

Appendix C

Noise Engagement Key Concerns Raised following engagement in February and March 2016. This was subsequent to the Culture 2020 Consultation.

Positive responses:

- Sound levels at existing events (SW4 was especially highlighted) are not adequate for the type of event
 - This is why we are looking at the Sound Guidance. The last guidance was from 2008 and was developed at a time when the events taking place were smaller. Since then events have grown and Lambeth has had swingeing budget cuts that need to be addressed by looking at and developing new ways of generating income. By ensuring that the current sound guidance is fit for purpose with the types of events that take place and is commensurate with other locations across London that Lambeth is in competition with.
- Non-camping events and they have early finishes so minimal impact
 - Lambeth doesn't host camping events and has no plans to change this at present. There would be a set finish time and no more than three consecutive major event days.
- Support the cultural life of the Common
 - The aim is to support the cultural life not only of Clapham Common but Parks and Open Spaces across the borough. The aim of this strategy is to have a balance and spread of cultural events across the borough.
- Residents who attend events respond to say that they have no sound issues on the days when they aren't at the event
 - We recognise that people have different tolerances to sound in their local area. And this updated Sound Guidance aims to achieve the balance that works for all residents and event attendees.
- Point raised that some residents complaint as a matter of course to obtain free tickets or simply complaint as they don't want any events taking place on the Common
 - EventLambeth isn't involved with issuing of free tickets, it is at the discretion of the event organiser. While we welcome events that wish to offer discounts to local residents or even free tickets it is not a condition of holding an event in Lambeth. We do understand that there are residents who would prefer that no events are held in Lambeth's Parks and Open spaces at all. Again while this is an opinion we respect during the three month Culture 2020 consultation residents were given the opportunity to suggest alternative ways of income generating and express their opinions on events. While there is a proportion of residents who would prefer to see no events there is also a significant proportion of residents who welcome events and attend them regularly.
- Feel that as the Sound stops by 11pm it is unreasonable to have complaints
 - As before there would be controls around finish times and durations – these would be applied to the licences.
- Event Organisers and Acoustic consultants feel that there is improvement but the bass restrictions limit sound levels further than the A weighted restrictions as they can't be achieved with the bass restrictions in place. Suggestion to remove the bass restrictions completely or monitor 2km from the site for the last 4 hours of the each show day of the event – Lambeth needs to be competitive with sound levels

- While we take these opinions on board it is felt that the removal of the Bass limit completely would remove all protections for residents
- Events take place occasionally
 - While the strategy proposes to increase the number of major commercial event days taking place across the borough, it also seeks to limited the number of consecutive days and achieve a balance of major commercial event days across the borough.
- Bring benefits to the local economy
 - Something that EventLambeth encourages and will continue to liaise with the BIDs to ensure that events continue to benefit local businesses
- Events benefit many and should not be limited because of the views of a few
 - Again there is a balance to be struck between those that attend and welcome events and those that would prefer they don't take place.
- Appropriate balance for events to be attracted to areas
- Happy for the higher levels to be introduced but needs to be some management such as curfew times
- Fine but not for every weekend in the summer need to consider free weekends between events
- Free or subsidised tickets should be offered to local residents
 - As above it is not something that Lambeth has as a requirement to holding an event but it is strongly encouraged.
- There should be no limits or curfews
 - Again there need to be some limits so that residents and event organisers can work within agreed parameters to achieve the balance for those who welcome events and those who would prefer that they didn't take place in Lambeth.
- Higher sound levels enable event attendees to enjoy the event
- Event Attendees pay premium prices for tickets and don't get the sound quality they are expecting
- How can Lambeth allow the events to take place with the current restrictions in place
 - By addressing the Sound levels Lambeth hopes to achieve the balance between an enjoyable experience for event attendees and residents. It is hoped that by bringing the sound levels in line with other London locations, Lambeth will offer a competitive location for a range of events.
- Spaces are for all social groups including those who enjoy attending events
- The events are well run and managed
 - This is a statement that is welcomed by EventLambeth and isn't from an event organiser! We will continue to work with event organisers, residents groups, Council Colleagues, External Stakeholders and BIDS to ensure that events that take place in Lambeth's parks and open spaces are well run and managed and meet the expectations of all. The increased sound levels for the 8 Major Commercial event days in each zone will assist with this as it will help Lambeth attract major commercial event organisers and with them the expertise they have in organising events. They are also events which can be charged at a premium and so raise income for the Parks Investment Fund and against the EventLambeth income target.

Negative:

