

GALA 2024 consultation responses:

**1.** This whole event is pitched at younger people and those with children, it demonstrates a lack of interest or concern for anyone over a certain age. You want to be inclusive and diverse but you exclude the interests of people like me. I'm in my 70s and went to lots of festivals in the 60s and 70s, my son is a musician in a band. I've moved on now and the idea of attending a music festival no longer appeals to me. I might have been more sympathetic to this festival if you had reached out to older members of the community who are slowly becoming sidelined.

One day, if you are fortunate, you will be an older person and then perhaps you'll understand what it feels to be marginalised because of your age.

**2.** Why don't you understand we don't want this intrusion on our daily lives, take it somewhere else, Salisbury plain would be wonderful

Why don't Southwark council listen to residents that have had enough of this invasion of our daily lives, take it somewhere where it's wanted, Salisbury plain would be a wonderful start, you're not bothered just filling your pockets off our backs, have Southwark reduce costs for residents NO, would you like it on your doorstep every year NO, so why should we have the burden of it, you're just interested in your brown envelopes from the Gala. You never listen, it's just pure greed, you never come and listen to our arguments.

**3.** NOISE POLLUTION:

I have recently had posted through my door the Stakeholder Consultation form regarding the GALA Music Festival 2024 to be held in Peckham Rye Park

I am a local resident, living within a few minutes walk of the venue, which has been held there for a number of years.

I have no problems with the event being held. As your flyer says, you try to encourage local businesses to participate and participants are encouraged to use public transport for access to the event.

Each year residents are notified of the dates well in advance – which is much appreciated

My only and persistent concern is the level of noise. I say NOISE, advisedly, as by the time it reaches my home, that is what it is.

In previous years, after the event, we have been notified that the sound levels were 'within limits'. But for residents, this is too loud – especially as it invariably involves persistent bass 'thumps.'

The area adjacent to the venue is residential, in streets of Victorian terraced houses, containing many families with young children, who are trying to sleep at the time of evening parts of the GALA.

Moreover, the streets are at right angles to the venue, so that the 'noise' travels down those streets in a wave and reaches further than it would do if the streets were parallel to Peckham Rye Park.

I feel VERY strongly that the noise levels should be reduced and the bass notes in particular are reduced. This year's event meant that local residents sitting in their gardens/patios/balconies over that weekend were deluged with unwanted sound. I for one had to retreat, in lovely sunny weather, inside my home in order to avoid the noise.

In all other aspects regarding this event over the years, Southwark has been good but I feel strongly that this issue has never been addressed to the level it requires.

**4.** I would like to comment on the proposals to expand this event to 6 days and limit public access to parts of Peckham Rye Park from 13/5/2024 to 2/6/2024.

I live in Piermont Road SE22 0LN, adjacent to the park.

I strongly object to the proposals. My preference would be not to have the festival at all, but certainly not for it to be expanded.

The noise from the festival is awful and prevents enjoyment of any outside space whilst it is taking place. This impacts local residents (and council tax payers) like me who use the park for walking and recreation on a regular basis. Depending on the weather, it can take many weeks for the park to recover from the tents, boards and vehicles that the festival uses.

Last year, due to the wind, the noise was particularly loud in my area for a period of time. I spoke to a person measuring it, who said that it was just within limits and that these limits were set the same for Hyde Park (a much bigger area) as for Peckham Rye.

In addition I had to complain to a festival employee about a large number of Lime bikes that were blocking the pavement. This is a hazard for older people, those with disabilities and people pushing buggies. Personally I derive no benefit from this festival, only detriment to my quality of life.

Last year the council rejected an application to expand the festival and I hope that you will do the same this year.

**5.** I am writing to oppose the proposal to have a 6 day event. 3 days is already too much and the noise disruption plus the damage to the park is already unbearable.

**6.** Comment from council officer - dealt with internally

**7.** Application: SWKEVE000694

Please note that the legal entity that you refer to that made this application "Assembled Live Ltd" is not a real entity and does not exist on Companies House. You can search here:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>

If you approve an application that is under a name that is not real and you document with that company upon application approval, there could be legal issues.

Please do deeper due diligence.

**8.** In a nutshell: Three days is just about bearable, though it messes up the access to parts of the park for local residents. Any more than three days of GALA is a big 'no'. Why should local people be subjected to a festival that is potentially more days than the big ones, let alone why it is here every year now?!

