LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

ADDITIONAL PAPERS - TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE

Date: Friday 18 September 2020
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams - please click here

Copies of agendas, reports, minutes and other attachments for the Council's meetings are available on the Lambeth website. www.lambeth.gov.uk/moderngov

Members of the Committee

Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Martin Tiedemann, Councillor Linda Bray, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Irfan Mohammed, Councillor Rezina Chowdhury, Councillor Ibrahim Dogus, Councillor Joshua Lindsey, Councillor Pauline George and Councillor Becca Thackray

Substitute Members

Councillor John Kazantzis, Councillor Jennie Mosley, Councillor Matthew Bennett, Councillor Andy Wilson, Councillor Danial Adilypour, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, Councillor Claire Holland, Councillor Jon Davies, Councillor Liz Atkins, Councillor Marcia Cameron and Councillor Timothy Windle

Members Required for this meeting will be: Councillor Fred Cowell, Councillor Emma Nye, Councillor Becca Thackray

Further Information

If you require any further information or have any queries please contact: Nazyer Choudhury, Telephone: 020 7926 0028; Email: nchoudhury@lambeth.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting.

Queries on reports

Please contact report authors prior to the meeting if you have questions on the reports or wish to inspect the background documents used. The contact details of the report author are shown on the front page of each report.

@LBLdemocracy on Twitter http://twitter.com/LBLdemocracy or use #Lambeth
Lambeth Council – Democracy Live on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/
AGENDA

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA MAY BE CHANGED AT THE MEETING.

3a. Secret Garden, 53 Mount Ephraim Lane, London, SW16 1JE (St Leonards)
How to access the meeting

This meeting will be held in accordance with Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the related Regulations which details that members of the public and press be provided access to the meeting through remote means, such as video conferencing and live streaming as provided by the link on the above page.

For Members of the Public

This is a Microsoft Teams Live Event meeting. If you are new to Microsoft Teams, clicking the link on the above page will take you to the meeting page where you will be prompted to download the app or watch on the web instead. Please follow the instructions to watch on the web instead. On doing so, you can join our live event anonymously.

For applicants to this meeting and interested parties

Please refer to the guidance you have already received.

Digital engagement

We encourage people to use Social Media and we normally tweet from most Council meetings. To get involved you can tweet us @LBLDemocracy.

Audio/Visual Recording of meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever, non-disruptive, methods you think are suitable. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

Representation

Ward Councillors may be contacted directly to represent your views to the Council: (details via the website www.lambeth.gov.uk).
HEARING PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Full information on the procedure is sent to all parties to the hearing. The information below is a précis of that information.

Parties to the hearing must notify Licensing Services within prescribed timescales (these vary according to the type of hearing) that they intend to attend and/or be represented at the hearing, and whether any witnesses will be attending on their behalf.

The hearing will operate as follows (subject to the discretion of the Chair):

- In the form of a discussion led by the Committee; cross examination will not normally be permitted.
- A total of three minutes speaking time is normally allowed for each party. Any preliminary points will be treated separately.
- Where there is more than one representation raising the same or similar grounds, those parties should consider nominating a single representative to address the Sub-Committee on their behalf at the hearing.
- Parties to the hearing may be permitted to ask questions of any other party or witness.
- Parties to the hearing may be required to answer specific questions from members of the Sub-Committee seeking clarification of information.
- The typical order of the hearing will be as follows:

  1. The Chair will ask all parties and witnesses to introduce themselves and this should include a brief explanation of the purpose of their attendance.
  2. Officers present the report.
  3. Committee members ask questions of officers.
  4. The Applicant speaks.
  5. The Applicant's witnesses speak (with permission of Chair).
  6. Committee members ask questions of applicants and their witnesses (only applies to witnesses who have been given permission to speak).
  7. Other parties speak.
  8. Other parties' witnesses speak (with permission of Chair).
  9. Committee members ask questions of the other parties to the hearing and their witnesses (only applies to witnesses who have been given permission to speak).
  10. The Applicant (with exception and with permission of Chair) asks questions of the other parties to the hearing and their witnesses.
  11. Other parties to the hearing (with exception and with permission of Chair) ask questions of the applicant/other parties to the hearing and their witnesses.
  12. The Chair's closing remarks.
  13. The Committee retires to make their decision.
  14. Legal adviser informs the hearing of any advice that they have given to the Committee during the decision-making process.
  15. The Committee announces the decision and gives reasons.
  16. After the hearing officers will write to all parties to confirm the Committee's decision.
Good morning Tom

Please see the email below, details have been redacted.

We would like this to be submitted as additional information for the LSC on Friday 18th September 2020 at 14:00.

This resident wishes to attend the committee please can a link be supplied.

Many thanks

Kind Regards

Keith Badrick
Public Protection Officer
Public Protection, Assurance & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Resident Services
London Borough of Lambeth
Telephone: 020 7926 5000
Direct dial: 020 7926 3085

Email: kbadrick@lambeth.gov.uk
Website: http://www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth – a cooperative council

Privacy Note

The London Borough of Lambeth (the “Council”) will make use of personal data it collects when issuing Notices for the purpose of processing and enforcing them, and if required, to obtain recent address details to ensure that the notice and any further notices are issued to the correct address. As a ‘public task’, the processing of personal data related to the enforcement by the Council of a notice does not require your consent. The personal information collected by the Council’s enforcement teams may be shared with its enforcement contractors, other government agencies and 3rd parties to ensure appropriate enforcement actions, and for the prevention and detection of crime. The personal information will be retained for 6 years following the closure of this case. If you are concerned about how the council is using your personal data, you may find more information about your rights on our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/privacy-notice.
Dear Mr Badrick,

I am Mrs Farzana Rahman and I own and live at REDACTED. I have lived here for over 35 years and it has been a lovely quiet residential street. Recently in the month of August this has not been the case; every weekend in August my neighbour across the road in no 53 has been holding events. The first few I assumed because of the ease of lock down he was having friends and family over so I didn't complain, but then found out that he was holding paid commercial events.

This has been very difficult time for me as I am 73 and am part of the vulnerable group and so have been shielding in my house since March, my only outdoor space is my garden. The events held at no 53 had greatly disturbed me and my time in garden, as the music was so loud, that I could hear it clearly while resting in my garden. Also, on several occasions I have been sleeping and have been woken up due to the banging of car doors, these have been on the days no 53 have held events, and on one particular weekend he held events on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday night which caused me great anxiety the followings days as I was unable to sleep; I also suffer from heart palpitations and it is made worst by anxiety. They have also held rehearsals during the day which has made resting during the afternoon an impossibility as well.

I did not want to put a complaint as I had hoped to speak to him directly as he invited the neighbours to his house on Sunday 6th September, however on arrival there was no hand sanitizer, no social distancing and no contact details being taken; it was a large gathering of 15-20 people when I arrived and some people I did not know and as such felt unsafe to be in that environment so left after a short time.

I do not believe that Mount Ephraim Lane is the correct place for these types of events, and hope that any further applications will be rejected.

I am happy for my name to go forward to the Licensing Department and am available to attend the sub-committee zoom meeting that is being held that Friday at 2pm.

Kind Regards
Mrs Farzana Rahman
REDACTED
Good morning Tom

Please see the email below, details have been redacted.

We would like this to be submitted as additional information for the LSC on Friday 18th September 2020 at 14:00.

This resident wishes to attend the committee please can a link be supplied.

Many thanks

Kind Regards

Keith Badrick
Public Protection Officer
Public Protection, Assurance & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Resident Services
London Borough of Lambeth
Telephone: 020 7926 5000
Direct dial: 020 7926 3085

Email: kbadrick@lambeth.gov.uk
Website: http://www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth – a cooperative council

Privacy Note

The London Borough of Lambeth (the “Council”) will make use of personal data it collects when issuing Notices for the purpose of processing and enforcing them, and if required, to obtain recent address details to ensure that the notice and any further notices are issued to the correct address. As a ‘public task’, the processing of personal data related to the enforcement by the Council of a notice does not require your consent. The personal information collected by the Council’s enforcement teams may be shared with its enforcement contractors, other government agencies and 3rd parties to ensure appropriate enforcement actions, and for the prevention and detection of crime. The personal information will be retained for 6 years following the closure of this case. If you are concerned about how the council is using your personal data, you may find more information about your rights on our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/privacy-notice.

From: natasha rahman <REDACTED>
Sent: 16 September 2020 11:39
To: Keith Badrick <KBadrick@lambeth.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: No 53 Mount Ephraim Lane, SW16 1JD

Dear Keith,
I am Natasha Rahman and live at REDACTED Mount Ephraim Lane REDACTED and wish to make a complaint with regards to the events held at no 53 Mount Ephraim Lane. I am happy for my name to be put forward, and am able to attend the sub-committee zoom meeting being held on Friday 18th September at 2pm.

I have lived at REDACTED Mount Ephraim Lane my entire life, it is our Family home; it is a lovely quiet residential street, recently after several years of building works, the new owners of no 53 moved in. The owner, a musician, during the month of August held commercial events constantly on every weekend; 2nd, 9th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th August; this caused much disruption to our Family life.

I am the primary carer of my Mother who is 73, she has been shielding since March and has only been going out into our back garden for any outside time. Due to the events held at no 53, this has meant she was unable to go out into the garden, as the noise from the event could be clearly heard. She requires an afternoon rest and this was also disturbed due to the rehearsal sessions that were held.

Several times after the events car door slamming has woken both her and myself up from our sleep, this has caused much anxiety to her and in turn has caused loss of sleep and anxiety for me as I have been very concerned about her physical and mental health.

The continuous noise from the events, in particular on weekends of the 21st, 22nd & 23rd and 29th & 30th has had a negative effect on my quality of life as the events have been so constant; it is not just about the events itself but there have been rehearsals, catering van coming and going, the actual event and then the clean-up afterwards, by the time they leave it has been well after 11pm. As you can imagine from early afternoon into late evening there was noise constantly from no 53, and as August was hot it was impossible to keep our windows and back door shut, this meant we were unable to relax in our own home. The noise also woke my Mother several times and as she suffers from heart palpitations this was not good for her at all. This has caused much anxiety for me as her primary carer, and is not helped that I am unable to relax and unwind in my own home due to the events at no 53.

I am also concerned with regards to how no 53 is adhering to the Covid 19 rules on gathering; we were invited to a neighbourly event at no 53 on Sunday 6th September; at the time we, my Mother and I, arrived there was around 15-20 people, some people we knew but also strangers to us. There were no hand sanitizers, no 1 metre social distancing between people and no contact details were being take; one neighbour came with a friend who none of us knew. This made me feel very uncomfortable and concerned about my Mother, and as such we left shortly afterwards.

