

Friends of Trent Country Park

London Borough of Enfield
Licensing sub-Committee

June 7th 2017

Dear Sirs,

Trent Country Park – major event - August 5-6th 2017 – licensing appeal

At a public meeting of Friends of TCP on May 10th the subject of major events in our park, and the music event planned for August 5-6th 2017, were aired and serious reservations expressed. A resolution agreed that such intrusions into our park are harmful to the many users who, we believe, have prior rights to the park, and a source of major nuisance to neighbours who also suffer great loss of amenity during these commercial events. The meeting authorised the Friends to enter this rejection to the license application in respect of the music event proposed for the weekend of August 5-6th.

The term “Nuisance” is incorporated into the legislation as grounds for rejecting a license application with the intention to protect the daily lives of residents from undesirable, harmful even dangerous intrusions. We hold it self-evident that residents and park users have an overriding prior entitlement to peaceful enjoyment of their neighbourhood and its amenities. Nuisance grossly understates the loss encountered by parks users and local residents in this case, and we call on LBE to reject the application.

The principle nuisances are:

- Loss of free access to a large part of the park as heavy machinery and equipment is in play for the 8-9 days it takes to mount and knock down such a large event. Discouragement to free use of the park and danger to the person arising from protracted preparations are material reasons to prefer the public’s rights over the commercial interests of an event organiser whose only concern is substantial profit for itself. The music event proposed has no other social or cultural gain or benefit for Enfield residents other than a contribution to LBE’s coffers.
- That it is held in the middle of the summer school holidays is a further displacement for thousands of residents seeking to entertain their families at the height of the summer. This event could be moved to a more convenient time but LBE has made no effort to accommodate reasonable public expectations, because it disregards public priorities.
- That the 10,000 audience proposed for the August 6th event (following 15,000 the previous day) is a very large gathering is a further threat to residents and users, given that security plans to maintain control are low by general crowd control standards, and that LBE refuse to pay to ensure first line control to protect against incident or disturbance. Relying on a notional Met Police observer presence to initiate a full response in the event of disturbance is totally inadequate in the current climate and, LBE cannot allow any event to proceed on such loose terms.

- The object of the proposed event is to entertain a huge crowd to continuous loud music, accompanied and enhanced by liberal sales of alcohol. Such an event is totally alien to the neighbourhood and its residents almost none of whom showed any interest in attending it in 2015 or 2016. The levels of noise are a major nuisance and travel some distance from the site. Assurances that sound levels will be kept under control defy all experience where music is played on a rising scale to feed audience expectations.
- Transport to and from the site cannot be extended and relies on TfL to maintain a train service to Cockfosters Station. We are far from assured that this will happen this year, given the abuse and defecation experienced from audiences in 2015 and 2016. Parking in neighbouring roads is absolutely unacceptable as is parking in the park which would have the effect of excluding regular public visitors from TCP owing to congestion and prior occupancy of parking spaces. Continuous public access to TCP is a not optional.
- Major concerns centre on the resources and experience of both organisers and licensing authority to permit such an event. LBE has no skills or manpower to scope or control such an event and relies totally on the event managers to perform as agreed. On this occasion the organiser approaches the event with inadequate experience, the 2016 organiser having disappeared into liquidation. Residents are far from persuaded that the organising company, with virtually no balance sheet, and lacking experience is capable of carrying off this event to suitable standards, and have been offered no evidence of their competence. Risk assessments are mandatory but not in evidence. LBE is travelling in hope, and not for the first time.
- LBE has failed for months to agree a framework that unites its and the public's expectations of an events strategy suitable for our major parks. It is evident that representations by residents to limit audience numbers to the carrying capacity of parks and neighbourhood, to control major events to periods outside holiday use, and to make a suitable rather than nugatory return from earnings to host parks, will not be agreed. This strategy is being kept back so as to clear the way for the current programme to be shoved through licensing. The public demand that LBE cease using devices to avoid proper consideration of its damaging programme to commercialise a major public asset, Trent Country Park.
- Finally, LBE takes the stance that once an event has been held it acquires squatters' rights and cannot be publicly challenged in future. This is totally spurious reasoning, especially this year, because the organiser and supporting company has changed, so new arrangements must be negotiated and settled. All aspects must be planned from bottom up so we reserve the right to consultation on all new plans, covering both August 5th and 6th. Or is LBE allowing previous formats to just follow through with superficial due diligence?

- We urge the Licensing committee, if it is to operate independently, to examine rigorously all assertions as to the provenance and operation of this major event; focusing just on revenue streams with notional concern for public safety and amenity loss is a waste of time for us all, and a source of danger.

[REDACTED]

**Chairman
Friends of TCP**

[REDACTED]