**9.** I live near Peckham Rye, and I really object to so much of the park being taken out of use for GALA. To hear that it is suggested that that should now happen for three whole weeks during the best bit of the summer is really getting ridiculous. There is also the issue of the damage that is inevitably done to the park, and the noise level whilst the concerts are going means that my only option is to head out of town to avoid it. I'm really cross that, if these plans go through, I'll have to do this for 5 days in a row. Clearly I'd like GALA not to happen at all, but if it has to then please restrict it to just a couple of days and do everything possible to keep as much of the Rye open to the public as possible.

**10.** I write with no expectation that anything I put down will even be registered let alone acted upon, as I have made these comments to the Southwark Events team before and the Gala organisers and haven't met with much sympathy, but I feel I have to register them as I can't go without saying anything.

I have no objection to the event itself, it's fine, the added footfall to the park is no problem or disruption for the residents of nearby streets, it's not very noisy, the cultural engagement remit is great, the revenue generated for the council is to be welcomed.

However, the set up of the site and the breakdown of the site is appalling. I live on Waveney Avenue and I have two small children. We use the park most days after school and on the weekends. It is vital outdoor space. You and the Gala team have told me before that you're perfectly happy with running HGV traffic past the playground and cafe all day, leaving lorries and trucks idling by the playground, having wheel loaders reversing past crowds of children and kids attempting to do their toddlers football sessions. I cannot believe that it is in anyway safer or more pleasant to be in the park when the volume of nearly incessant HGV traffic is present than when it is not. I have seen no evidence of any emissions testing that would indicate the problems caused by the number of internal combustion engines running back and forth and next to the playground.

Crossing the park as I have to by bike and by foot to take my children back and forth to work and school and nursery becomes incredibly unpleasant as pedestrians are expected to make way for the HGV traffic occupying space that should only be for foot or cycle traffic. The playground becomes an adjunct to a lorry park rather than a space for children isolated from the threat and harm of traffic as it should be.

I have expressed this concern before, as I said, and been handwaved away by the assurance that qualified banksmen are present to manage the traffic, which I suppose they do when they're not sitting looking at their phones. This doesn't address the main point that it is a horrific imposition of traffic in a space that should be free of traffic, of harm in a space where harm should be reduced for the sake of children and an acknowledgement that commerce and capital will always trump public interest.

I've sent what I would regard as evidence of poorly managed and unsupervised traffic through to both this account and the Gala organisers before and been told, essentially, that I'm hysterical and should suck it up. I don't expect anyone to act on this email, you've made your position clear. But I would like some acknowledgement that the imposition of HGV traffic on a children's playground is in fact a negative and that proper consideration is given to ameliorating or even assessing this in some way, rather than just expecting me to shut up and go away.

**11.** I wish to register my strong objection to this event's taking place.

There's no escape from noise and 5 days of it up to 10.30 at night is an unbearable imposition on people who live nearby. Previous events of shorter duration have been bad enough.

There is a reason why these sorts of events normally take place in areas that are well away from houses. It is absolutely appalling that Southwark Council are even considering putting us through this again.

I live on Ivydale Road, which is some distance from the park, and you might think that the noise would be less at the back of the house, but the racket bounces off the end of terrace wall at the back of my garden and relays it into the back of the house.

Goodness knows what it's like for people who live nearer to the park. It must be utter purgatory. On and on for hour after hour until 10.30 at night.

Why should we have to endure this? The Council seems to regard the people who pay the Council Tax as just a source of money and otherwise a nuisance you can just kick around.

**12.** I'm emailing to take part in the public consultation about the GALA Festival set to take place in May 2024 (reference **SWKEVE000694**).

I'm a resident of the local area, living in [REDACTED] Peckham Rye, SE15 3GW.

I am very much in favour of the festival taking place - I believe it is reflective of the growing cultural importance that Peckham occupies in London, and I think it is a great opportunity to celebrate music and entertainment while supporting local businesses through increased footfall.

I believe the event will be a net positive for the local area.

**13.** I am a local resident. I am writing to object to the proposal to extend the number of days & nights that the park might be restricted for outdoor music events.

The festival is usually 3 nights. That is just about bearable - we can go away for the Bank Holiday weekend. The music noise is very loud and goes on for many hours each day during a warm month, when we want to have our windows open. That is ok for a weekend. It is not ok for more than that.