After holding 7 events constantly in one 1 month the natural assumption would be that they would know the Covid socialization rules inside out, and this was not the case from what I saw, and it is concerning that if they are not adhering to the rules for their neighbours, then what about the public who attended the events?

They have advertised another 3 events to be held on the 18th, 19th & 20th September and I absolutely object to them as they are nothing but a nuisance for the street, there has been parking issues as well, and we are a residential street not a commercial/ entertainment street.

I thank you for taking the time out to read my email. Should you have any questions please contact me at this email address or on REDACTED.

Thank you,

Natasha Rahman
Tom, please could you have this one at the top of the page.

On 13 September 2020 at 18:22:13, [Name redacted] wrote:

Dear All,

I am writing in response to the decision to withdraw the licence for the Secret Garden Concerts in Mount Ephraim Lane. These concerts have been one of the few joyful events in an otherwise stressful and depressing summer. I attended one of the concerts and was particularly impressed by their Covid security. I work at St George’s Hospital in Infectious Diseases so understand the importance of infection control; their attention to public safety was second to none and far better than most restaurants and theatres. We were separated by more than two metres and there was more than sufficient signage about safely queuing and all the staff wore masks and gloves etc. I attended with my mother who is 75 and I felt that we were both totally safe the whole time.

There was absolutely no issue regarding the parking in the street; everybody here has off-street parking and there are large stretches of the road that remained empty. My party of 6 all walked to the concert and I recognised many other neighbours who live within a few hundred yards of the concert.

We live across the road at [Address redacted] and on the first evening we sat in our front garden hoping to hear some of the music but sadly we could only hear the music very quietly. Anyone complaining that they could not hear their television inside the house is clearly deluded as it is impossible to hear it across the street.

Please grant a licence for the remaining few concerts, not only does it provide much needed employment but also allows for some joy in an otherwise depressing and anxiety provoking time. This is one of the best things that has ever happened to this street and has galvanised the huge majority of neighbours to support it. It would be such a disappointment if one mealy mouthed neighbour managed to spoil the enjoyment and employment of so many.

Yours faithfully

Dr Caroline Campbell
[Address redacted]
On 6 September 2020 at 23:29:43, Christopher Stonehill wrote:

Dear Chris

I understand that you are applying for a further licence to stage outdoor music evenings in your garden.

We are fully supportive of this excellent initiative and have no hesitation in supporting your application.

Kind regards

Christopher and Felicity Stonehill

Mount Ephraim Lane
London
SW16

Sent from my iPad
Dear Chris,

The series of concerts at 53 Mount Ephraim Lane have been remarkable in bringing the community together in a wonderful and historic setting. The sell-out concerts have allowed exceptionally talented musicians the opportunity to bring joy to residents who in turn are supporting the entertainment and hospitality sectors in these very difficult times.

The Streatham Society fully supports such events which meet our aims and objectives:

The Streatham Society is a local amenity which represents a large community of residents in the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth.

The purpose and aims of the Society are to raise the awareness and appreciation of our local area and to maintain and improve the quality of life for all who live and work in Streatham.

From a personal perspective and as a local resident these events have been magnificent. The performances are all of the very highest standard and the processes and procedures in relation to Covid-19 the best I have seen.

Well done and thank you from the Streatham Community.

Mark Bery
Secretary
Streatham Society
On 2 September 2020 at 12:40:47, Jim Dawton wrote:

"Wow! What a positive initiative - one of the rare bits of good news in the area, and, quite frankly, in the creative industries nationally (Lambeth should be celebrating this by shouting about it from the roof tops!)

Having been in the audience for two Secret Garden Concerts, (yes, we were so impressed my wife and I came back for more) can I express my gratitude to all those who, through professionalism and sheer hard work, made the vision possible - which includes the Council for having the courage to give it permission to go ahead in the first place, at a time when so much is about being risk-adverse at the moment.

What words best describe the joy and hope we experienced the two evenings we were there? Gentle, gracious, full of good will - and of course, glorious music!"

Jim Dawton - local resident, Becmead Avenue, SW16
On 13 September 2020 at 20:14:27, Patricia Umunna wrote:

Dear all

I understand that Lambeth Council has refused to grant an extension to the licence for this weekend's final set of Secret Garden concerts, which was meant to be replacement dates for previously postponed concerts due to the weather. I also understand that the reasons for the refusal are based on complaints from two neighbours on the grounds of "noise nuisance", failure to follow government covid guidelines and traffic congestion.

I live at Woodfield Avenue and my house is one garden away from 53 Mount Ephraim Lane. I do not know Mr Grist (who organised these concerts) but I did attend one of the concerts a couple of weeks ago. I strongly contest all these complaints.

With regard to the complaint regarding "noise" I do not know how anyone could claim that beautiful classical music played only on string instruments without any amplification is a "noise nuisance"! To also claim that somebody could not hear their TV is nonsense. I could easily hear very quiet remarks made by my companions during the concert. The music was not loud. On other weekends when the concerts were taking place whilst watering or sitting in my garden I could only hear the music very faintly and it was such a pleasure when I did.

The complaint that government covid guidelines have not been followed is also incorrect. Before attending we all received an email giving us covid guideline instructions. Numbers were limited and the 2 metre social distancing rule was strictly adhered to. Groups of no more than 6 people were carefully separated. The concert ended around 9.30'sh and the audience left the garden by 10pm. The claim of traffic congestion is also wrong. I have seen no evidence of this at all.

I find it very sad that any neighbour could object to these magical beautiful concerts which have given some talented musicians a rare opportunity to perform during this very difficult time for everyone involved in the arts. These are talented artists who need our support and help and I would expect the Council to be at the forefront in giving every opportunity locally to these artists and the arts sector which is struggling to survive. These concerts are such wonderful community events and it was such a pleasure to have attended one. Please allow these concerts to go ahead. Help us to rescue our endangered arts sector and to build on the wonderful community spirit they have engendered in this corner of Lambeth.

Yours sincerely
On 13 September 2020 at 15:50:10, Roger Garside wrote:

Dear All,

The series of Secret Garden Concerts organised in the home of Mr and Mrs Grist in Ephraim Road in August and September was a most imaginative and successful response to the deprivations of COVID-19 lockdown, which greatly enhanced the quality of life in Streatham.

The arrangements were excellent, and showed great consideration for those living nearby.

My wife and I attended the concert on 30 August, and found the choice of music suited the occasion and the setting to perfection.

It was a great privilege to be able to walk 5 minutes from our home to listen to one of Europe’s finest ensembles playing in a garden of outstanding beauty, and enjoy dinner beforehand.

I was therefore utterly dismayed to learn that Lambeth Council refused permission for an additional concert on 5 September. I can see no grounds for anyone objecting to concerts such as these. The noise level was modest at all times, and the music ended well before the closing time of 10 p.m. Local residents and the Council should be proud of what the organisers achieved instead of preventing them from adding one further concert that would have allowed another group of people to enjoy the music. Moreover, musicians have suffered exceptional financial and spiritual deprivation during lockdown, so that to deny the London Concertante players one more opportunity of earning a little money and sharing their talents with an audience was heartless.
My bewilderment is all the greater since several times during the summer, people have blasted out recoded music over Tooting Common so loud that it could be heard by people hoping to enjoy peace on the Common but also in streets well away from it, without having obtained a licence for a concert. On the one occasion when I complained to the police, my complaint was brushed aside with a feeble pretext.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Garside

Fisher’s Close, London SW16

Landline tel.:

Mobile:
Dear Councillors,

I'm writing as a performer in one of last month's Secret Garden Concerts.

Having lost almost all my work since April, it was the highlight of my summer to be able to actually play a concert again - not only for the chance to earn but more importantly, to be able to do what I love again and to bring entertainment to a new musical community. The feeling of enjoyment and support from the audience was obvious; I also loved speaking to people afterwards who were trying a classical music concert for the first time, and who left buzzing and wanting to return.

I travelled to the venue by train. We did most of our afternoon rehearsal indoors. We all played string instruments with absolutely no amplification, so the idea that the noise was distracting and could be heard above a television over the road seems perhaps a little exaggerated.

As the government support for self-employed musicians has come to an end, and there are no signs of concerts returning to anything like normal, this is a pretty bleak time for musicians. I know I speak for many colleagues when I say that music isn't just a way of making a living, it's part of our identity. The arts in general have been a huge emotional support to many who have struggled with mental health issues during the pandemic. To deny us, the performers, the chance to entertain people again, and to deny our audience some pleasure amidst the chaos of covid, would be really sad. Please reconsider your blocking of the licence for these final two concerts.

Yours sincerely,

Bryony James
On 15 September 2020 at 17:14:51, Madeline Johnston wrote:

Secret Garden Concert  Message of support

These concerts have been wonderful. Allowing musicians to perform and continue to benefit their very appreciative audiences and use their talents for the enjoyment of so many. Skills such as theirs cannot be allowed to lie dormant. Music is beneficial for mental health to both performers and audience alike. It gave them too an opportunity to earn a desperately needed performing fee.

The concerts are performed with strictest application to Covid guide lines they are in the open air and in large garden
Parking was easy and freely available locally with no problems and plenty available
As regards catering the food was served and this gave more people a chance to continue their accustomed work, chefs and waiting staff and social distancing observed at all times.

I cannot understand how there can be any way permission should not be granted for these concerts, they are early evening, safe, no litter left and limited in numbers attending..

I do hope this will be looked at favourably and this excellent musical opportunity allowed to continue.

Regards  Madeline Johnston
On 15 September 2020 at 17:05:02, Julia Mackinder wrote:

Dear Mr Dunn

I write to you as a SW London resident and member of the audience at two of the recent concerts given as part of the Secret Garden Concerts Series in Mount Ephraim Road in Streatham.

It was with great sadness that I heard that Lambeth Council has refused a license for Secret Garden Concerts to put on the final two concerts of their classical chamber music series this weekend. I am particularly surprised at your refusal to allow these small scale events to take place, when you have in the past been happy to allow Garage Nation to stage a weekend long outdoor festival of dance music on the neighbouring Streatham Common in both 2015 and 2016 which involved continuous amplified music from noon to 10pm, with an audience of several hundreds and all the pressures they put on the local infrastructure. The Secret Garden concerts last for two and a half hours each with an interval, play to audiences of less than one hundred, and involve no amplification, so the music carries across a very limited distance.

The two concerts I attended could not be said to include any overtly loud or anti-social music that could cause a disturbance in the wide and leafy roads of Streatham - the first on August 9th was an easy listening jazz trio of piano, string bass and drums, the second was a small scale chamber ensemble of just 8 string players playing mainstream classical pieces. No loud brass instruments (trumpets, trombones, etc) and absolutely no amplification.

