

Councillor Nathalie Sylvia Bienfait
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
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Children and Culture Directorate
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Town Hall
160 Whitechapel Road
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30 November 2023

Reference: 48463130

Dear Councillor Bienfait,

Enquiry number: 48463130

Enquiry regarding: ME – Events in Victoria Park

In response to your query received on 30 November 2023, please find the response below.

The Council assess applications on a case-by-case basis. All major events and events with a capacity over 499 that include regulated entertainment and /or sale of alcohol require a Premises Licence. Licence applications are assessed against the following licensable objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance, and
- the protection of children from harm.

As part of the above application, there is a 28-day public consultation period. If representations are received, then the Council's Licensing Sub Committee would hold a hearing to determine if an application should be approved and if specific conditions should be applied.

In addition to the above, all events are assessed through the Council's Park Hire application process, through which Council departments assess the suitability of an event and the experience of the applicant to deliver their proposed event. This includes event organisers having to demonstrate through comprehensive plans, that they have suitable and sufficient arrangements in place to deliver their event safely and with minimal impact to residents and park users.

The Council has a strong track record of responsibly managing events and activities across its parks and open spaces. Major events go through an enhanced planning process. For example, event organiser plans, including crowd management and noise management plans, are reviewed by the police and the Council's Environmental Protection team to minimise disruption to residents.

Wider plans including traffic management plans and waste management plans are also scrutinised through this process. This approach has led to a significant reduction in complaints from 163 in 2022 to 56 in 2023 across 10 major event days.

In addition to the above, major event organisers are required to engage with residents to inform their event delivery. This is done through pre and post-event community engagement meetings and from feedback/queries received during the event to the Council and the event organiser.

For 2023 the Council received no complaints regarding a section of the park being used for All Points East during the summer holidays. As part of the programme, four of the ten event days are free for the community to access as part of In the Neighbourhood. This community programme offers a range of free events and activities for families to enjoy in the summer holidays. These events also provide opportunities for local performers, community organisations and businesses to be involved.

Events will continue to be considered for all times of year, and if the policy is approved, then the Council will consider applications on this basis.

The Council does not restrict when events can be held as event organisers need flexibility due to increased competition for artists and ticket sales from London, national and international competing events. Events are also typically held in the summer period due to weather considerations. This approach enables the Council to achieve best value for all residents.

Regardless of when an event is held, the Arts, Parks and Events service works with event organisers to ensure that disruption is minimised. This includes condensing set and take down days and permitting walking routes, when it is practical and safe to do so, through the event site. Furthermore, large areas of Victoria Park (approximately 2/3rds of the park) remained accessible for public use for during All Points East this year.

Tower Hamlets, like other local authorities, hosts major events as they provide a high level of income and also benefit the local economy. All Points East provided £3,106,135 million in economic expenditure benefit to Tower Hamlets in 2022 and enables the Council to generate more income to support services including the upkeep of parks.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Boyd

Head of Arts Parks & Event Commissioning and Culture



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