The park is used by many residents, including children - blocking the very large area off for a whole week is disproportionate, and does not benefit local residents.

A week of loud music would be very difficult to live with. Local children need their sleep and will have to go to school.

Long music events usually take place far from built up areas, in the countryside for these reasons. Otherwise the impact on very meant people who have no involvement with the music event are troubled and upset. This impacts on local residents who lay council tax. This event is not wanted by the local residents. It is for the benefit of mostly people from other locations - the festival should be held in their borough (if not built up) or in the countryside so as to not damage the enjoyment for thousands of local families.

How much do they pay to rent this public green space for profit?

**14.** weekend is fine or fri/sat/sun but no more please thanks

**15.** Dear Gala Community Team and Southwark Events.

i am disappointed to find that despite being on your list of stakeholders, I have not been contacted with information on the forthcoming consultation events. Please email me by return to explain why this is. I require a response from both Gala and Southwark Events.

I shall shortly be lodging a formal complaint to the local ombudsman about the failure of both your teams to respond to information requests regarding the process and outcome of last year's consultation with an extensive paper evidence trail. I am now monitoring this year's process with a view to a second complaint.

I found out about the consultation from the East Dulwich Forum where there is significant local opposition to the proposed expansion - as you are all well aware.

i look forward to seeing you at the consultation event. Please do let me know how 2023 stakeholders are being informed of this by return.

I await your immediate response

**16.** Please can you assure me that Catherine Rose will be in attendance at all consultation events to hear personally, the strength of opposition to this annual take-over of public land?

Can you further confirm that Councillor Rose does not have the authority to act independently of the public consultation and is in fact, bound to the terms of that exercise?

If not, please confirm the purpose of said consultation exercise.

I await your earliest response

**17.** Request from Council Officer – dealt with internally

**18.** I live at the park end of Homestall Road and have received notification of the above event. Can you tell me how many households you have contacted and what areas. I would suggest that every household in the Dulwich Hill area should be notified and as soon as possible. For a consultation to be meaningful the maximum number of people affected by the event should be given the opportunity to engage. Obviously I am greatly affected by the event but the loud noise and the loss of normal park usage affects people from far and wide, particularly those on higher ground. Having experienced this event many times I can assure you that the loud music can be heard much further away than you might imagine.

I shall be taking part in the consultation and I hope that many other people will be given the opportunity. Word of mouth and a few signs on park fences are simply not good enough during a winter consultation.

I look forward to an early response

**19.** Further to the Consultation letter sent out I would like to make the following comments:

- The council is unable to provide a breakdown of the Environmental Impact Fee and there is no breakdown of enhancement projects to the park for 2024. This should be shared and agreed with all stakeholders prior to the event.
- Reinstatement of the area both from 2022 and 2021 has been unsatisfactory. The perimeter area as an example despite being reinstated in 2022 is still clearly visible in the park and I am led to believe has required additional intervention of Idverde.
- AA signage for the 2022 event not removed after the event e.g. signage left at Rye lane for weeks after the event ( previously was raised that AA signage from 2021 was also not removed.
- Contractor's for rubbish should cover the whole park (given a potential 51,000 people with walk through the park & common to get to the event). Idverde staff should not have to spend any additional time picking up Rubbish.

- Given the confirmed 25% increase in number of attendees from 2023 and the additional 48% increase attendees (if provisional events go ahead) areas of the park where there is already damage (e.g temporary pathway from traffic lights on the west of the Rye across the common) will be significantly impacted and are not likely to cope well. This is assuming the weather is ok if the weather is wet this will significantly increase the potential damage.
- The proposal for the number of days the event is on 4/6 days is not appropriate for local residents due to excessive noise and people movement over that period. In comparison to other festivals Glastonbury is 3 days as is Victorious festival compared to the 4/6 days proposed in a heavily residential area.
- Areas of the park will not be available for 21 days which includes a 5 day period where school children are on holiday.
- There is currently no confirmed contractor for Ground reinstatement. Once the contractor is confirmed a pre site walkabout should take place with stakeholders to review reinstatement due from previous years as well as post event walkabout with stakeholders detailing work to be completed and timescales. An inspection of reinstatement works should take place with stakeholders to agree completion of work to the correct standard.
- The number of toilets outside the event was insufficient for the number of users in 2022.
- The council is unable to provide details of the site hire fee “due to commercial competition interests” this is disappointing that even historical information from the 2022 event is not available as this would enable local stakeholders to make an informed the decision on what benefits the park actually get verses the site hire fee and the overall event impact.

