

Appendix D

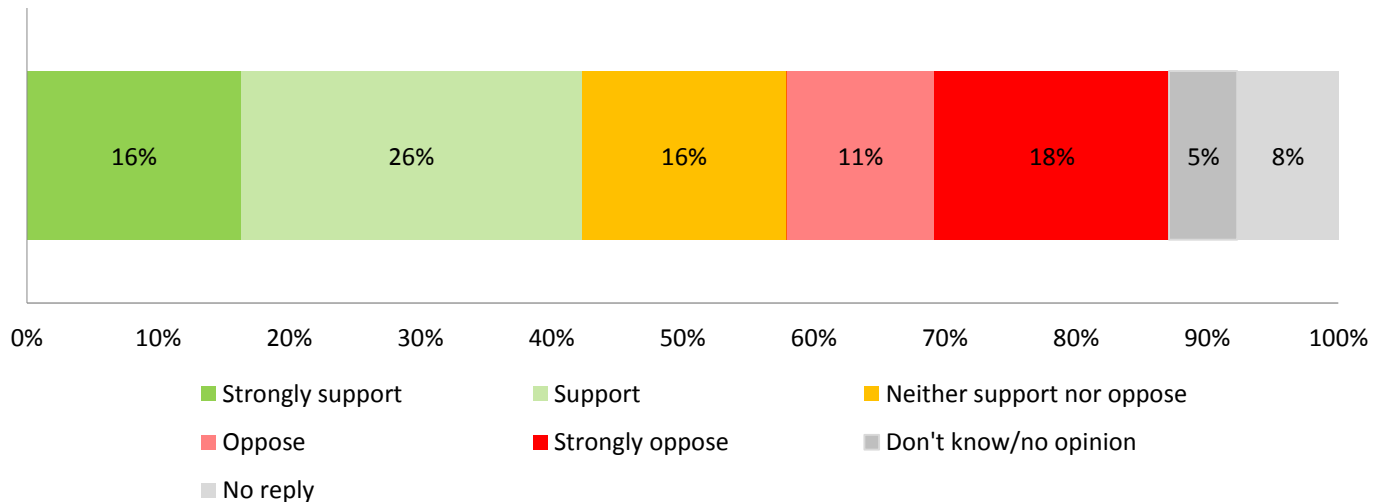
Culture 2020 Consultation responses

A full consultation for ‘Culture2020’ was conducted by the Council, which included the Events Strategy

Self-completion questionnaires: There is more support than opposition to the draft Events Strategy, which includes proposals to hold up to 40 major commercial event days each year (42% vs 29% respectively).

People under 45 are more likely to support the proposal and people aged 60-74 and 75-84 are more likely to oppose it.

Questions from survey – ‘To what extent do you support or oppose the draft Events Strategy, which includes proposals to hold up to 40 major commercial event days each year, along with changes to noise levels, across Lambeth’s public parks and open spaces? Two-thirds of the income to be reinvested to improve park facilities?’

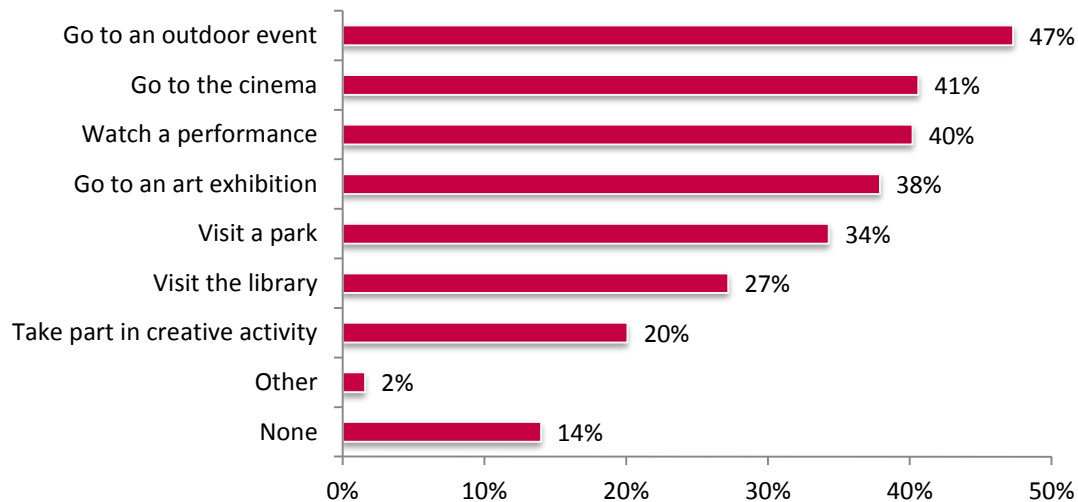


Almost 40% of respondents (645) provided additional comments on the draft Events’ Strategy. 192 of these were supportive and recognised the need for events, mainly due to the income, visitors and publicity that they bring to the area.