- Victoria Park and Hyde Park not as residential as other areas
- There are already activities taking place in the parks and open spaces such as the Northern Line extension in Kennington Park
 - These activities will be taken in to account when looking at appropriate events in parks and open spaces. The strategy is until 2020 and so needs to be able to be flexible enough to cover all eventualities
- Feeling that this is a proposal that has been covertly introduced and not referenced before
 - This proposal was a part of the Three month culture 2020 consultation in January 2015. EventLambeth was looking for a wide engagement as possible, so as well as a Blog Post, Social Media and e-shots there were posters put up in key locations. There was a 4 week period for people to respond to the engagement.
- Council tax should cover the costs of managing the parks and open spaces not sure why the council needs to generate additional revenue
 - The Council tax received by the council only covers 27% of the income with 73% coming from Government
- Council accepts money with no consideration given to the nature of the event
 - There is a clearly defined process for holding an event in a Park or Open Space in Lambeth. It is not simply a case of an event organiser applying and being accepted. They have to go through a series of stages before an event permit is issued. For the larger events this includes consultation with the Lambeth Events Safety Advisory Group and pro-forma engagement with Local Amenity Groups, Ward Councillors and BIDS
 - Events are also continually assessed and just because an event has been held in a previous year it doesn't mean that it can take place in subsequent years especially if there are concerns around public safety
- Other impacts from events are not addressed such as debris, litter, people, drinkers ASB, Damage etc
 - Each event that takes place has to submit plans to show how they manage their event and the impact on the wider area. For the Large Scale and Major events this is in consultation with the LESAG and key stakeholders. Event organisers are responsible for the "last Mile" routes (from the Olympics this means up to the local transport hubs) - in some of the larger event instances this means that there is security up to local tube stations, signage and litter picking. As well as additional street cleansing in the local areas.
- Information needed on where the income is going
 - Complete once PIL or similar signed off. At present there is a proportion of the income known as Environmental Impact Fee which is ring-fenced for the particular park or open space that the event took place in. This is spent consultation with the Parks team and the Friends Group or MAC.
- Concern about the amount of space events take up
 - Event's organisers are worked with to ensure that they take up the minimal space required. On the Commons (Clapham and Streatham) they are permitted to take up no more than 10% of the space in line with the Commons ACT. In parks it is assessed on a case by case basis depending on other activities and other factors.
- Increase in Bass levels causes particular concerns

- Bass level increases are in line with the increases to the A weighted sounds. If they weren't it would cause distortion to the music played. Increases are only for the major events taking place and not standard for all events.
- Overuse of the Parks and open spaces especially when looking at build and de-rig times
 - Build and De-rig times are addressed with event organisers to ensure they use as little time as possible and within the safety requirements of building an event. In agreement with the Parks team there is 3 weeks left between each large event to permit reinstatement and rest for the area.
- Health implications of increasing sound levels, damage to hearing, stress to residents etc
 - Events in Parks and Open spaces are occasionally and so the impacts are not cumulative. EventLambeth works with stakeholders, event organisers and colleagues within the council to address the impacts of events and mitigate them where possible.
- Concerns with treating all venues the same
 - Treating all venues the same does not work when looking at the definition of a major event. It takes in to account the capacity of a venue and reduces the scope in conjunction. It should be made clear that when looking at these levels it is at the monitoring points that they are measured at. If a monitoring point is closer to the venue the levels will be quieter onsite and vice versa. They are not Front of house levels which will vary depending on the location requirements. Therefore smaller venues or those where residences are closer will have lower front of house levels as per the requirements of the venue.
- Increase in Crime and Anti-Social behaviour in areas when events take place especially Kennington and Streatham
 - This has not been reported to the events team nor has it been raised by the police or Community safety teams via the LESAG. In some instances by having an event taking place in a location it can reduce the incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour by animating a space. As before large and major events attend the Lambeth Events Safety Advisory Group which has the police and community safety teams as invitees
- Income should go back to residents to offset the loss of amenity and not used in other locations
 - As previously raised presently there is an EIF which goes directly back to the Park or Open space that the event took place in. The new events strategy proposes a PIL which would be a ring-fenced sum that goes in to a centralised Park Investment Fund.
- Would like to have clarified curfew times
 - EventLambeth are looking to licence the 5 key parks and open spaces so there will be established curfew times – it is likely that these will be in line with events currently taking place in the parks or open spaces.
- Potential with clashes with events in other areas if multiple events take place
 - EventLambeth liaise with other local authorities around the dates of key events taking place and through the SAG with stakeholders such as the Police, TFL and London Ambulance Service.
- 8 days is too many
- Concern it is in contravention of the Council's planning policy with regards to outdoors use
 - The planning policy is for permanent structures/use. This is for temporary events taking place in the parks and open spaces and not for permanent everyday use.
- Local residents to not attend or welcome large events

- We have received a significant number of responses in favour of the changes from local residents demonstrating that there is a balance of opinions around events from local residents
- Could impact the nature reserve on Streatham Common
 - We are aware of the nature reserve on Streatham Common and its location. EventLambeth and event organisers work closely with the Lambeth parks team to address site location and mitigate impacts.
- View that it is only Clapham Common that is used for events and not other locations - seen as a “Cash Cow” by the Council
 - One of the main premises behind the event strategy is to ensure that there is a spread of events across the borough. Clapham Common is not seen as a cash cow by EventLambeth, that being said it is also one of the most popular venues with event organisers. Over the last few years EventLambeth has been actively driving events to other locations including Brockwell Park and Streatham Common to spread the impact and benefits to different areas to hosting events.
- There are no benefits to local residents or parks by hosting events
 - It is recognised that there are impacts both positive and negative from a large event taking place in a particular location. Positive impacts include bringing income to local businesses, encouraging new visitors to an area, increasing the cultural offering of an area.
- Concern that 8 events will be too many when only holding 2 at present
 - The strategy proposes 8 Major event Days rather than individual events. This could be 4 weekends or if they are 3 day events 3 weekends in total. It is not anticipated that there would be 8 major events that are one day due to the cost of infrastructure and management. It is also a proposal for the duration of the event strategy so will develop until 2020 rather than an immediate increase in the number of events.
- Difficulty of getting hold of people to complain to
 - At present there is a requirement for Large and Major Events to have a dedicated onsite number for noise complaints which must be publicised and staffed throughout the event. In addition EventLambeth have officers onsite and an out of hours number for residents, the council’s call centre and the noise team to contact. This will continue and we continue to look at new ways these contact numbers can be brought to the attention of the local communities.
- Quality of events accepted – ref Oktoberfest
 - It was made clear in the proposed event strategy that the major commercial events, which are the ones that would be awarded the higher sound levels, would be organised by reputable commercial organisations.