**20.** As you know, the consultation last year identified issues with contacting residents and stakeholders prior to the meetings. I am a local resident and have received no communication. I found out about it from the local forum.

Can you tell me why, as a stakeholder and resident, I have not been informed about the consultation and have had to ask? I should like to represent everything as fairly as possible for the ombudsman complaint and no doubt there is a very good reason why you have not yet managed to contact your key group.

I shall look forward to hearing from you

**21.** I am a local resident of Peckham Rye, and I live at ■ Dunstans Rd, London SE22 0HQ, right next to the entrance for Gala.

Last year it was really well run and not a huge impact on the local community. I support the benefits it provides.

It would be better if the setup and take down took less time, because the area GALA takes up is the part of the park we use most often (daily or even more).

The main concern I have is with bike share bikes. People who use these often leave them in inappropriate places blocking footpaths. They often fall over and make walking difficult for people with mobility aids or even just people who don't want to deal with pedestrian clutter. There will be a lot of people using bike shares to get to Gala, which is why I bring this up.

I feel strongly that the bike share companies are not pulling their weight in dealing with this problem. I want them to take responsibility for the issue, not the council. I would like you to use this as an opportunity to make them take action. Lime, for instance, has a form in the app where you can submit a picture and info about an inappropriately parked bike, but every single time I use it they respond to say that the location of the bike wasn't recorded and they need me to spend more of my time to help them do their jobs. I suspect they have this form as a box ticking exercise so they can tell councils they are taking steps to be responsible community participants, without actually doing anything.

**22.** Dear Sir/ Madam,

We would like to express our objection to the Gala Music festival, living just a few yards from the park on the following grounds;

- The festival is becoming longer and longer in duration each year, we object to the Arena shows on the Wednesday 22 / Thursday 23 May and on the Monday 27 May, the bank holiday is a time for us to spend with families and use the Park, not be forced away from using a large part of the park.
- The opening Gala Arena Show on Thursday 23 May is a school night, and we have young children, and the noise is easy to hear when we only live a few yards from the part of the park that is used.
- Because the duration of the event is longer the site build and site break are becoming far too long, in total this part of the park which is closest to our road and the part of the park we use will be out of action for a total of 3 weeks which is unacceptable.
- The Park should not be out of use for the local community for so long, the Gala takes up a large part of this part of the park which is open grassland, ideal for picnics, playing football and sports with kids and walking dogs, the other areas of the park which are grass are actual sports fields and in use formally by other schools and local teams.
- The Sunday 26 May Gala night should finish at 10pm
- The Site break is exactly when the local Southwark schools are on half-term – exactly the time when the Gala event will be being dismantled with no access for the entire week of half-term.
- The park is a valuable community asset heavily used by the local community.

**23.** I appreciate your prompt response and the letter drop map, but feel that a number of affected roads in Dulwich Hills have not been included. My actual experience of this event tells me that the boundary should extend at least to Marmora Road, possibly even higher. Rydale has been excluded and should be



added to the list as it is so close to the site. If the wind follows its normal trend there is far more chance of people uphill in Honor Oak hearing the noise than in Nunhead.

I hope that you will be able to make these changes.

**24.** I'm writing with regard to SWKEVE000694 for the GALA festival in Peckham Rye Park, 2024.

I believe that the extension of this event to potentially 6 days over the summer is disproportionate, unnecessary and damaging. It entirely disregards the welfare of those living in close proximity to the event and can only be seen as a revenue-generating event for Southwark, despite the efforts of the documentation to pass it off as being beneficial to the local community.

There appears to be a slow creep towards a week long festival, the like of which is rarely seen in the UK, and especially not in such a highly populated area. This doesn't even begin to take into account the environmental damage that ensues, as well as the lack of availability of the park to local residents for an increasingly lengthy period.

I am not opposed to the festival taking place over the weekend, but the proposed extension is inappropriate. Residents do NOT feel like their valid concerns are being listened to or addressed - it is your responsibility as a council (voted in by US) to represent its residents - regardless of where in the borough they reside. Rest assured, if this event were to be taking place elsewhere in Southwark, my opposition to such a lengthy event would still be registered..

