

## **Oktoberfest Enfield 2018**

### **Summary of Some of the Mitigation Planned to Support the Licensing Objectives**

The purpose of this summary is to highlight to the Licensing Sub-Committee and local residents some of the measures that will be put in place so to deliver two successful, well-delivered and enjoyable events that uphold the licensing objectives and reduce any possible negative impact to the local community. It does not include all of the measures that will be utilised as this would be too exhaustive, but are some of the main ones that address the issues raised in the representations put forward from some of the local residents.

The organisers take their responsibilities in this area very seriously and do all they can to ensure safe and trouble-free events. It is the intention that, hopefully, this will become an annual event in the Enfield events calendar, and so it is in the interest of the event organisers that the event creates minimum disruption to local residents and others.

As there have been representations to the Premises Licence by some local residents, I have taken the main themes mentioned in these representations and address these specifically.

#### **The Possibility for Disorder and Intoxication**

The team behind Oktoberfest staged two Oktoberfest events in 2016 (Portsmouth & Brighton) and as a result of these operating well and being successful, developed a programme of 16 Oktoberfests across the UK last year. These were delivered with partners including Stoke City FC, Worcester Racecourse, Norwich City FC, Swindon Cricket Club amongst others, as well as several Councils including Chelmsford, Peterborough, Milton Keynes, Croydon and others. There were very few incidents at these 16 events and we were invited back to all venues for this year, with no objections from either the local Council or Police Force. In most places we visited, we were praised for the level of professionalism and care put into the events.

Security – we employ a professional security company to manage the attendees and oversee both ingress, the event itself and egress. We have certain policies and practices in place to help reduce the possibility of anti-social behaviour taking place and these plans have been shared with, and approved by, Council Officers, the Police and others. The processes we adopt are tried and tested and the responsible authorities have not raised an issue in regards to our plans in this area.

Entry to/from the park – In consultation with Council Officers, the Police and others, it has been decided that only one entrance to the park will be used for the event and this is the one closest to the town, taxis, buses and train stations (Cecil Road), which also takes the attendees away from the main residential areas surrounding the park. The entrance to the park at Essex Road will be closed when the event is on and will have a security presence to guide members of the public trying to access the event to the main entrance.

These arrangements will help to disperse the attendees away from the local residential areas and will be publicised nearer to the event by the organisers using our media channels.

Bar Operation - The company that operates the bars on behalf of the event are an experienced and professional company who pride themselves in operating safe bars. They insist that all members of staff undergo refresher training before an event and part of this training is how to spot signs of intoxication and the correct procedure for refusing to serve someone displaying these signs.

The event operates to 'Challenge 25' which is the more stringent retailing strategy to Challenge 18, even though the event itself is an 18+ event. In reality, the event attendees tend to be, on average, in their 30s as opposed to young people, which helps with a friendly and well-behaved atmosphere.

There is an Alcohol Management Plan that supports the event which details all of the above and more which I would be happy to share with members of the Sub-Committee.

## **Noise**

The organisers accept that at any event that has music, there is always the possibility of noise nuisance to the wider community and the organisers of Oktoberfest work hard to reduce this possibility. To mitigate this potential issue, the organisers employ different tactics to reduce this becoming a reality.

The events mentioned earlier staged in 2017 ran very successfully from a noise perspective and there were very few issues in regards to noise in parks much like Town Park. Therefore, many of the same principles from previous events have been adopted, with a few improvements made to the system from last year.

A Noise Management Plan has been provided and agreed with the Environmental Health team at Enfield Borough Council.

Policy - As per The Noise Council's Code of Practice on Environmental Noise at Concerts (1995), the organisers aim to operate at a level where the Music Noise Levels will not exceed 65dB(A) over a 15-minute period at the nearest sensitive point. Noise levels will be set at sound check and then adhered to throughout the event. Noise readings will be taken on an hourly basis at the edge of the park, specifically at the gates to the park at Cecil Road and Essex Road. All music will end at 23:00hrs.

Site Design – The event is to be staged inside a Big Top marquee. The event organisers have recognised the residential areas that contain the nearest sensitive properties and have designed the overall site so that the potential for noise nuisance has been reduced. This has included:

- Positioning the event away from local residents as much as possible and placing the stage in the venue so that the bands that plays as part of the entertainment and the stage PA speakers face away from the nearest sensitive property.
- The outside area where people gather to eat, smoke, talk and use the toilet facilities is as far away from the nearest sensitive property as practically possible.
- The bar service area has been placed as far way from the nearest sensitive property as possible using metal trackway to form a road to this position.
- Electrical generators will be of the 'silent' type and will be positioned as far away from the nearest sensitive property as practically possible.

