

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018 REPORT NO. 9

MEETING TITLE AND DATE

Cabinet, 21st June 2017

REPORT OF:

Executive Director –
Regeneration &
Environment and
Finance Resources &
Customer Services

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 7

**Subject: Parks & Open Spaces Events
Strategy Review**

Wards: All

Key Decision No: KD 4456

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In 2012 the Council developed an Event's Guidance Document (2012 – 2017) that set out the approach to supporting and managing the delivery of events within Enfield's parks and open spaces. The approach, adopted through the Events Guidance Document is now at the point of review, and consequently the Parks Service has developed a new strategy that will steer the delivery of events through to 2022.
- 1.2 The vision of the new strategy is to enable the delivery of a diverse programme of events that will help to create a vibrant place to live and work, whilst also generating inward investment and a sustainable source of income that will help the Council maintain its parks and open spaces moving forward.
- 1.3 As part of the new strategy, the Parks Service is proposing to adopt a policy framework that will guide the management of park events. The policy framework, detailed in section 3.5 below, aims to provide reassurance to residents and stakeholders that all events will be managed effectively. The draft new strategy can be viewed in appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet agree to adopt the new strategy and use the framework set out within the strategy to guide the delivery of events in parks and open spaces going forward.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2012 the Council developed the Events Guidance Document, which set out how park events would be supported and attracted to Enfield's parks and open spaces. The Events Guidance Document was a 5 year strategy from 2012 until 2017, but now a new strategy is required to assist the development and management of events moving forward.
- 3.2 The Parks Service has developed a new strategy to enable further the development of a diverse programme of events that will add to the vibrancy of the borough, whilst generating income to help the Council to maintain Enfield's parks and open spaces. A key addition to the new strategy will be the development of a policy framework with key principles that will guide the number, frequency, and size of events that take place within Enfield's parks. During the summer of 2015 there was an increase in the number of largescale commercial park events that took place within the borough. The strategy, and the policy framework that is integral to the vision, has been developed to help reassure residents and stakeholders that all events will be managed effectively and any disruption will be minimised as far as possible.
- 3.3 The development of the policy framework follows a trial in Trent Park during the summer 2016, where a number of key principles were piloted. The principles that were developed with input from the Trent Park Events Stakeholder Group have helped to ensure effective management of events, whilst also managing the expectations of local residents.
- 3.4 To facilitate the development of the strategy, the Parks Service has held two workshops with stakeholders to discuss what should make up the principles of the framework. The stakeholders included the Friends of Parks, councillors, resident associations, community groups, event organisers and park concessions. There has also been a consultation that took place between 15th November – 17th January 2017 (a summary of the consultation results can be viewed in Appendix 2), and officers have also undertaken resident doorstep questionnaires at properties situated around Town Park, Trent Park, and Enfield Playing Fields, the three parks most affected by largescale events. The consultation was promoted via the Council's website, Posters and through social media. A final draft of the framework principles was shared with stakeholders on the 27th March with comments invited by 10th April.
- 3.5 The key elements of the proposed framework are:
A revised classification for the size of park events so that the Council and residents can better understand the scale and likely impacts of the largest park events. Currently park events are classed as small (50 – 200 people), medium (201 – 999) and largescale for any event over 1000 people. It is proposed that the

new strategy will include the addition of a 'major events' category for events attracting more than 5000 people on one day. This change will help people to understand better the scale of the largest park events. During the park events consultation 51% of respondents either strongly agreed or tended to agree with this proposal. Within the new strategy, the following categories would class the size of park events:

- Small events – 50 – 200 people
 - Medium events – 201 – 999 people
 - Large events – 1000 – 4999 people
 - Major – any event attracting 5000 people or more per day
- **A limit on the number of days when major events can take place within each park.** The existing strategy sets no limits on the number of largescale event days that can take place each year within each of the borough's parks. This provides residents with no reassurance that an event won't take place each weekend in their local park. It is proposed that there will be a cap of up to ten major or large scale event days per park per year, with a maximum of eight major (i.e. 5000+ people) event days per annum. When consulted, 85% of respondents either strongly agreed or tended to agree with setting a cap for large-scale and major events. When asked about what the cap should be, most people selected 4 – 8 per year (47%), with 25% selecting 9 – 12, and 14% supporting more than 12. Given that a quarter of respondents supported up to 12 major and large scale event days per year, the strategy will reflect this by limiting the number of major event days to 8 per park per annum, but allow a further 2 large-scale event days. The consultation did not provide an option for less than 4 major/largescale event days as some parks already host more than 3 longstanding large and major events and consequently this was not a commitment that the Council would have been able to uphold had the majority of respondents chosen that option.
 - **A minimum gap between major events so that there are two clear weekends between major events in any one park.** This principle is proposed to prevent consecutive set-up and clear down periods from merging. Approximately 71% percent of respondents to the consultation supported the proposal for a minimum two clear weekend gap between major events or 14 days. There will also be a cap on the number of major and large-scale events taking place during the school summer holidays with no more than 4 event days or 2 weekends taking place per park.
 - **A new fee structure to include set up and clear down days, with penalties for organisers who overrun.** The current fees and charges have provision only for the days when an event is actually running. The proposal is to charge fees that are proportionate for the duration, i.e. from when an organiser commences set up to the point when they leave site. This has been proposed to encourage organisers to set up and clear down efficiently and with minimal

disruption to the park and local area. Organisers will also be penalised if they overrun. Approximately 75% of respondents supported these new additional fees.

- **A streamlined consultation process for licensable events where new licensable events are agreed through the Licencing Committee.** The proposal is to replace the existing consultation process, which officers have been told, by stakeholders, is unclear and confusing, with a one-step consultation coordinated by the licensing team and reviewed by the Licensing Committee. Approximately 65% of respondents supported this approach, although some respondents said that there should also be a process for non-licensable large and major events - i.e. an event containing no regulated entertainment or sale of alcohol. In these cases the existing 28-day consultation period would continue, with a permit granted for approval, following the consideration of all stakeholder views.
- **Recognition that events held on one of the Borough's town and village greens should be dealt with separately to events within parks and open spaces.** Given the unique status of the Borough's town and village greens, it is proposed that only community events should be held on town and village greens. Town and village greens are provided for recreation purposes for the betterment of the community and it is believed that community events and small gatherings should be allowed to continue, but managed differently to events run in our parks and open spaces. This proposal was supported by 74% of the consultation respondents. The consultation results also provided a very clear view with regards to the use of Chase Green. Therefore, with regards to this strategy, the Council will no longer promote Chase Green as a potential event location, nor will the Council consider or accept applications for events on the Green. However, permission will still be required for events held on Southgate Green or the green at Winchmore Hill if it is necessary to close any roads as part of an event e.g. The May Day Fair, N21 Festival etc.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not to develop a new strategy and miss the cultural, economic, social and financial benefits that park events bring to borough.
- 4.2 Not to adopt a new strategy and risk challenge from the community that there is no framework under which park events can be managed and governed.
- 4.3 Adopt a new strategy that has no framework and offers the community no reassurance of the number, size or frequency of events within the Borough's parks and open spaces.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 A new strategy is required to guide the effective delivery of events within the Borough's parks and open spaces. The strategy is required to set out the framework under which events can be delivered to allow the enrichment of the cultural offering within the Borough, support economic growth and generate income that will help the Council maintain our parks & open spaces, and protect those residents who are most affected by events happening within their local park. It is believed that the proposed strategy provides a good balance between facilitating park events and protecting residents.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 The proposed strategy will allow the delivery of a range of events within the Borough's parks and open spaces. The events help to provide a varied cultural offering for the people of Enfield whilst also generating much needed income for the Council that is invested into the maintenance of the Borough's parks and open spaces. Failure to adopt a new strategy will limit the Council's ability to attract new events into the Borough and generate revenue.
- 6.1.2 The financial benefit from the proposed Parks & Open Spaces Events Strategy Review is difficult to estimate at this stage, but officers will be monitoring the financial benefits that are expected to arise from the strategy review in the monthly budget monitoring process and reported accordingly.