I urge you to reconsider and please note my opposition. I would suggest in the current political climate that it is in the interests of authorities to ensure they are listening to their constituency.

**25.** Cllr Hamvas on behalf of constituent:

Dear Councillors,

I am outraged that this event is planned for yet another year. It really is unfair that it is sited in the same spot of the same park each year. There is a total disregard for the residents living nearby, some just 30 yards away. I was furious to read that Peckham Rye Park is now the permanent home of this event. How was that decided and by whom?

I appreciate that music festivals are the norm these days and I have researched the main ones. I cannot find one that is so close to family houses - this is disgraceful. The people running this event do not seem to understand how sound travels. People from far and wide, especially on higher ground will have this noise blasted into their homes and gardens for days on end. Apart from the noise I strongly object to the loss of full and proper access to our park and the eyesore, inconvenience and disruption which will last for 21 days.

I ask you again this year to report my feelings to the council and to try and stop this event.

**26.** Thanks for this. I've been told by a neighbour who is involved with Friends of Peckham Rye Park that there is an in person consultation meeting for local residents about the GALA festival next Wednesday 29th November at the Clock House pub and there isn't any mention of this in your email. Apparently GALA have said they will deliver 4000 letters to local homes but this doesn't appear to have happened. We haven't had them in Marmora Road and neither have residents in Therapia Road.

I haven't personally had an issue with GALA being on one weekend in the year but I understand that they want to extend it to 6 days which is worrying and I know that many local residents are concerned.

Anyway, I will try to make the meeting on 29th November and I thought that I should let you know that GALA are not fulfilling their promises to keep local people informed.

**27.** I would like to be able to attend the consultation meeting about the above application.

I have not received a letter regarding the meeting on 29 November and this meeting is not mentioned on the website. The gala festival response was that the meeting was 'online' or in-person at a venue 'adjacent to the park'. This is clearly not making it easy for anyone to attend either online or in-person.

You are failing in the consultation.

I look forward to a prompt response.

**28.** I've read that letters should have come to our address on Marmora Road regarding a consultation regarding the musical festival in Peckham Park. My neighbours and I suffer greatly during this period every year and we would very much like to take part in this consultation.

I'm sending a copy of this letter to Southwark MP as we are not sure why the letters have yet to be received. This is an important issue and I expect to hear from you soon regarding this matter.

**29.** I object to the above application for the following reasons:

- the period in which a large section of the park will be closed off is too long and if the additional events go ahead will be even longer than outlined in the consultation. This is a public park that is the heart of the community and very well used all of the time. To close this off to the community, who do not want the event, is not representing the needs of the council tax payers of Southwark.

- the event organisers offer cheaper tickets to residents but most residents do not want to attend this type of event so that offers no compensation whatsoever for the noise and inconvenience.

- each year they say they will minimise damage to the park but each year they do not and it has gradually deteriorated each year. This year they employed more people to litter pick but the grass did not grow back for 3 months and one section has been damaged and is now like a swamp. It was not like this before the festival started to wreck the park.

- each year you say that the income generated will be used in the park and surrounding area. I would like to know exactly how much money you generated from the 2023 event and how this have been invested locally as there is no evidence of this whatsoever.

- as guardians of our public spaces it is your duty to ensure it is used appropriately and this event goes against this.

**30.** 1. For residents, this is NOT a 5 day event, this is the closure of a significant area of Peckham Rye Park from 13th May- 2nd June. That is THREE weeks of impact during the early summer weeks, in an area which is used for walking dogs and relaxing, and is a really important area for the wellbeing of people in the surrounding areas, many of whom may live in flats without gardens.

2. There is zero awareness of benefits to local residents, whether that is financial or providing access to other things. It simply does not appear to benefit people not at the concert in any way at all, and the impact is very significant.

3. This is NOT an inclusive event. It is not family friendly, it is a very very specific type of music that definitely does not appeal to all ages. It is DJs and dance music, which , whether you like it or not, has very strong, repetitive beats. It is not melodic and relaxing for those people who are not at the festival, or who are forced to listen to it from their own gardens. FIVE DAYS of that will be a real nightmare, and will have huge impacts on the mental health of local residents.