- All emergency exits, and therefore potential escape areas for sound, in the Big Top are pointing away from the nearest sensitive property where possible, whilst also recognising the need for an adequate spread of emergency exits throughout the venue.

PA System - The PA sound system operates on a 'little and often' basis, so that there is no need for single, powerful speakers at the front of the tent. The system that will be used will have a pair of much smaller than usual speakers by the stage, and will have several smaller speakers placed around the venue that will be attached above head height and angled down towards the ground so excess sound is partially absorbed by the people enjoying the event and the ground. This technique has been used to very good effect in other venues and helps to dramatically reduce noise nuisance. This type of system allows for a good spread of sound across the venue which can all be set at reasonable levels and helps reduce the amount of sound spillage outside of the venue.

Bass frequencies, which are the most likely cause of noise nuisance in regards to music, will be reduced or eliminated using professional quality graphic equalisers if there are any issues with excess noise levels.

Performers – Performers often have the opportunity to increase their own volumes, and so they will be briefed closely monitored by event management not to increase their volumes at the stage point. In fact, the Oompah Bands often do not have this capability as they use instruments that are not electrically amplified i.e. trumpets, trombones etc.

Sound levels will be set at the sound desk before customers are admitted, and only the sound engineer who will be managed by the most senior person on-site will have the ability to turn up or down the volumes.

### **Restrictions/Issues to Local Residents Using the Park During Build/Break e.g. Dog Walkers**

Location - The event itself takes place within a contained area of the park which is completely fenced-in from day one of the build until the final day of the break-down and has a 24/7 presence during this time. The space the event occupies is a very small area of the overall footprint of the park and so there is plenty of space for others to enjoy.

The park, I believe, has held much larger events than the one proposed and is certainly big enough for this event. I feel the Site Plan demonstrates this.

Roadway - The organisers create a metal trackway road from the Essex Road entrance into the park to the entrance of the event site itself which not only protects the ground, but also clearly defines where any vehicles outside of the event fencing mentioned above will be operating. It allows other park users to easily see where vehicles may be travelling through the park and to avoid this area if they so wish. Vehicles entering the park will be travelling at 5mph only.

Previous Experience - The organisers operated eight Oktoberfests in public parks very similar to Town Park last year and no incidents of public coming into contact with the event staff/vehicles were experienced, partly, I would suggest, because the companies supplying the event are all experienced in this type of situation.

## **Vehicles**

Large Vehicles - The organisers have discussed at length issues around Traffic Management with the local Safety Advisory Group including the Council's Traffic Management team and have implemented advice from them in regards to traffic management. The event does have a few large vehicles delivering items for the event, but these will be limited to a couple of days on the build-up and one day on the break-down. We don't envisage any problems to the local residents with this.

Cars – Past experience has shown that the vast majority of people will arrive via public transport and not bring their own cars. The impact of cars on the local community is likely to be negligible.

## **Balloon Festival**

I would like to say that some local residents have made comparisons with the Balloon Festival event that was staged recently and I would suggest that comparisons of this nature are not applicable as (i) this event is a very different event from Oktoberfest and (ii) the organisers are not the same as the organisers of the Balloon Festival. I have no knowledge of the Balloon Festival and the issues raised by the local residents, but I do know that the organisers of Oktoberfest try very hard to work with the local communities to reduce any nuisance whatsoever.

## **Children**

Inside the Event - Oktoberfest is strictly 18+, so no children will be present at the event. As stated before, the event operates to 'Challenge 25' so anyone attending needs to show approved photo ID upon entry into the event itself and again at the bar inside the event if challenged again.

Outside the Event - The event has its own fencing so that the mix of people enjoying the event and passing children is almost non-existent. Furthermore, the events start in the evening when the park is closed, and at this time the park is only open to customers of the event. When the event ends at 23:00hrs, there should not be children in the park and, if there are, security will be in place to monitor situations and react accordingly.

## **Water in the Park**

This issue has been raised by some residents and I can assure residents that the safety plans for the event have been agreed with the Safety Advisory Group from Enfield Borough Council and, as the event is fenced off and there is adequate lighting and stewarding on egress, the organisers are confident that this will not pose a threat to customers.

I hope that both the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee and the local residents appreciate that the organisers of Oktoberfest Enfield plan to deliver a safe and enjoyable event for the Borough of Enfield and work hard so to disrupt the local community as little as possible, and hope also that the above information helps to show this. I look forward to speaking with both groups of people at the hearing on the 03 October 2018.

Neil Roberts  
Oktoberfest Operations Manager