6.1 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 The Council has within its powers the ability to facilitate events with the borough's parks and open spaces, and generate income from these events.
- 6.2.2 The Council has the power to adopt the Enfield Park Events Strategy 2017- 2022.
- 6.2.3 The Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2012 (SI 2012/411) brought the general power of competence into force for principal local authorities. The introduction of the general power of competence means that the well-being power no longer applies to English Local Authorities and as such the general power of competence will provide the Council with the power to adopt the Street Works Enforcement and Prosecution Policy.

- 6.2.4 The general power of competence is set out in s. 1.1 of the Localism Act 2011 and states that “a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do. “ Ss (2) states that “Subsection (1) applies to things that an individual may do even though they are in nature, extent or otherwise— (a) unlike anything the authority may do apart from subsection (1), or (b)unlike anything that other public bodies may do.” Where the authority can do something under the power, the starting point is that there are to be no limits as to how the power can be exercised. For example, the power does not need to be exercised for the benefit of any particular place or group, and can be exercised anywhere and in any way. Section 2 sets out the boundaries of the general power, requiring local authorities to act in accordance with statutory limitations or restrictions.
- 6.2.5 The provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 will need to be applied in determining whether particular events require a Premises Licence, Temporary Events Licence.
- 6.2.6 The granting of any necessary Licence to Occupy for any events shall be granted in accordance with the Council’s Property procedure Rules and be in a form approved by the Assistant Director (Legal Services)

6.2 Property Implications

- 6.3.1 As part of the approval process for all park events, organisers are required to provide details of their event management plans to ensure the event is managed safely and with minimal impact to the park. All event applications are assessed by officers from the Parks Service and a bond is taken (proportionate to the size of the event) to cover any damage that might be caused by the event.
- 6.3.2 If events include the provision of mobile catering facilities, where there is an existing leased park café or licenced mobile, there could be issues regarding the potential loss of trade by tenants/licensees.
- 6.3.3 Although current leases and licences do not convey any exclusive rights to provide catering, consideration should be given, with the benefit of legal advice, as to whether the Council’s right to permit event catering should be included in future leases and licences to caterers, in order to make this clear.

7 KEY RISKS

- 7.1 There have been no key risks identified by the proposals outlined within this report.

8 IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

The proposals outlined within this report will ensure that there is an agreed framework under which events can be delivered within the Borough, whilst protecting those most affected by park events.

8.3 Growth and Sustainability

The adoption of a new strategy will enable the Council to generate income from park events that can be reinvested into the maintenance of the Borough's parks and open spaces.

8.4 Strong Communities

A new strategy will ensure that there is a rich and diverse programme of events within the Borough's parks and open spaces. Events bring the community together and allow people to learn about other cultures.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

A predictive EQIA has been undertaken and it has concluded that the proposed changes are not deemed to disproportionately impact residents from the protected characteristic groups. Details of this report are available to the public on request.

10 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no performance management implications from the recommendations outlined within this report.

11 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no health and safety implications from the recommendations outlined within this report. All large-scale events will continue to be assessed by the Safety Advisory Group to ensure that they meet all safety requirements, and event organisers will be required to risk assess their events.

12. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are a number of existing park events that promote a healthy and active lifestyle. These include the Cancer Research Race for Life, the Bear Grylls Survival Race, and a range of runs in parks across the Borough. In addition to these sport themed events, there are a range of events that provide a wide range of cultural events that help to support the mental health of the community.

Background Papers

None