There were some qualifications from those who on balance support the proposals, which also reflect the concerns of those who don't. These included noise levels, environmental restrictions, consulting with local people and keeping some of the events affordable to residents.

There was concern that increasing the number of events each year would detract from the public character of parks in Lambeth and that 40 major event days was too much.

Have you done any of the following in Lambeth in the last 6 months?



Source: TCC April 2015; Base: 493

Question from survey - **Do you agree with 40 major commercial event days a year across all our parks, common land and open spaces?**

There is agreement that the Council needs to “run a tighter ship with events” and could get a greater income from the commercial entities running them.

Much of the discussion was around the impact events have on residents and the parks, before, during and after. This includes damage to the parks and disruption to residents through noise or lack of access to the public spaces they want to enjoy.

There was discussion whether 40 event days was just too many. Other comments made were that ticket prices for many events are too high for local residents and are mainly sold to people outside the borough. Many feel there should be discounts for those living in the borough.

Many whilst not against large scale commercial events would prefer to see more local and smaller scale ones and income generated from the larger commercial events used as a ‘Festival Fund’ to support smaller scale community events. A number also suggest the Council should insist local providers are used to supply refreshments and put the fixtures up.

Do you agree that 2/3rd of all income from events should be put into parks to improve facilities and infrastructure?

This is generally supported but some people feel it is not enough to cover post event clear-up and repair. Many want to see event organisers responsible for this and want Lambeth to make sure they are charging appropriately.

There is also concern about an over-dependency on events for park funding – “What if the event holders decide to go elsewhere?”

Do you agree with the principle that capital investment in large parks should prioritise revenue generation to support small parks?

Many feel the Council needs to be more imaginative in funding the parks, such as tapping into health services monies as it is felt parks impact on well-being and the value of this should be recognised by the NHS.

There is a distrust of large scale commercial interests coming into the parks and open spaces. There is concern that smaller spaces, too small to hold income generating events, would be sold off to developers or turned into allotments which only those with a plot would be able to access.

Written submissions: The theme of parks is raised in 45 written submissions. There is a sense that people see the reduction in funding leading to a reduction in the amount of public benefit.

Proposals to move away from solely council-run services and give a greater role to volunteers and community organisation is seen as undervaluing the service and reducing its quality.

Holding more events in parks is raised within 16 of the written submissions. The impact of events on the park environment and the public character of these areas is a concern, although could be mitigated if the community benefit is clear.

There is also response from event companies: *Clapham is a great place on which to stage music events. However, in all the years we have operated there, the Council licensing sound levels have been a major hindrance. Levels are currently lower than any other urban green field site that stages similar events to Sw4. This therefore means that we are always at a disadvantage when it comes to booking talent and selling tickets.*” Lock N Load

Q15 To what extent do you support or oppose the draft Events Strategy, which includes proposals to hold up to 40 major commercial event days each year, along with changes in noise levels, across Lambeth's public parks and open spaces. Two-thirds of the income to be reinvested to improve park facilities?

131 of 1600 respondents mentioned noise in relation to this question, indicating that it is a significant concern, and is a serious concern for several respondents. There is substantially

more opposition than support – approximately 3:1. There has been further consultation and engagement around noise levels.

The revised sound levels have been drawn up to replace the 2008 policy and will be aligned with other similar outdoor public events spaces in London. This revised policy was circulated for engagement with the community and stakeholders for 4 weeks in February and March 2016. 343 comments were received within the timeframe, with 220 in favour and 117 against along with 6 neutral comments. Also note that 19 emails were received after the deadline, which have not been included with the final responses

This was an additional noise engagement process to understand the concerns and issues around noise. The proposal is to only allow the noise levels to be altered in relation to major event days. The overall feedback was in favour of the changes to noise levels but there was a strong emphasis on managing the noise levels and greater enforcement.

There were a number of detailed concerns about how noise levels will impact the local vicinities around the open spaces. The overall proposals are to put is in line with other open spaces in London such as Victoria Park. We will need to monitor the impact of changes to noise levels. However it is not a necessity that major events should be events that require higher noise levels but are about larger scale events that are financially effective.

The feedback provided some detailed issues regarding the running of events and not simply the issue of noise. There are processes in place to manage events that considers other impacts such as safety, the recipients of income, the number of event days. These are real concerns that will need to be monitored but we are a borough that already manages a wide range of commercial and community events so have considerable knowledge to build upon.