4. There is a lot of drug use at the Gala festival, which does mean that people are uninhibited about noise when leaving the venue.

5. I support the proposal for funding support going to SDCAS, which does excellent work.

6. We have already had years of this festival in Peckham Rye park. The noise and the volume of people, the restricted access, the uninvited drum and bass, day after day, at a time when we should be able to go and enjoy the better weather in our local park...it's just not fair. Please please please please can the festival move somewhere else? Or swap it with another festival that has less impact? Can you not , for example, switch it with Pub in the Park in Dulwich every other year, if you HAVE to close off Peckham Rye Park, so that at least the music is more varied and less repetitive? Or just revolve all of the Southwark festivals so that residents around Peckham Rye park don't have to listen to that intrusive noise, and all of those people, every single year? It's a total nightmare to live near it.

**31.** Please give me access to comment on this consultation

**32.** We write as residents of Piermont Green in East Dulwich (SE22).

Assembled Live Ltd have applied to hold a Gala Music Festival in Peckham Rye Park, almost opposite Piermont Green, in May 2024. A three day event was held in the same venue in 2023. This application is for a five day event (and there appears even to be a further proposal for a sixth day, although this is not mentioned in the letter to residents). The 2023 event caused considerable and unacceptable disruption to our lives, and we had hoped that no future events would be held in this location. The proposal for an even longer event is completely inappropriate, and we request that you reject it or, at the very least restrict the event to two or three days.

Problems caused by the event include:

- the volume of noise throughout the event. (The noise is not restricted to the long periods shown in the application, as sound checks precede the sessions. In 2023 the sound check period before each session was 2.5 hours, meaning that there was or could be noise for the great majority of most of the days.) This is the most serious issue for us because of our location, but we recognise that people from different parts of the area may be more concerned about other issues, and would ask you also to take due account of their input.

- o The noise is such that we are unable to spend time in our garden for the duration of the event. Given the shortness of the English summer, this is unacceptable. If we stay indoors, the noise level is still very unpleasant, and the house throbs. This is extremely distressing, so our best option is to go elsewhere. Being required to do this so that others can be entertained might well be reasonable for one day, but being required to do so for five (or six) consecutive days is far from reasonable. It's also expensive.

- o If permission for any event is granted, please ensure that Piermont Green is, again, a noise monitoring location. In previous years, we have reported excess noise at various points in the event. Representatives of the organising company have come to check the sound readings and have on several occasions discovered that agreed levels have been breached. The result in those cases has been that the volume has initially been slightly reduced, but later it has gone up again.

- o We request that you reduce the maximum measured noise volume allowed for the event. If the noise level last year was mostly within or close to the agreed limit (as the sound monitoring staff have sometimes told us), then that limit is set at an inappropriately high level for a residential area.

- o We also request that you require the organisers to reorient the loudspeakers so that the sound is directed primarily into the Park itself rather than towards property. We were told last year by sound monitors that the noise level was particularly high on Piermont Green because of the Green's position relative to the stage. This is surely a back to front argument since Piermont Green is here all the time and can't be moved. The problem is, rather, the stage's position relative to Piermont Green; they should move or reorient the stage.

- the reduction of approximately 25% in the area of Peckham Rye Park which the public are able to access for 21 days. Your letter to residents understates this issue by conflating Peckham Rye Common and Peckham Rye Park, which are very separate and distinct areas. (Your website header at <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage/events/large-and-major-events/gala-music-festival-peckham-rye-park-and-common> repeats this confusion, although the application itself correctly refers only to Peckham Rye Park.) The disruption is actually even greater than the 25% figure suggests, as the attraction and use of some of the remainder of the Park is clearly impacted by the presence of the site.
- parking and traffic in the area. The effect of this issue on Piermont Green was well managed in 2023 by the allocation of staff to prevent use of the Green for parking, drop off, or turning. Please ensure, if permission is granted, that staff are again allocated to manage traffic at our location.
- litter in the area. Again, this was relatively well managed in 2023. We trust that the same will be true of any future event.
- discarded Lime (etc) bikes. During last year's event many rental e-bikes were discarded in the area, causing hazards on pavements and roads, even as far away as Mundania Road.
- damage to the Park. The grass in the Park took a very long time to recover from last year's event.