At both concerts, I was impressed - and re-assured - to see that such care had been taken to put in full COVID secure measures in line with government guidelines. All the audience were seated, and the seating groups (which corresponded to the size of each party) properly socially distanced, with at least a metre between each group of chairs. There were separate one way routes for both the bar and refreshment areas, and the toilets - portaloos in a separate area - were being cleaned in between use. All staff - ushers and waiters - were wearing masks. Track and Trace protocols were being followed. The concerts I attended finished promptly, and we were not encouraged to hang around or socialise afterwards. We were asked in advance to use public transport to travel to the event, or to park with regard for the neighbours, and I can confirm that there was plenty of parking available both in Mount Ephraim Road and surrounding streets on both occasions, both before and after the concerts.

For me - aged over 65 - and I suspect many like me, this was my first chance to leave my house for anything other than the permitted exercise and occasional visit to the shops in six months. It was both a metaphorical and literal ‘breath of fresh air’, and a huge relief to be able to get out and take part in something so uplifting in a COVID secure environment.

The mental health benefits of taking part in a group music activity have been proven beyond doubt, and are crucial during this short window of time when the nation is recovering from 6 months of lockdown, but threatened with the prospect of renewed restrictions in the winter months.

Please could I implore you to reconsider your decision, for the benefit of the ticket holders, the majority of whom will, I suspect, be Lambeth residents.

Yours sincerely
Photo taken from my seat at the concert on August 9th showing socially distanced seating
-----Original Message-----
From: Susie King <Susie.King@lambeth.gov.uk>
Sent: 13 September 2020 19:58
Cc: Thomas Dunn <TDunn@lambeth.gov.uk>; Licensing <XDESLICENSE@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Nicole Griffiths <NGriffiths@lambeth.gov.uk>; Pam Riley <PRiley@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Jonathan Bartley <JBartley@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Scott Ainslie <SAinslie@lambeth.gov.uk>; asmailbox.lambethlicensing@met.police.uk; Nicholas Anderson-Cottee <NAnderson-Cottee@lambeth.gov.uk>; Trevor Virtue <TVirtue@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Jack Hopkins <JHopkins@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Donatus Anyanwu <DAnyanwu@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Sonia Winifred <SWinifred@lambeth.gov.uk>; Cllr Fred Cowell <FCowell@lambeth.gov.uk>
Subject: Secret Garden Concerts - Message of support

Dear Council Members

I urge you to reconsider the refusal of a performance licence for the above marvellous concerts which have supported so many out of work musicians and catering staff during this wretched Covid pandemic.

It is a superb entrepreneurial idea which has provided so much pleasure to the many supporters and performers and to have the licence refused by one neighbour who couldn’t turn up the volume of his/her tv is ridiculous. Please offer that neighbour a free ticket to enjoy for themselves this wonderful experience and have an enjoyable evening without the tv.

Please please reconsider and allow those dedicated out of work musicians to earn some money and finish off the “season”.

Yours Susie King

Supporter

Sent from my iPhone
Dear councillors and senior officers at the LBoLambeth,

It is with great sadness and surprise that we've learnt of your Public Protection department's decision not to grant a licence for the final set of Secret Garden concerts at Mount Ephraim lane, which were completely sold out and had to be rescheduled due to poor weather in August, despite the overwhelming support of our community and the clear benefits it has afforded to the performers, the audience, and their families at this exceptionally trying times.

I am genuinely puzzled how one unsubstantiated and petty comment by a neighbour could have swayed your officials at the Public Protection department to conclude that the multiple benefits of these summer-time events do not warrant their support.

Here are some factual points and observations I would like to offer in an effort to get your support for the PPD's decision to be revisited:

* I live just around the corner from Mr Grist's, and at no time was there any noise coming out of the garden late at night, since all the events were well wrapped up by 9.30, as advertised.

* We had a privilege to have a series of top quality live music performances by artists who regularly play with top classical orchestras.
* The music was played on acoustic instruments, 'unplugged' / unamplified. I really struggle to understand how somebody, even if this was not 'their kind of music', could find it so distracting, especially since they took place during the socially acceptable hours.

* The programme usually consisted of two parts - starting at 7.30, finishing at 9.30 at the latest. With a 40 minutes' interval. So, the 'on-air' time was c. 80 minutes.

* The local community wholeheartedly supported these events, as they provided work for performers and the catering staff, with minimum administration (so the money was going where it was meant to go!).

* Front-of-house volunteer staff were diligent at ensuring that the members of the audience observed social distancing rules; the seating was arranged in 'social bubbles'; the staff wore face masks at all times, took record of everybody attending the events; communication before and after the event ensured that everybody was aware of what they had to do if they became unwell.

* SGC crew provided very clear advice regarding the parking, i.e. that it was not advisable nor possible to park in the vicinity of the garden. As I said before, I live at the corner of Kingscourt Road and Mt EPhraim lane and I have not seen a single patron arrive by car in front of the venue, let alone park there.

It is with genuine hope that I am writing to you, and I do believe that you will take time to look into this matter. The positives of this wonderful initiative surely must get additional consideration by PPD or an alternative senior decision making forum at the Council, should this matter need to be escalated. I just can't believe that the licence could not be granted based on such a feeble, unsubstantiated, and entirely unreasonable complaint by a single neighbour. Let the sound judgement prevail!

Yours sincerely,

Igor Brkic

Kingscourt Road

SW16
On 15 September 2020 at 11:32:31, Ian Gordon-Brown wrote:

Dear Chris

I was absolutely flabbergasted and shocked to hear that Lambeth council has turned down your license for future secret garden concerts because of the complaints of one anonymous resident who was “unable to watch television without increasing the volume.” To be blunt, this is a pathetic, incomprehensible and reprehensible decision.

Apart from showcasing incredible classical music, which is a great source of pleasure to a large number of people, your concerts provide people who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, a real opportunity to earn money to pay their daily expenses.

I do hope that sanity prevails on the council and that they reject complaint of the resident out of hand.

I have cc'd the Minister for Culture and the Shadow Minister for Culture on this email. It is important for them to recognise how much damage to the economy certain councils are wrecking on the economy.

Kind Regards

Ian Gordon-Brown

Winsham Grove

London

SW11
On 13 September 2020 at 17:16:43, Andrew Vassallo wrote:

Dear Sirs,

I understand that a single objection from a possibly disgruntled neighbour has given Lambeth Council their excuse to refuse the Secret Garden Concerts their performance licence. Under current Covid-19 restrictions particularly as they have affected the performing arts, these concerts have provided a welcome relief to the many mainly local people who have attended and in addition have provided much needed support to performers and auxiliary staff. I find the Council’s refusal to grant the licence outrageous, mean spirited and totally unacceptable. Rejection on the basis of having to turn up the volume on ones TV is almost laughable if it weren’t so tragic. Any noise from the concerts is absolutely minimal and frankly no worse than anything else that one might experience over a weekend. As for parking, on the occasions we have attended it was apparent the many of the guests were local to the area and probably like us did not drive - we walked! Anyway as far as I am aware driving and parking on a public street is not against the law in Lambeth - yet...

As for Covid-19, we felt entirely safe and secure at the measures being taken and strictly enforced, in fact far more so than we have experienced on the local high street. The Public Protection department are not only short sighted but are clearly not doing their job of protecting the public. They should be totally ashamed of themselves and their actions. I hope the Council will reconsider their decision and allow the few remaining concerts to go ahead unimpeded.

A copy of this email has also been sent to our local councillor Iain Simpson, who I hope will be sympathetic to what is a very worthwhile endeavour.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Vassallo
Telford Avenue, SW2
On 13 September 2020 at 16:31:41, [email was redacted] wrote:

Dear all at Lambeth Council,

Iryna, my wife and I had one of the best evenings and gave us a much welcome break during these hard times.

The concert garden setting was very beautiful and serene. The music was fantastic and in no way loud to disturb the neighbours.

**This complaint is utter rubbish and selfish.** I walked past the house on the road when the concert was on and could not hear it from the road except for a low sound of melodious music which would have been soothing for anyone.

“Complaining that one could not watch TV with the normal volume on is a figment of her imagination. This is a spiteful unhappy, selfish and perhaps jealous neighbour”

We believe that concerts of this type should take place all around the country in a similar setting and help artists and other support workers to have an income. We must take a stand to support the community and particularly the Artistic community who have made many sacrifices during the pandemic.

We are so surprised and sad that people can be so selfish. I do not believe such a complaint can be raised when we have blaring music being played at barbecue drunken parties. **Where is the council on this issue ????**

“Music, because of its deep connections with the brain, is intrinsically meaningful to humanity as a race. We thrive off it. It drives our actions and emotions, and its influence on our brains creates a sense of unity with music that few other art forms can provide”
This pandemic has caused segregation, despair, depression, and loneliness. Gatherings like this will help people.

Hope the council will wake up and help the neighbourhood by bringing some happiness in people’s lives and help people from getting depressed.

I request you to kindly let the Secret Garden be given back the license to hold their concerts and bring some joy in these sad times.

Regards

Mahesh
On 15 September 2020 at 13:28:17, Charles Gibson wrote:

I have taken tickets for the concert due on Friday 18 September, which was postponed from an earlier date because of the weather.

In my opinion it is outrageous that the licence for this event has been cancelled. Please consider the following reasons:

1. I have read the terms of the objection on which alone the decision was made. The grounds of the complaint are on any view extremely weak. They are expressed by one apparently hypersensitive person whose mode of watching of television has allegedly been marginally affected.

2. It is in principle wrong to base a refusal on a single objection in circumstances where, as in this case, dozens of neighbours could have objected but did not.

3. The initiative of Chris Grist in promoting the series of concerts was altogether admirable. It provided:
   - Employment for musicians whose livelihoods have been grievously affected by Covid-19;
   - Employment for chefs and others in the catering industry who have been similarly affected;
   - Great pleasure to all who have attended the concerts. The pleasure would have been felt in any event; it was enhanced by the fact that so little has been available for many months.

4. It is clear that great care has been taken in the design and implementation of the concerts. By reason of two specific health issues (lymphoma and bronchiectasis) I have been and remain on the list of people who are clinically extremely vulnerable in the event of contracting Covid-19. My trust in the promoter has been justified. Every conceivable precaution was in place in terms of spacing, routing, face coverings etc, and I felt entirely safe.

5. There is an enormous difference between these events and the 'unlicensed music events' which have been much in the news, in terms of noise of music and crowds, and crowd behaviour.

6. A series which is almost complete should be allowed to be completed. If a similar enterprise is proposed for next year there will be plenty of opportunity for a proper balance to be assessed between its value and any harmful effect on the local community.

