreement of TfL and SAG. Sterile area introduced on residential side roads in Hackney and Islington, to avoid event goers leaving down these roads and causing disturbance.

Resident liaison has already started with Hackney and Islington residents and members. These meetings will continue up to, and on event days to address any issues and to put improvement plans in place for following event day.

Safeguarding is a big focus this year. Violence Against Women and Girls – FR working with the police and adopting their national campaign. Anti-spiking campaign and 'Ask for Angela' will be in operation. These will be detailed in staff booklets, so everyone is aware.

LBH – Added that plans are progressing for the schools' concert. All stakeholders are invited, and details will be shared imminently.

Stakeholder tours will also take place. This gives stakeholders an opportunity to visit the event site on days prior to the events, at the event and during egress. Details will be shared with stakeholders closer to the time.

Cllr Heather – Plans have been developed well with the community so far. They feel like they have been listened to and actions progressed. Asked about the air ambulance landing site as know there were issues in the past.

FR – Have spoken with the LAS who has agreed that if there is a need for an air ambulance, then pilots make a dynamic risk assessment at the time re best landing spot.

Cllr Craig – Asked about discounted tickets for local young people, who may not be able to afford to purchase a ticket.

FR – Do give out some free tickets to schools. They also give out a limited number of resident tickets in a draw to residents living in roads closest to the park – in all three boroughs.

LBH – We're working with the Haringey Youth Service this year for some of their young people to volunteer as hosts in return to getting free entry to the event. We can see if this approach could be offered to Hackney and Islington in future years.

LBH – Community Safety Team could do anti violence promotion at the events as perfect target audience. They will plan to put something in place for this year and contact FR directly.

Cllr Brabazon – Wants guarantee that all play facilities will remain open. Also wants to know if all Licensing conditions have been met.

LBH – Yes, all facilities within the park, including all the play areas remain open on event days. FR are in discussions with the FP Sports Partnership about hiring the tennis courts to facilitate toilets.

LBH – Can confirm that discussions have been taking place between the relevant authorities of the Safety Advisory Group, and these are still ongoing. All conditions are being met. The event management plan is to be agreed 1 month prior to the first event day. Good discussions have already taken place and responsible authorities are happy with the event plans.

FR – All three boroughs will be responsible for their own borough waste clear ups, paid for by FR, and this joined up approach has been received well.

3. Play and Security Improvements – SF

LBH – Phase three of the play improvements to the Richard Hope Play Space are due to complete imminently, with the play area reopening on the 13 June. This includes the installation of accessible equipment, new paths and Wi-Fi, and completes the £350k improvement project.

All stakeholders should have received a letter recently, setting out commitments to new security measures. These include temporary lighting between Finsbury / Stroud Green Gates, up to Endymion Road Gate. Also, two-person security team operating in the park between 3-10pm, to provide reassurance to the public.

Tri-borough group has been formed to specifically look at community safety. Haringey now leading on this tri-borough action plan. Includes increasing a visible presence in the area, working with vulnerable groups and identifying co-production opportunities and improving communications. Will bring further updates to the group.

Cllr Heather – Tri-borough approach to Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group is similar which focuses on street cleansing etc. Park an integral part of the area, and really welcomes the approach.

Cllr Woolf – Commends tri-borough approach. Would welcome a briefing on what the team of police officers will be focusing on and also suggests signage on how to report crime / asb is improved in the park. Would welcome transparency on why the decision has been made to not lock the park at night.

LBH – Chief Inspector Waterfield is meeting with community representatives on 17 June to talk about Op Taipan. And we will look at getting signage put up in the park.

Concerns around equality issues have been identified which has meant that locking of the park won't take place at this current time. Concerns around the homeless who live in the park, certain groups using the park after dark, emergency exits if needed and lower paid workers who may use the park as their route to work – these issues currently outweigh the benefits of locking the park.

Chair – Locking will be kept under review, but currently the focus is on improving safety.

Cllr Heather – Stroud Green Gate is a real issue for ASB, and maybe consideration could be made to lock this while other gates remain open.

LBH – Operation Taipan which has been used successfully in Turnpike Lane and Tottenham Hale, is being introduced to Finsbury Park, to reduce crime and asb. Will ask lead to provide an update to the group.

Sue Evans – Lives in a road locally to the park, and since parking has been stopped in the park, there have been issues of non-residents parking in the road, causing issues for residents. Is this to be reviewed?

LBH – Currently have no plans to reintroduce public parking in the park. However, we are looking at redesigning Endymion Road gate to provide blue badge parking, to make the park more accessible for those with disabilities.

Cllr Brabazon – Finsbury Park is in Harringay Ward and therefore ward members must be told of any plans before others.

LBH – noted.

4. Environmental Impact Fee allocation – SJ / groups

SJ provided an overview of allocation for 2021 Environmental Impact Fee.

- A total of £14k awarded
- Pedal Power - £3.5k – purchase tools and new saddles for bikes and pay for track hire
- FP Sports Partnership - £6k – works to the disabled toilet
- Edible Landscapes - £3.5k – 8 family fun days over summer, raised accessible bed for wheelchair users
- FP Parkrun - £1k – equipment to facilitate events

Adrian Essex – provided an overview of how the FP Sports Partnership were going to spend the money, improving their accessible toilet.

Cllr Brabazon – Asked if local schools could access the money.

LBH – The EIF allocation must benefit the park. So the activities or improvements must take place in the park. Some of the local schools are part of the stakeholder group, so do get the information about the EIF and are able to bid for the money.

If schools want funding to host activities within the park, the People Need Parks Funding Opportunities may be a better resource, as this is open all year round and is open to anyone to undertake events, activities or improvement in any of the borough's parks. Further details can be found here - [People Need Parks: Funding Opportunities | Haringey Council](#)

5. AOB

Stakeholder Group Membership Review – It's been a few years since the membership was looked at so this will be reviewed, and new memberships agreed by the Chair. LBH to action.

6. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to take place at the end of June / beginning of July, before the major events – date to be circulated imminently.