In summary, therefore, we request that you decline permission for the licence necessary for this event. If you decide that such an event can go ahead, please ensure that its duration is limited to two or three days (as proposed above), and that steps are taken to address all of the matters we raise, most particularly those associated with noise.

**33.** I fully support the council's plans to allow this festival to go forward. I think it is important that the space is made available for all types of events.

**34.** We know this event means money to you and therefore you do not care about those many residents surrounding Peckham Rye Park who suffer, whilst acknowledging we exist.

We have several points to make about this event.

1) The leaflet that you put through our letterbox states, "..... we have received an event application from Assembled Live Ltd to hold GALA Music Festival...."  
We looked up Assembled Live Ltd on Companies House. There is no such company. We googled it, but nothing came up.  
How could Southwark make such a mistake on an important piece of information?

2) Assembled Gala Ltd (company number 09886417) is a new name for Gala, and seems to have replaced We Are The Fair. A few years ago a woman I think called

Lisa from Gala met with us at a meeting at Southwark Council in Tooley Street and she tried selling how wonderful the event would be whilst trying to convince us (unsuccessfully, as it turned out), that the noise would be checked on a regular basis. It was not and it was loud and disturbing. She concentrated on the fact she herself was a local.

3) 11 Jan 2022 a woman called Lisa Boden Shah stopped being a director, and Edition Capital Ltd became a corporate director, which company is a director for 20 companies. It also has two other male individual directors. This company now has no local connection.

4) We are not allowed to know how much Southwark Council makes from this; we have learned that an FOI was rejected due to Commercial Sensitivity. Neither is our own Councillor Hamvas any help to us as she is head of Licensing and so is probably pressurised to pass the request so Southwark gets its money.

5) The damage to the park is still in evidence from LAST year. I understand the company did not pay for the drainage works. They do not care about the site.

6) SIX DAYS of festival and 21 days without use of a large part of our park which we visit every day is outrageous and unreasonable. But the noise. We are on the other side of the park from where the festival is. We hear everything and it is such a terrible thing, and it is really disruptive. All the promises of an independent noise-assessing company ensuring it does not exceed decibel levels, just doesn't make a difference. We hear it. And to think you are happy to make us go through this for six nights is absolutely shocking and upsetting. I have read that Gala now considers itself as a regular annual visitor to OUR park, so is this all a done deal? DO you seriously only consult because you HAVE to? But that you don't really take any notice because as far as the council is concerned this is a money making issue so it Shall Happen?

We strongly disagree with this event happening at all.

**35.** Dear Events Staff, I am writing as a concerned resident of Waveney Avenue, one of the roads affected by noise from the Gala Festival.

The noise this year was so bad that when I could stand it no longer I went away and stayed with a friend. The thought of being driven out of my own home for 6 days is unconscionable. Please rethink this invasive and anti social proposal.

**36.** I am opposed to the event extension of Gala festival in Peckham Rye Park.

As a frequent user of the park I object to public use of it further restricted for council and commercial revenues.

I also object to the issues with the ground in the site area which does not fully recover.

I believe the festival had an extended proposal for this year's festival rejected, can the council explain why it is consulting on this again? Are we to expect this every year?

**37.** I would like to give my support to the Gala proposal SWKEVE000694 it is a fantastic festival that promotes inclusivity and safety. I'm very proud to have this sort of festival on my doorstep.

It takes a small section of the park for a short space of time. The fact it finishes so early is another added bonus. I live 2 minutes from the park and can be in bed before midnight.

We live on Somerton Rd so quite near the festival site. Happy for the festival to take place - but it does cause a bit of disruption and so prefer it to be limited to the usual length of time rather than extended.

**38.** We live on Somerton Rd so quite near the festival site. Happy for the festival to take place - but it does cause a bit of disruption and so prefer it to be limited to the usual length of time rather than extended.

**39.** Please make note of my objections to the proposed Gala Event on Peckham Rye in 2024. My objections are the length of the event, and the setting up/taking down periods, which excludes park users from a large area of the park, and the noise pollution over six days. I object also to the environmental damage done by the event, which will be even greater than previous years. The grass is damaged by vehicles and no matter how vigilant the clear up is, there remain cigarette butts/ring pulls/other litter. I also object to the prioritising of financial benefit over the needs of local park users.