Charles Gibson

[His Honour Charles Gibson
  Prentis Road
  London SW16]
To whomsoever this applies

It is difficult to understand why Chris Grist's enterprising and very well organised event of small groups of musicians and well behaved audiences, can be so disapproved of that his licence has been cancelled as a result of one, just one complaint.

I wonder when this person complained, was it recently? If so they will somehow have managed to survive the "disturbance" of all the concerts throughout August.

I am extremely sorry that you could not even allow the last of the programmes already arranged for this weekend to take place, especially when Lambeth allow other very noisy events eg. Kissstory to take place on Streatham common, disturbing the neighbourhood for a whole weekend. I do hope you can think again and allow these last modest events to take place after all.

From Susan Gibson
On 15 September 2020 at 11:50:08, Harriet Blacklay wrote:

I am writing to support the Secret Garden Concerts which is a wonderful way to revive community spirit and livelihoods in these difficult times. I am horrified that concerts have been cancelled due to a single neighbour complaining on the basis they had to "turn their TV up". This is a totally disproportionate and unreasonable response by the council which I hope will be reversed.
Yours faithfully
Harriet Blacklay
Subject: Secret Garden Concerts – message of support
Date: 15 September 2020 at 11:39:39 BST
To: xdeslicense@lambeth.gov.uk
Cc: tdunn@lambeth.gov.uk, xdeslicense@lambeth.gov.uk, kbadrick@lambeth.gov.uk, ngriffiths@lambeth.gov.uk, priley@lambeth.gov.uk, jbartley@lambeth.gov.uk, sainslie@lambeth.gov.uk, asmailbox.lambethlicensing@met.police.uk, nanderson-cottee@lambeth.gov.uk, tvirtue@lambeth.gov.uk, jhopkins@lambeth.gov.uk, danyanwu@lambeth.gov.uk, swinfred@lambeth.gov.uk, fcowell@lambeth.gov.uk

To Licensing Subcommittee

I am writing in support of the Secret Garden Concerts and their continuance throughout this year. We live in the street and have not been inconvenienced in any way by these events, either due to noise or additional pressure on parking. We have attended a concert as well, which was most enjoyable, very well managed and clearly COVID compliant. At a time of lockdown this is a valuable amenity in the area and we do not see any reason why their licence should be revoked.

Thank you

Jonathan Katz and Deborah Barker
On 14 September 2020 at 23:09:53, David Gordon wrote:

Dear Sirs,

I have been made aware of the fact the music licence for the last in the series of concerts to be held in the garden of 53 Mount Ephraim Lane, SW16 1JE, has been withheld in favour of a single neighbour complaint.

I was lucky enough to perform in one of the earlier concerts in the series and it was clear what an important service the concert series provides to the local community, as well as to a large slice of the community of professional musicians. The concert I did was expertly managed, proceeded calmly and had minimal impact on the locality, and in my view such a concert series should be encouraged - for the greater good than one aggrieved resident.

Many thanks
David Gordon
On 14 September 2020 at 21:31:24, Emma Sykes wrote:

To whom it may concern

**RE: Secret Garden Concerts**

I am writing to express my support for the beautiful Secret Garden Concerts that have been recently held in Streatham.

It has come to my attention that you are considering refusing them a licence and I firmly believe you should reconsider this decision.

The concerts are absolutely beautiful, uplifting and bring such happiness in uncertain times such as these. It has been a chance for the arts and the community to get together, after a long time. The mental health benefits to both audience and performers hugely outweigh any objections that can be made against them taking place.

Not only does it financially aid 35 musical performers that have been unable to earn a wage since lockdown, but it also does the same for 12 chefs and hospitality staff that attend.

Concerns about noise are ludicrous, how can the most beautiful classical music concerts be described as noice. Parking is not an issue especially as most ticket buyers are locals, and the measures that have been put in place to conform with COVID security have been exemplary.

I really do hope you will more concerts to go ahead, it would be very sad to lose something so wonderful for the local community.

Warm regards

Emma Sykes

Elms Road
London SW4
On 14 September 2020 at 17:29:32, Susie King wrote:

Dear Council Members

I urge you to reconsider the refusal of a performance licence for the above marvellous concerts which have supported so many out of work musicians and catering staff during this wretched Covid pandemic.

It is a superb entrepreneurial idea which has provided so much pleasure to the many supporters and performers and to have the licence refused by one neighbour who couldn’t turn up the volume of his/her tv is ridiculous. I am sure That neighbour could be offered a free ticket to enjoy for themselves this wonderful experience and have an enjoyable evening without the tv.

Please please reconsider and allow those dedicated out of work musicians to earn some money and finish off the “season”.

The venue was perfectly organised re Covid with plenty of space between seating and parking was easily available in adjoining roads as we were asked to avoid parking in Mt Ephraim Lane so as not to annoy neighbours.

Yours Susie King
Supporter

Sent from my iPhone
For the attention of the Lambeth licencing decision makers.

I would like to register my disappointment that the Secret Garden concert has been refused a licence for this weekend's event.

This initiative has been a massive boost to the area and to music lovers from further afield as well as providing a means for musicians, chefs and support staff to be able to work.

Having attended one of the events I can assure you that all possible Covid precautions were taken, with many staff on hand to direct the audience and ensure compliance with the precautions in place.

The audience are specifically requested not to park in Mount Ephraim Lane, and on the evening I visited this seemed to have been observed.

I understand that there has been a single objection from a nearby resident and it does not seem very democratic to me to put one person's minor inconvenience ahead of the employment and enjoyment of dozens and dozens of people.

I would therefore ask that you reconsider the licence decision and allow this event to take place.

Thank you for reading this.

Best wishes,

Helen Atkinson
Former resident of Kingscourt Road, SW16
On 14 September 2020 at 16:12:12, Caroline Churchill wrote:

I am extremely disappointed to learn that Secret Garden Concerts are threatened with losing their licence to put on small concerts.
Having attended one of these concerts recently, I can tell you that the noise is minimal. Classical music played outdoors without any sound system or mic is actually very quiet. We sat only a short way away from the performers and couldn’t always hear that well.
The numbers in the audience are so small that there is no queuing in the street and no problem with parking (we arrived by car). The set up inside the garden is very safe with great emphasis on social distancing, use of hand sanitiser and masks.
In these difficult and anxious times, when so little live music is allowed, The Secret Garden concerts are a much needed oasis for music lovers and anyone who needs an evening of calm contemplation in safe and beautiful surroundings. They are also a much needed source of income for a few professional musicians who are struggling hugely financially at the moment.
I urge the council to please reinstate this licence for the benefit of all concerned.

Caroline and Robin Canter
Sent from my iPhone
On 14 September 2020 at 15:51:51, Carolyn Cox wrote:

To whom it may concern

I was astonished to learn that the Secret Garden Concerts have been refused a licence for their last few events due to a neighbour not being able to hear their television set without turning it up!!!!

Can this be true? Is it the real reason? Surely not!

We attended one of the above events at the end of August and found it to be extremely well organised. Social distancing measures were in place, the staff were helpful and well-informed, and at no time did we feel uncomfortable in the beautiful garden.

Our main reason for attending was because we love going to concerts and the theatre - neither of which were available due to Covid, it was local - we live in Balham and walked to the event, and we thought it was such a brilliant idea that we felt we had to support it.

The show was over at 9.30pm and doors closed at 10pm, so hardly a late night.

How mean-spirited of the council to block someone trying to be innovative in these trying times, and shame on that person who complained, personally I would be delighted if I had just such an event in my street.

I suggest the council re-thinks its decision and lends its support to an imaginative group of people trying to make a difference.

Carolyn Cox and John Farnham
On 14 September 2020 at 15:16:40, Rupert Merton wrote:

I am writing in support of the granting of a licence for next weekend's concerts. We went to one of the series in August and it was the most valuable experience of the whole Covid situation. It was beautifully organised, completely safe and of immense value to the whole audience as well as providing a purpose to the lives of some brilliant musicians who have been unable to work or earn a living. It was peaceful, quiet and totally respectful of the neighbours. I really think the council would be better addressing the noisy and illegal parties that are being held and which are a dangerous health hazard to the whole borough.
Yours sincerely,
Rupert Merton
On 14 September 2020 at 14:21:43, Patricia Mitchell wrote:

Dear Mr Grist

Further to your email I am sorry that the licence has been refused for the above event.

I did attend one in August and thought that it was very well produced, directed, controlled and managed from all view points - the distancing arrangements re Covid were excellent and following your guidance I came by public transport. I thought the parking guidelines were excellent as well and noted that you asked your audience not to park anywhere near the location.

It was great that you could give musicians a chance to perform (for a fee as well) and they were obviously very appreciative of the chance to perform for us.

I enjoyed the food and thought the service (and food) was excellent and completely within government guidelines ....

I think it is a great shame that such a short concert of one hour in duration (or so) plus rehearsals time is upsetting to some of the neighbours and it is a shame that they did not take the opportunity to join in, rather than complain...

I wish you well in your endeavours to get UK back on the road again in terms of live performance within the constraints of rules governing covid, etc.

I do hope I can attend on Saturday - I have set aside the evening for this.

Best wishes

Patricia Mitchell
Putney Heath
SW15
On 14 September 2020 at 10:26:51, Harry H-B wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the fantastic Secret Garden Concerts that have been taking place in Streatham as we emerge from the worst of this pandemic.

I am incredibly saddened to hear of the possible rejection of their license application. They have worked incredibly hard to provide a completely covid-safe environment for audiences to enjoy culture and music once again after the industry suffered such a large hit. The benefits of music and entertainment to listeners are widely recognised, including support for mental health, wellbeing, as well as encouraging people to be back in the community in covid-safe spaces (instead of organising illegal gatherings outside of these spaces.)

I myself am a freelance musician working in theatre. I was made redundant due to the virus and receive no furlough or sick pay - events like this, as small as they are, provide a lifeline and at least a bit of income towards paying rent and bills for a number of performers. I believe to date, the Secret Garden Concerts series has provided employment opportunities to 35 performers, 12 chefs, and numerous hospitality staff. Even for those not attending, the event itself will encourage other groups to start returning to work where possible and safe - encouraging the growth of both the arts sector and the return to work being currently encouraged by the government.

On my understanding, the rejection of this is based on the complaint of one neighbour. Of course public opinions and complaints should be taken into consideration in all cases, however the seriousness and nature of the complaint against the noise being produced should be looked at in order to make a decision. As far as I am aware, the volume levels of these concerts will not be exceeding anti-social levels, and also take place during social hours, not late into the evening and often at weekends. Out of the many neighbours near to the concerts, the very small number of complaints (possibly just one?) must show that the majority in the area are not concerned, and I hope the level of support that is gained towards the event also supports that.

