

Appendix 1.

Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Forum

Issues to be considered in relation to events held in Lambeth parks:

1. **Consultation** There need to be agreed mechanisms by which Friends groups or MACs are given advance notice of events and the opportunity to comment on the formal plans.
2. **Scale** Events must be tailored to a reasonable fit for the park and to the size of access routes. In Brockwell, for instance, a major entrance for people coming from Brixton tube is via Brixton Water Lane, which is narrow and a busy bus route.
3. **Balance** There needs to be a balance between large, ticketed events, which are mostly for people from out of the borough and smaller events (e.g. funfairs) which are mostly attended by local people.
4. **Occupation** There should be rigorous control of set-up and build-down times, minimising the disruption of park access for the community, especially at holiday periods.
5. **Supervision** All events should be supervised. Many small events (e.g. charity runs) take place at weekends, when there are no regular park staff on duty. Small events can be very problematic because they are often run by inexperienced and badly organised groups and can result in problems of safety and disruption of ordinary park activities.
6. **Protecting parks** There has to be a balance between securing income and the wellbeing of the park itself. These are organic spaces and cannot be assumed to recover quickly from heavy use.
7. **Community events** The system for organising community events by park groups via EventLambeth is over-rigorous and does not take into account the often meagre resources available to small community groups. There needs to be a review of how community groups apply for their own small events.
8. **Remedial works** Every effort must be made to restore parkland to health quickly after all events. The Parks team are under-resourced and often this can result in delays. Some thought has to be given to planning how this can most easily be achieved.
The load on staff time generated by events is considerable. Were EventLambeth to hold **8 major events in 5 parks this would amount to 40 events in the summer period** (when parks are busy and need, for instance, additional litter picking. This would total up to **80 handover inspections a season**. Even if each handover only took two hours, this is a minimum of 160 hours of staff time to assess damage and arrange for and effect repair. The current levels of staffing are not adequate, in our opinion.
9. **Major events** The plan to hold up to 8 major events each summer in each of our larger parks must be reconsidered. This is not sustainable. There needs to be a more acceptable definition as to what constitutes a major event; the LCS, for instance is not classified as a major event.
10. **Noise** The recent decision to allow an increase in noise levels is very unpopular with communities and should be reviewed. Monitoring of noise levels must allow for local variation in how sound is perceived. It is very important to allow noise nuisance to be effectively communicated and to be properly considered.
11. **Community benefit:** all Events should benefit the community.