As a producer myself, the rejection of this application sets a worrying precedent for the support of arts - and I would hope that Lambeth council prides itself on supporting the community of artists, music-lovers, and the creative population in the borough.

Please carefully consider the application, as your decision directly influences the income of numerous performers and staff, many of whom are struggling to stay off benefits schemes and making ends meet. Innovative ventures such as this (especially where Covid-risk assessment is taken so seriously) must be supported as much as possible in order to keep arts afloat in the UK, bring a little income back to performers who are often just about staying afloat at the best of times, and in general keep the population of Lambeth happy and mentally active!

I truly appreciate you taking the time to read this, and I hope to receive an update on how the situation progresses, and if any more support is needed for the application.

Best wishes,
Harry Haden-Brown

*Assistant Conductor of Phantom of the Opera UK tour*
Harry Haden-Brown

Musical Director - Arranger - Pianist
On 13 September 2020 at 20:08:17, johan zachau wrote:

Dear Councillors

I am writing in total support of the "Secret Garden Concerts".

My wife and I had the privilege of attending one of the previous concerts.

I understand the council has refused the required licence for the few remaining concerts, based on the complaint of ONE neighbour. I cannot understand how ONE person can prevent such a wonderful idea of bringing music and enjoyment to many. The music has been classical - not a Rock Bank - it has commenced at 7.30 ending at 9.30 not breaking any rules concerning noise after midnight. Everyone who attended was quiet and orderly - there was no shouting - singing or loud behaviour. For ONE neighbour to say that they had to increase the volume of the television does not constitute or violate noise abatement. I frequently have to increase the volume on my television to override the television/stereo from my neighbours - yet no one from the council has been and stopped their noise.

Whilst at the concert my wife and I observed:

1. The sound levels were not excessive, and beautiful music was being performed
2. My wife and I arrived by bike but did not notice any parking issues at the venue
3. The organisers had gone to great trouble to ensure the venue - which is held out-doors - was COVID secure. Social distancing was ensured by polite marshals, the seating was well distanced and all "staff" and the majority of the guests were wearing masks. We felt absolutely COVID safe attending the concert.

These concerts have provided much joy and hope to us who have for a long time been living abnormal lives due to COVID - without access to culture and music.

We are hoping to attend the final concert of this series on 20 September, and sincerely hope that the council will grant a licence for the remaining concerts. They will provide much hope and happiness to many people and also provide much needed income for musicians who have for months not been able to perform / earn a living.

We sincerely hope that sense will prevail and that the council will consent and issue a license.

With kind regards
On 14 September 2020 at 09:41:34, Elly Krisson wrote:

Dear Councillors

I am writing in total support of the "Secret Garden Concerts".

My husband and I had the privilege of attending one of the previous concerts.

I understand the council has refused the required licence for the few remaining concerts, based on the complaint of ONE neighbour. I cannot understand how ONE person can prevent such a wonderful idea of bringing music and enjoyment to many. The music has been classical - not a Rock Bank - it has commenced at 7.30 ending at 9.30 not breaking any rules concerning noise after midnight. Everyone who attended was quiet and orderly - there was no shouting - singing or loud behaviour. For ONE neighbour to say that they had to increase the volume of the television does not constitute or violate noise abatement. I frequently have to increase the volume on my television to override the television/stereo from my neighbours - yet no one from the council has been and stopped their noise.

Whilst at the concert my husband and I observed:

1. The sound levels were not excessive, and beautiful music was being performed
2. My husband and I arrived by bike but did not notice any parking issues at the venue
3. The organisers had gone to great trouble to ensure the venue - which is held out-doors - was COVID secure. Social distancing was ensured by polite marshals, the seating was well distanced and all "staff" and the majority of the guests were wearing masks. We felt absolutely COVID safe attending the concert.

These concerts have provided much joy and hope to us who have for a long time been living abnormal lives due to COVID - without access to culture and music.

We are hoping to attend the final concert of this series on 20 September, and sincerely hope that the council will grant a licence for the remaining concerts. They will provide much hope and happiness to many people and also provide much needed income for musicians who have for months not been able to perform / earn a living.

We sincerely hope that sense will prevail and that the council will consent and issue a license.

With kind regards

elly krisson
On 14 September 2020 at 09:36:00, KLARA WALLACE wrote:

Secret garden concert-message of support.

To all

We are writing in support of the pleasant events organised under the title Secret Garden Concerts. We have attended one of the events and can attest to the view that it is a wonderful occasion particularly in this difficult pandemic situation. It provides an evening of beautiful live music and an opportunity for musicians and those in the hospitality to work and share with the community.

We live directly opposite the Secret Garden and at no time has the music or attendants at the concerts affected us. In fact while indoors no sound has disturbed us. We should also add that there have been no disturbances from people leaving the events. Nor has there been any issue of parking which under normal circumstances is adequate in Mount Ephraim Lane.

We therefore have to conclude that the person who has objected to this is being disingenuous and petty and you to your eternal discredit and short sighted actions have swallowed the objection hook, line and sinker.

We fully support the licence application by the Secret Garden Concerts.

Klara and Tom Wallace-O'Flaherty
On 14 September 2020 at 09:17:26, Deborah Dawton wrote:

Dear Lambeth

I was very disappointed to learn that you have chosen to represent against the licence application for Secret Garden Concerts, and I ask you to reconsider immediately.

The window of opportunity for these events is closing due to the weather, and with it, the potential for a small group of people to benefit financially at a time when their livelihoods have been stripped of them (and I should imagine that most aren’t able to benefit from Government support). I know from bitter experience that the cost on cancelling sold out events is crippling to an organisation, and I cannot imagine the impact of this on a small team on individuals so close to the end of their run of soul-restoring events. Please reconsider this licence and allow them to finish the season.

Please don’t undervalue the impact of these events, and of music on the audience, mostly your constituents. A lifeline for many, you could have heard a pin drop during the performances. The audience was transfixed, and for an hour and half transported to another place. The impact on the wellbeing of those lucky enough to attend is hard to measure, but I wouldn’t be surprised if all of us slept better for a few nights, raved about it to our friends for weeks, and applauded the Council for its entrepreneurial spirit in allowing these concerts to go ahead in the first place. Please maintain your approach. In the same way that Planning is having to be dealt with differently at present to lessen the impact of COVID on construction and development, your approach to these licences needs to change to lessen the impact on COVID on your constituents, and a particularly hard hit Creative Industries.

Very practically I want to confirm that arriving late to our first concert, and we walked, there was no visible impact on the parking in Mount Ephraim Lane – I walk down this road most days/weeks. I can assure you that the rules relating to these gatherings were maintained at all times; we wouldn’t have returned a second time if we thought we were putting ourselves at risk.

I do understand there is a noise issue, but these are surely times when we should be affording our neighbours the generosity of spirit that is needed if we are all to navigate COVID well. I’m three roads away and I would happily invite the detractors to watch telly at my house and give them dinner!

The Creative Industries in the UK have been severely hit in the last six months with very little hope of anything like a return to work possible for them. While I represent the design industry in the UK, and not music, I do call on Lambeth to reconsider this licence now.
Second, I’d like to offer to arrange a Zoom meeting between leading creatives/performers in Lambeth and the Council, to consider what might be possible going forward, next month, Christmas, and into next year. How could we make Lambeth the place to be to weather the COVID storm? How could we move our neighbours and constituents to a place of better mental health? Track and trace may not be ready or reliable, but we do have a world class creative sector sitting on our doorstep and they have just proved themselves able to inspire and lift spirits at a time when very little else can.

Could Lambeth become the first borough to prescribe creativity for the good of its residents?

Kind regards,

Deborah

___

Deborah Dawton
Chief Executive Officer
On 14 September 2020 at 05:17:44, Brian Smith wrote:

Sirs

I understand that the Garden’s licence for the upcoming weekend has been refused. This is very disappointing particularly as it appears to have been based on complaints from 1 neighbour. These concerts have been an opportunity for performers and staff to earn the first amount of money since lockdown. Audience members, like myself, have enjoyed live music for the first time for months. I and my friends were looking forward to attending a second concert.

It is difficult to believe that the noise was that substantial. No doubt there were a few cars parking nearby but I and my guests came by public transport as I assume others did. The promoters had made great efforts to make the venue Covid secure. All of this makes it difficult to believe that Lambeth Council Have refused a licence. I hope that the matter can be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully

Brian Smith
On 13 September 2020 at 23:16:41, Jane Jarvis wrote:

Dear Lambeth Council Licencing Department,

I am very sorry indeed to hear that I will miss the last concert in the wonderful Secret Garden series of concerts because Lambeth Council have refused a licence for the event. I think it's a great shame that something so positive, especially in these difficult times, has not been allowed to go ahead. I believe this is because of one complaint that it interferes with someone’s television viewing - REALLY - that is very sad. A first class live performance by professional musicians, who are having such a difficult time right now, which uplifts and refreshes so many people has to be cancelled because it interferes with one person's viewing for a couple of hours. It isn't rock music after all but lovely classical music which is surely not so very loud.

Surely there must be more to it? If safety is the problem, then I must say that I have felt a lot safer in the secret garden than I did in the pub where I met friends for lunch this week for the first time in many months. The staff in the Secret Garden all wear masks and/or visors and we in the audience sat in our 'bubbles' with plenty of space between each 'bubble' so there was no need to get close to people we did not know but at the same time the atmosphere was very friendly and happy because we were all sharing something we love and have been deprived of. Even the Proms presenter last night said "let's hope this is the beginning of more live music events" or something to that effect and yet Lambeth are cancelling! I know we have to be very careful these days and I'm sure Lambeth is doing it's best but I really felt that everyone involved in the Secret Garden Concerts was acting very responsibly and safely whilst giving us a really nourishing (the food was great too) treat as well as providing the opportunity for the musicians (and caterers) to do what they do best, cheer up a lot of people and earn a little much needed revenue.

And, from a purely selfish point of view, it's only a few minutes walk from where I live and with my chronic lung condition it's very important for me not to have to travel on the tube or buses for the time being.

Needless to say, it would be much appreciated if you would change your mind and issue the licence.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Jarvis
On 13 September 2020 at 22:58:43, Tina Maisonneuve wrote:

Dear council and community members

I am writing this message to voice my support in favour of the Secret Garden concerts.

It is my sincere hope that the council grant a licence for these important and enriching concerts to take place this week, providing much needed income to the artists that are performing and staff, providing an even bigger benefit to the broader community attending these special events.

This event is uplifting and a thoughtfully organised concert for the local community, with socially distanced measures in place, which benefit residents of the borough like me and my family, during these exceptional times.

I will be travelling to the event by bicycle and will not be taking up any parking spaces.

The noise for the performance is contained for a certain brief time period, and limited to gentle classical music.

The organisers have been meticulous with planning COVID safe measures - socially distanced and ensuring there is use of sanitizers and masks.

I understand that this coming weekend will be the final performance of the secret concert series, and my family and I would be hugely grateful if council would allow for the licence to be granted and for the concert to proceed.

I would like to voice my tremendous support and appreciation of the organisers of Secret Garden concerts for putting on a thoughtfully organised community event at a time when music and a sense of community matters most.

With kind regards,

Tina Maisonneuve

Sent from my iPhone
On 13 September 2020 at 22:51:52, Anton Krawchenko wrote:

Dear all,
I have tickets to attend a Secret Garden concert with my wife on 18 September, and have just learned their license has been revoked. What an extraordinarily disappointing and frustrating situation.

This will have been the first cultural event for me and my wife since the pandemic broke. It meant a lot to us. I can't imagine how frustrating this will be for the performers.

As if things aren't hard enough for the arts sector to try and stay afloat, to be shut down like this not because of the pandemic or social distancing rules, but a licensing issue, is just too much.

This isn't a rock concert and I can't imagine the afternoon or evening noise is extreme.

I would arrive by taxi or bicycle, so parking will not be needed.

This seems a perverse outcome from a license review, and I hope you will reconsider.

Sincerely,
Anton Krawchenko
SW11
On 13 September 2020 at 21:52:26, Emma Scarborough wrote:

To all concerned at Lambeth Council

I simply cannot believe that the feeble complaint of one resident has resulted in you refusing Secret Garden Concerts a licence to continue giving the local community an enormous amount of joy in these very depressing times.

Since clearly none of you has attended these concerts, can I please try to reassure you that since they are finished by 10.00pm, they cannot be deemed as an unsociable noise pollution.

I don’t believe that there has been extra traffic in the area. On the night I attended the vast majority of the audience (my party included) arrived on foot apart from a few who had cycled.

And as for any concerns about Covid, all the seating at the concert was carefully set out so that we were seated in our own “bubbles” with at least 2 metres between each bubble.

I urge you to reconsider your decision - these concerts are not only improving the mental health of those attending (and local residents who I could see enjoying on the music on the street) but also that of musicians and caterers who have suffered enormous financial hardship during the recent pandemic.

Yours faithfully
Emma Scarborough
Kirkstall Road
SW2
On 13 September 2020 at 21:40:21, Zoe Lake wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I have attended all the secret garden concerts at 53 Mount Ephraim Lane. They are a wonderful endeavour that have united the local community and brought great joy to our lives through this difficult time.

It is wonderful to know that such special events enhance not only my life and the life of the local community but bring some financial and emotional relief to the wonderful musicians and people in the hospitality business who have entertained us so handsomely.

I strongly refute the suggestion that these concerts have broken social distancing regulations. They organisation is exceptional and all Covid regulations have been strictly adhered to.

As a resident of Mount Ephraim Lane I can assure you there are most certainly no issues with either noise or parking.

Finally I am shocked and disappointed to hear that the council can shut down these wonderful events on the hearsay of one individual. I would like to know how this decision can have legally been made and would appreciate your response in this matter.

Kind regards,
Zoe Lake
On 13 September 2020 at 21:10:53, Valda Kampf wrote:

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have a ticket for the Secret Garden concert for Friday 18 September, although my scheduled date had been in August but it was cancelled due to bad weather.

I was very disappointed and surprised to find out today that the venue has not been given a license to finish the last few concerts. I understand one neighbour had complained about some noise. It seems astonishing that an event can be cancelled due to just one complaint - surely this is not normal procedure? It is not even an event with loud music as most people would agree that classical music is a lot quieter than other music genres.

Even if you take the complaint into account, surely there has to be a balance between this & the benefit to the performers, staff & to the local community in terms of income & to the audience in terms of our mental health. The government is actively encouraging events to happen for this very reason so the decision does seem not only lack any common sense, but also to be going against government thinking. I imagine there are very few concerts still planned at this venue so surely, considering the benefits, the complaint should not be allowed to result in it’s cancellation.

If there is concern about parking or noise from the cars driven to the event, then pls note I will be arriving by train.

I have checked the precautions taken by the venue to protect the staff & audience from the coronavirus & feel reassured that the event will be safe & that all necessary steps have been taken.

I do hope you will urgently reconsider your decision, as to insist on it being cancelled would cause more hardship and show the council in very bad light.

I look forward to hearing from you hopefully with a positive outcome.

Best wishes
Valda Kampf
On 13 September 2020 at 21:10:08, michaeltg (removed) wrote:

Dear All

We had already written in support of the recent concerts given at the Secret Garden and spoke directly to Councillor Nicole Griffiths about the intended refusal of a licence but did not know the reason for the refusal at the time but now have been informed of the justification for the refusal on the basis of one individual's complaint.

“When I try to watch TV I am unable to do so without increasing the volume, which I cannot do, as this would then disturb other members in my household even more.”

When this is weighed against the positive benefit, employment for several highly qualified musicians and members on the catering industry as well as general staff many of whom have been unable to work since lockdown and providing approx 60 local residents the opportunity for an enjoyable evening when most other forms of entertainment anywhere have been unavailable, I find the refusal to grant a licence by Lambeth quite extraordinary. The Council should be proud that such an event is taking place in the Borough and give their full support.

We attended two of the concerts to which we were able to walk from home so no parking was required.

The concerts were meticulously organised and, as far as we could see, fully respected the Covid guidelines in the way we were registered, moved in the garden, the seating arrangements and the instructions that were given.

The music that we heard on the two evening were played on traditional stringed instruments (violin, viola and 'cello), all unamplified and finished before 10.00pm - this was not a rock band committing auditory violence to the neighbourhood. We did notice one immediate neighbour had opened their window to better hear the music and applauded the performances whilst another was at the concert.

Please reconsider what must be an unjustified and mistaken decision and grant future licences.

Yours

Michael Thomson
On 13 September 2020 at 20:27:33, Hazel Barrett wrote:

To Lambeth Council

Re performance licence for the Secret Garden Concerts held in Streatham

I attended one Secret Garden performance ‘Austentacious’ a few weeks ago with a family group. It was the first time we had been to any arts performance since lockdown began – normally we support London theatre and music regularly. It was wonderful to be able to see a live performance, especially as it was so close to home - as we live in Streatham we walked to the performance. We don't often have the opportunity to see this kind of theatre in Streatham and with professional venues closed it looks as if it will be a long time before any indoor theatre will take place. The theatre group said it was their first performance in six months, it was wonderful to be there.

I understand that you are considering whether or not to grant a performance licence for the last few Secret Garden concerts to be held next weekend, postponed due to bad weather. I urge you to grant the licence (I don't have tickets so I am saying this on behalf of other people).

I understand you have received one complaint from a neighbour about the noise, relating to whether or not to turn up the volume of their tv. As I attended a performance I would like to tell you about my experience. The Secret garden concerts are at the weekend, mainly small groups of musicians playing classical music – not amplified – and the theatre we saw – not amplified. Audience numbers are strictly controlled. The audience would have been talking before the performances and on the evening we went it was muted conversation – not like being in a pub. The performance we saw finished by 10 pm. I know these are professional performances hence the need for a licence but many private events which don't require a licence are far more noisy and continue later into the evening. I do understand that a neighbour could be annoyed by the concerts, as by any gathering, on the other hand perhaps other neighbours enjoyed them?

Regarding covid regulations, the event was very well organised with seating areas allocated to the audience in our bubble groups and each group clearly distanced. Names and contact details collected. I was really impressed with the care and attention which went into all this.

I think it would be a total shame if the final concerts – which originally had a licence – could not take place because of one unquantified objection, when they have brought so much pleasure to so many residents, and supported musicians and actors when they most need it. Lambeth Council please support this brilliant initiative to bring music and theatre to Streatham and grant the licence.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Barrett

Amesbury Avenue
Streatham SW2
On 13 September 2020 at 20:15:33, RICHARD PAVITT wrote:

Hi, my name is Richard Pavitt, and I would like to offer my support for the Secret Garden Concerts.

I live at no. Mount Ephraim Lane with my wife and two daughters and we have been residents here since 1997, living opposite no.53.

We have been in residence while most of the concerts and rehearsals have been on and can honestly say they have posed no problems for us. With windows closed you can barely hear the acoustic music, and there didn't seem to be a problem with traffic, in fact it looked as though most of the audience arrived on foot.

We understand how difficult it has been at this time for musicians and performers to make a living when most concerts/venues have been closed, so this offered a little positive light to those involved. We would be happy for the licence to be granted so that they can finish their season on a high note.

Richard Pavitt
On 13 September 2020 at 20:04:39, Nikki Griffiths wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for the Secret Garden Concerts which have been taking place in Streatham.

This is such a brilliant initiative to see happening in my local community. I was very much hoping to get a ticket to one of the events you have declined a licence for - I know that parking was one of your concerns, so it may also help to know that we are locals and would have been walking to the event - as I'm sure many of the guests would.

It's events like these which make Streatham the fun, vibrant and community-focused home that it is, so, please, continue the support you have previously shown to this initiative. It's exactly the sort of thing we all need right now, not to mention the leg up it will give to numerous people trying to get their livelihoods back on track following the ongoing disruption Covid-19 has caused to so many.

Many thanks,

Nikki Griffiths (Tierney Road, SW2)
On 13 September 2020 at 14:47:09, elinor dean wrote:

Dear Sirs

I am emailing about the licence refusal for the secret garden concerts.

I find it extremely sad that an effort to provide some joy to people and to help musicians and caterers in what are very difficult times has been prevented due to licensing issues.

I certainly think this event is exactly the sort of event that the Council should be encouraging and helping in these times.

I understand the opposition is on the grounds of parking, covid and noise.

In terms of parking, we would be walking to the venue as we live locally, as I believe would be the case with many concert-goers.

Holding a classical music concert outside with socially distanced seating seems to me to be one of the safest ways to enjoy a concert. In fact it seems a much better arrangement than most restaurants or the odeon on streatham high street have in terms of covid protection.

On noise, it seems absurd to prevent these events due the concern of one neighbour. The event is as far from being a rave as it could possibly be.

It’s really disappointing that the council are preventing these events from going ahead. We should be encouraging events like these, trying to make our neighbourhood better and more vibrant (rather than placating one person who had to turn up their tv) and give people covid-safe enjoyment during these times.

Yours sincerely

Elinor Dean
On 13 September 2020 at 19:31:45, Laura Sandford wrote:

Dear Lambeth Council,

I am very upset and angry to hear that you have refused the Secret Garden Concerts in Streatham the licence to go ahead with their final concerts next weekend.

I suffer from anxiety and the Covid restrictions have taken a huge toll on my mental health. Music – both taking part in concerts and listening to them – is a huge part of my life. I have been absolutely devastated about so many concerts being cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. While I can just about understand why this had to be done at the height of the pandemic, when many human lives were at stake, the thought of these concerts being cancelled because of one neighbour complaining about not being able to watch TV makes me absolutely livid. I attended the first of the Secret Garden Concerts on 2 August and it was wonderful and provided a huge boost to my fragile mental health.

To address the specific issues that led to you to cancel the concerts:

- **Noise of the concerts**
  I do not think that the concert I attended was excessively noisy. It also finished at a reasonable time – well before 10pm.

- **Parking**
  I came to the concert on foot and by bus. I was not aware of lots of extra cars being parked in the area. I would imagine that many of the audience were local Streatham people (in fact I recognised quite a few of them) who could easily have got to the concert on foot or by public transport.

- **Covid**
  The organisers of these concerts made huge efforts to make them a Covid secure space and I felt very safe. Audience members were socially distanced from each other, our details were taken for Test and Trace purposes, and most importantly, the concerts took place outside, where all scientific evidence points to the risk of Covid-19 transmission being extremely low.

If you do not reconsider your decision and do not let the concerts go ahead this weekend, you will be damaging the livelihood of musicians and the mental health of many people for whom these concerts have been a lifeline.

Regards,

Laura Sandford
On 13 September 2020 at 18:55:21, Heather and Julian Moore (Kirkstall Road SW2) wrote:

Dear Lambeth Council

As Lambeth residents, we were delighted to be able to attend 2 of the Secret Garden Concerts in Mount Ephraim Lane this summer. Covid has been particularly cruel to the arts and the opportunity to participate in a safe outdoor event, to listen to some extremely high quality classical music was a real boost to morale, not only of the musicians, but also the audience. Post lock-down, we found this to be exceedingly therapeutic. We cycled over to the event from our home in Streatham Hill and enjoyed a couple of hours of beauty, along with a glass of wine and some good food.

It is distressing that such events, which are infrequent and seasonal, should be stopped by one person who wants to watch their TV at a low volume. The events finish early and if they were a private party would not even spark a modicum of attention from the Lambeth noise team. Has anyone actually measured the decibels emitted? - In our view they are low, as the music can easily be drowned out by a passing motorcycle (as happened).

We would ask that our council reconsider this license application and not allow 1 person to spoil the enjoyment, and, dare one say it, mental health, of a larger number of local residents.

Yours sincerely

Julian and Heather Moore

Kirkstall Road

SW2
On 13 September 2020 at 18:17:17, Bruno Boulanger wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to ask you to overturn the refusal of further licensing for the events mentioned above. We think that this kind of fantastic local initiative is crucial if we are to get the economy and culture started again in Lambeth and also to enjoy a good time out in these difficult times. The organisers should be applauded and encouraged, they have given young musicians (and chefs) the opportunity to do their job again.

We live at Woodbourne Avenue, very close to the concert venue as the crow flies (maybe 40 meters). We tried but could hardly hear any noise at the end of our garden on concert nights. Further, being close to traffic, Mt Ephraim Lane is already one of the quietest roads in Lambeth. We do not believe that the limited number and frequency of these concerts could give anybody credible grounds to complain (and we are talking about classical music, not heavy metal !)

Living in the neighbourhood, my wife and I obviously walked to the concert venue, as did many of the neighbours we have seen attend the function. We did not notice any parking issue.

We have attended 2 concerts already and we have been struck by the very professional attention devoted to all Covid guidelines, with contact details, distanciation, queues, stewards, masks etc... We are of a careful nature and we would not consider attending any unsafe event.

Many thanks in advance for your consideration,
Best regards,

Bruno & Valerie Boulanger

Woodbourne Avenue
London SW16
On 13 September 2020 at 18:04:35, Julian Sperry wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support the appeal to allow Secret Garden Concerts to complete their excellent series of summer concerts.

That one complaint can result in this cancellation, affecting many musicians, caterers and staff seems ludicrous.

Please allow the concerts to continue. It brings so much joy and work to so many in these strange times.

Yours sincerely,

J Martin-Sperry

Julian Martin-Sperry
Earlsfield Road
London SW18
On 13 September 2020 at 18:02:24, Rebecca Marriott wrote:

Dear Councillors,

I’m writing to you all to reconsider your decision to grant a licence for the last Secret Garden Concerts before Autumn and the next surge of lockdowns befalls us.

I live in Mount Ephraim Lane, with my husband and two daughters and having these concerts has been such a wonderful experience for all who have had the pleasure of attending, it would be a travesty for these last concerts not to be able to go ahead. This has been firstly wonderful to listen to and secondly keeping up the morale and livelihood of all these musicians, not to mention employing waiting staff and catering staff, all of whom have been out of work for the past 3 months.

I believe the complaints have been around increased traffic/pressure on parking - this is nonsense since most guests have arrived on foot. Noise pollution - again we cannot hear it from our house unless we go to the front of the house and open all the windows, and then the volume is very very low. Covid - all attendees I have seen have worn masks upon entry and are very well spaced (well in excess of 2 meters) during the performance.

I urge you all to reconsider.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Marriott
Mount Ephraim Lane
SW16
On 13 September 2020 at 18:01:35, Ruby Gleeson wrote:

Hi,

As a resident of Mount Ephraim lane I would like to state my support for the secret garden concerts that have been running recently. Whilst I haven’t attended the concerts, they are nothing but peace and joy for the people around them. Not only do they employ people who have been hit by the Covid crisis, they also create a "very inoffensive" and beautiful soundscape to the streets of Streatham. I love hearing the quiet hum of classical music whilst I’m at home, and if any Karen’s complain that they can’t hear their TV then they need to sort their priorities out! This is a rare opportunity for a covid-safe, good intentioned community project that supports hospitality workers, performers, the arts industry and the mental health of the local residents. This is the exact type of community spirit that will only serve to benefit Streatham. I really hope that you can see past the small-mindedness of a very small percentage who do not represent the community here because the show must go on!

Yours sincerely,

Ruby Gleeson
On 13 September 2020 at 17:22:19, Simon Marriott wrote:

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am a neighbour at Mount Ephraim Lane and I heard with immense sadness that the Licence for the final series of concerts had been refused. Shocking NIMBYism and totally unfounded representations in my humble opinion. Such a shame to our cultural enrichment in these bleak times.

The volume of these concerts is very low to the point that we moved to our front room and opened our windows in order for the music to be audible at all at our property (we live diagonally opposite)!! This is not AC/DC!? 

The parking in Mount Ephraim has NOT been adversely effected whatsoever. These are small events and I have seen most guests attending arriving by foot.

The space where these events are held is very generous allowing for significant social distancing well in excess of that prescribed.

It would be an utter tragedy if you continue to refuse a Licence for the final concerts so I respectfully suggest that you reconsider.

Yours faithfully

Simon Marriott
Mount Ephraim Lane
SW16

Sent from my iPhone
On 13 September 2020 at 16:24:56, Peter Grant wrote:

Dear Chris

As Lambeth residents we hugely appreciated going to a concert on 30 August in the Secret Garden. The location is close to our home and we were able to walk there and back. We had not been to any live concerts since the start of the lockdown and this was a special treat. The evening was superbly organised and to the highest standards in every dimension. The social distancing and sanitising protocols in place were excellent. It did not finish late, well before 10.00pm, and we can't imagine that the beautiful music would have upset the neighbours. We strongly support the continuation of the concerts. We would love to attend again.

Yours sincerely,

Peter and Stella Grant
On 13 September 2020 at 16:09:17, Jamie Mortimer wrote:

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Secret Garden Concerts have been refused a licence for their upcoming events, a decision which I believe is based on unfounded information and is to the detriment of the local community.

My partner and I attended one of the events on 29 August, and from start to finish the evening was conducted safely with every precaution taken to respect government guidelines with regards to COVID-19, and without potential disturbance to the surrounding neighbourhood. We had been particularly concerned before attending that social distancing be observed, and were pleased to find that the setup of the space and conduct of the staff ensured our health and safety throughout the evening. We also walked to the event to avoid any potential risk via public transport.

In my opinion, noise levels were kept very low and respectful of the surrounding neighborhood. The event was also finished quite early and dispersed quickly.

I believe it would be a great shame to deny our local community the opportunity to support the arts and those individuals who have been so greatly affected by their inability to work during this difficult time. We were so delighted to have found an event through which we could enable those in hospitality and entertainment to continue to work.

Sincerely,

Jamie

Jamie Mortimer
Digital Designer
On 13 September 2020 at 15:39:12, Sue Young wrote:

Good Afternoon

Having attended a previous Secret Garden concert I am extremely upset that the concerts for this weekend have been denied a licence. They were to be the final concerts of the season.

I would like to say how well they were managed and how it felt good to be supporting the music and food industries who have so badly affected by lockdown.

When we went, I did not notice that there were no parking spaces in the street, causing problem with parking for the residents, and as requested by the organisers most people seem to have arrived by public transport. The concert finished by 9.30pm and the place closed by 10pm.

This was no ‘rave’ but a small audience listening to a few instruments which were not electrified or amplified to a high level. I am astounded ANYONE could complain about it and frankly think that someone saying they couldn’t hear their TV indoors is being ridiculous and certainly exaggerating the amount of noise generated.

I hope the council will reconsider and allow the concerts to proceed.

Yours Sincerely

Sue Black
On 13 September 2020 at 15:29:54, Jo Gowans-Eglinton wrote:

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Secret Garden Concerts have been refused a licence for their upcoming events, a decision which I believe is based on unfounded information and is to the detriment of the local community.

My partner and I attended one of the events on 29 August, and from start to finish the evening was conducted safely with every precaution taken to respect government guidelines with regards to COVID-19, and without potential disturbance to the surrounding neighbourhood. We had been particularly concerned before attending that social distancing be observed, and were pleased to find that the setup of the space and conduct of the staff ensured our health and safety throughout the evening. We also walked to the event to avoid any potential risk via public transport.

In my opinion, noise levels were kept very low and respectful of the surrounding neighborhood. The event was also finished quite early and dispersed quickly.

I believe it would be a great shame to deny our local community the opportunity to support the arts and those individuals who have been so greatly effected by their inability to work during this difficult time. We were so delighted to have found an event through which we could enable those in hospitality and entertainment to continue to work.

Sincerely,

Jo Gowans-Eglinton
On 13 September 2020 at 14:39:45, Richard Sheahan wrote:

Hi Chris

We just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the concert we attended.

It was a particular pleasure at this time to be able to do something that was well managed and allowed a small number of musicians safely to do what they do best, for a small, well spaced and appreciative audience, for just a couple of hours of distraction from everything we are going through (and without any amplification!)

My family walked to the concert as you are local and we all had a very good and memorable time.

Thank you for bringing some light into a dark time.

Best wishes for future events

Richard

Richard Sheahan

iPhone
On 15 September 2020 at 07:17:10, David Bunbury wrote:

To Lambeth Licensing

Having recently attended one of Chris Grist's Secret Garden Concerts on Mount Ephraim Lane is was very disappointed to hear their license has been withdrawn.

Having had very few opportunities for any kind for a social or cultural life in the last six months going to their concert was a wonderful moment during a bleak time. It also felt good to be able to support performers and hospitality staff.

Being able to walk across the common to a venue with meticulous Covid precautions meant we could avoid the risks associated with usual music venues.

Given the issues of traffic noise, pollution and litter that blight Streatham I am disappointed that suppressing the cultural life of the area is considered a priority.

Kinds Regards

David Bunbury.
On 13 September 2020 at 18:10:12, Ellie Consta wrote:

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to voice my absolute support for Secret Garden Concerts, in the hope that you will reconsider and grant the group license to continue their amazing work.

As a freelance musician and performer in the group, I can only begin to describe the devastating effects that the pandemic has had on the music industry and artists alike. Since March, the majority of us have had all of our work cancelled. Personally, I have only been offered two paid concerts - one of which was for Secret Garden Concerts. Financially, this a terrifying situation to be in with total uncertainty of when/if things will pick back up again, so to get the chance to perform again with like-minded individuals and share such joy with a live audience again was an absolute privilege. It has been a glimmer of hope and an absolute pleasure to create something so beautiful out of a truly horrendous situation.

With regards to the noise level, I can honestly say that I could barely hear the music at all from ‘backstage’ (at the back of the garden behind the house). My colleague and I actually had to walk round to the front in order to check when to walk on stage! So I am shocked to hear that someone had complained that it was too loud, as I could hear traffic rather than music.

This brings me onto the next complaint about insufficient parking - personally I cycled to the concert, but there were still several parking spaces on the same street at the end of the evening.

There were meticulous efforts in order ensure a Covid-secure space for both performers and audience members during rehearsal and concert. Social distancing was maintained at all times and we received such wonderful feedback from audience members. It was so heartwarming to witness the coming together of people from different ages and backgrounds. It gave real meaning to a profession that we have dedicated years of study, time and money to. Giving up is absolutely not an option for us, the arts and music are a essential part of life for us all.

I really hope that you will grant Secret Garden Concerts licence to perform in order to support the arts under such testing times. I hope there is a way for us all to adapt to this new way of life by supporting such a vital cause.

Yours sincerely,

Eleonora Consta
Hi Tom,

Please add this as well.
Thanks,
Chris

On 16 September 2020 at 12:32:30, Cllr Nicole Griffiths (ngriffiths@lambeth.gov.uk) wrote:

“You have full support from your local councillors in holding events that bring joy and benefit hundreds of people from the local community – residents, musicians, performers and those from the hospitality sector during these difficult times of the pandemic”.

Councillor Nicole Griffiths

Green Party – Streatham, St Leonard’s Ward

London Borough of Lambeth

E: ngriffiths@lambeth.gov.uk

P: [Redacted]

Streatham Green Blog: http://streathamnews.blogspot.com

Surgeries:

Due to the ever-changing position relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, councillors advice surgeries have been suspended until it is safe for them to resume. Until then, please keep up-to-date with the latest information from Lambeth Council here:

Stay at Home. Protect the NHS. Save Lives.

This email is private, confidential and not for publication
Dear Council Members

I urge you to reconsider the refusal of a performance licence for the above marvellous concerts which have supported so many out of work musicians and catering staff during this wretched Covid pandemic.

It is a superb entrepreneurial idea which has provided so much pleasure to the many supporters and performers and to have the licence refused by one neighbour who couldn’t turn up the volume of his/her tv is ridiculous. Please offer that neighbour a free ticket to enjoy for themselves this wonderful experience and have an enjoyable evening without the tv.

Please please reconsider and allow those dedicated out of work musicians to earn some money and finish off the “season”.

Yours Susie King
Supporter

Sent from my iPhone
Good morning Tom

Please see the email below, which I received last night.

I have emailed to confirm if the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, I have not heard back but did not want to delay sending this over, so currently all the details have been redacted.

We would like this to be submitted as additional information for the LSC on Friday 18th September 2020 at 14:00.

Many thanks

Kind Regards

Keith Badrick
Public Protection Officer
Public Protection, Assurance & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Resident Services
London Borough of Lambeth
Telephone: 020 7926 5000
Direct dial: 020 7926 3085
Email: kbadrick@lambeth.gov.uk
Website: http://www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth – a cooperative council

Privacy Note

The London Borough of Lambeth (the “Council”) will make use of personal data it collects when issuing Notices for the purpose of processing and enforcing them, and if required, to obtain recent address details to ensure that the notice and any further notices are issued to the correct address. As a ‘public task’, the processing of personal data related to the enforcement by the Council of a notice does not require your consent. The personal information collected by the Council’s enforcement teams may be shared with its enforcement contractors, other government agencies and 3rd parties to ensure appropriate enforcement actions, and for the prevention and detection of crime. The personal information will be retained for 6 years following the closure of this case. If you are concerned about how the council is using your personal data, you may find more information about your rights on our website www.lambeth.gov.uk/privacy-notice.

From: REDACTED
Sent: 16 September 2020 18:14
To: Keith Badrick <KBadrick@lambeth.gov.uk>
Subject: Re Musical nights at no 53 Mount Ephraim Lane.

Dear Sir/ Madam,
I writing to you to complain about the noise and difficulties caused by events being held at no 53 Mount Ephraim Lane.

From the 2nd August every weekend the above property has been holding musical events in the evenings; this included 1 full weekend; 21st, 22nd & 23rd August and the 29th & 30th August, which had included the 28th but had been postponed.

These events have been an extremely disturbing to me and my Family including my grandchildren; there are been music rehearsals during the day, then the actual event, which has been loud enough to hear clearly within my house. They have also been hosting dinners, which has meant that the events last longer; we can hear people leaving after 11pm, they are not quiet as they leave.

This is a quiet residential road and I am shocked that Lambeth Council has allowed a private residential home to be used as a paid commercial venue, especially holding musicals events which were bound to be noisy and finishing late into the evenings.

This has caused a detrimental effect on my family life; we are unable to enjoy our weekends due to the noise during the day and evening. My grandchildren have been woken up from their sleep, and has caused parking issues; blocking our driveway.

I am very upset to find that no53 intends to hold musical events on the 18th evening, 19th afternoon & evening and the 20th afternoon & evening; 5 events over one an entire weekend is both unfair and unacceptable due to the amount of problems it causes.

Regards

REDACTED

Get Outlook for iOS
On 13 September 2020 at 21:23:41, Alice Bayly wrote:

Dear Lambeth Council

I am writing in strong support of the Secret Garden Concerts.

My husband and I went to one of these concerts last month and it was a wonderful evening, a hugely welcome respite at this awful time, and in fact the only arts event we have been able to go to since March. We travelled to the event by car and there was plenty of parking available in surrounding streets. The event was very well and responsibly organised so we felt safe and relaxed throughout. The performance was of very high quality and it was incredibly calming to listen to as the sun set.

It was altogether a very contemplative, relaxing and beautiful evening and we were so happy to be able to support such enterprising and talented musicians who must be finding things so difficult in the present circumstances.

I do hope that you will allow the remaining concerts to go ahead so that others may also share the positive and uplifting experience we were lucky enough to have, courtesy of Secret Garden Concerts.

Kind regards
Alice Bayly
On 15 September 2020 at 06:33:16, David Chandler wrote:

Dear Sirs,

I am concerned to hear that you have refused to grant a licence for a classical concert this coming weekend. These events have supported musicians who otherwise would not have been able to perform since lockdown in March 2020. It also supports the community who have been unable to go to live events. My son is a violinist and for him to be able to perform is essential.

So far London Concertante have given an opportunity to 35 performers like my son.

I understand that the Public Protection department has chosen to represent against the licence application, based on the complaint of one neighbour who stated “When I try to watch TV I am unable to do so without increasing the volume, which I cannot do, as this would then disturb other members in my household even more.”

If the council continues to uphold this refusal, it will mean a further 28 performers will not get the opportunity to perform and also earn some desperately needed performing fee and an eager audience will not get the opportunity to listen to music outdoors in a Covid free environment. Having attended such events, I can assure you that the audience was well spaced out and every care was taken to ensure their safety.

Parking was extremely easy and there is plenty of room to accommodate a few cars.

I hope you can reverse this decision for the health of the community.

Kind regards

David Chandler
On 13 September 2020 at 21:42:39, ben kendall wrote:

To the Public protection officer
I read with some dismay that you are looking to block the final series of concerts based on one unsubstantiated complaint.
This is quite frankly preposterous. What are you trying to do? We are living in unprecedented times which are somewhat depressing enough as it is. We have here a talented group of creatives looking to put on an evening of beautiful classical music and food for the local community. They have been hugely popular and uplifting events for not only the guests but also those putting on the entertainment.

Sent from my iPhone
On 14 September 2020 at 16:27:44, Sebastian Pennar wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I write to ask you to reconsider your decision to refuse a licence to the Secret Garden Concerts due to take place this weekend.

I am a double bassist and I was due to perform in Friday’s concert of Schubert’s Trout Quintet. I, like most musicians, have had a difficult few months where all our work has disappeared and finances have been strained. A few opportunities to work have appeared in the past few weeks in my case but I would say it’s less than 10% of what I would ordinarily expect to be doing at this time, and I am aware that I am one of the lucky ones to even have that much.

When I was asked to play in this concert, I was naturally excited to be getting back to what I love doing and was hopeful it would be the start of some kind of return to normality. More importantly, it would provide some much needed income having not qualified for the government’s self-employed income support.

The council’s refusal to allow this concert to happen is heart-breaking.

I really hope you will reverse your decision.

Yours faithfully,

Sebastian Pennar
On 14 September 2020 at 12:24:37, MILLER-BAKEWELL Julia wrote:

Good afternoon,

I would like to register my support and appreciation for the Secret Garden Concerts. In these uncertain times it was wonderful to attend live music and theatre. I felt so safe and looked after – everything was beautifully sanitised and carefully co-ordinated with one way systems so we felt very safe at all times. We took public transport to get to the venue, so no parking was needed and the ‘noise’ was not above any volume reasonably expected. The concert ended in good time and I would love to attend them again and again. I really enjoyed exploring the bars around the venue too as I had never been to the area and it was thanks to this concert and event which persuaded me to visit.

Kind regards,

Julia Miller-Bakewell