**40.** I object strongly to the granting of an event licence to Gala's corporate directors.

"Exclusive figures show extent to which London councils are using parks for ticketed music festivals such as Wireless and other paid events to plug budget gaps".

The Guardian published this article four years ago - and things have not improved with Southwark's increased willingness to concede large areas of our public parks for private profit.

Public parks were created for just this purpose - public recreation with *permanent* free (daytime) access. **Southwark Council 'owns' the parks only on behalf of the residents, not as a business for subsidising Council services.** Representative government does not mean those representatives, despite behaving in such a manner, are licensed to do as they wish once elected. If underfunding is a problem (of course it is) then insistent representations should be made to central government for an increase in grant; the Council's voice could shout a lot louder than it does before capitulating to media predators. Remember the GLC?

Why did Gala move from Brockwell Park (a more appropriate location, if it had to be) to Peckham Rye Park? Did the Council events section offer price incentives? We will never know - commercial confidentiality is a useful, opaque screen (applying to all the Council's outsourcing contracts).

In respect of Peckham Rye Park, ticketed enclosures (for **three weeks** when residents will be most wanting to enjoy the park) of large areas (in particular those two fields that would remain otherwise available for *ad hoc / ad lib* activities) fatally undermine any escape from the corporate exploitation that is ubiquitous in all other aspects of daily existence. The vaunted charitable fundraising is a version of 'greenwashing' designed to disarm objections. Let Gala support their charities from legitimate profits of business conducted in designated event spaces, not the commons.

There are many existing venues in London, created specifically to host large public events; public parks are not among them.

The reputation of Southwark's ruling group (Labour led!) is already moving into negative territory due to its 'regeneration' policies; do not compound the negation by granting a licence for this event, no matter what mitigations might be claimed to reduce its impact.

**41.** I have been informed by other local residents that the Gala Festival is to be permanently sited annually in Peckham Rye Park and that a consultation was held prior to this decision being taken.

I, and other neighbours who are affected by this event were wholly unaware of either this or the fact that apparently there is a proposal to extend it from 3 days performance duration to 6 days in the future.

Could you please confirm whether this is in fact true?

Could you also explain why if this is the case, local households have not been made aware of either of these facts?

The adverse effects of this event on local residents is substantial, including disruption during installation and knock-down, loss of amenity, damage to the park, substantial and widespread noise nuisance and the fact that last year local pavements became completely impassable due to hire bikes being dangerously abandoned on them. This posed a particular hazard to those less able, with young children or using a buggy or wheelchair, causing them to walk in the road on what is a very busy carriageway.

Although technically this only uses a part of the park, the general disturbance of this event makes the remaining parts and surrounding streets unusable for many people reliant on this park for access to outside space.

It also prevents residents from being able to enjoy their own or other local outdoor spaces due to noise levels, or from opening windows.



A decibel reading was taken last year on Piermont Green and deemed legal. This is wholly unacceptable since at close quarters and at ground level the sound is buffered by hoardings. Sound does not travel in straight lines horizontally. Many local properties are flats, so derive no benefit from hoardings or trees etc. and the sound levels are intolerable at first floor or higher up.

The topology of the district mean that houses in Therapia Road, Marmora Road and other streets at higher level are not buffered by trees or other sound dampening structures and in the case of the south side of Therapia Road have the sound hitting both the front of the properties and also echoing back from the tall Victorian properties behind. The hill traps the sound and bounces it back. Has this fact even been recognised by the decision maker? As a result, many residents actually go away for the weekend of this event, a fact which the council seems to be either unaware of, or unconcerned by. There has also unfortunately, been a perceptible rise in crime during this event in the past, including multiple bike thefts.

Whilst I understand that any such event provides a valuable income stream for Southwark council, it seems wholly unreasonable that it is held in the same public space annually with the availability of numerous suitable venues within the borough. The local community derives no perceptible benefit from this despite the council's assumptions.

A few free tickets set against the loss and damage to a safe, fenced and accessible local green space and the widespread disruption and noise nuisance is hardly a reasonable outcome.

I would appreciate an explanation as to why affected residents have not been consulted on the permanent siting of this event, the criteria used to make the decision and by whom it was made. I would also request that you explain why there has been no information forthcoming for those who will be affected by the proposal to extend the duration of this event.

I look forward to your early response.

**42.** I would like to object to the proposed 5/6 festival.

The festival is too long and too big. One weekend of disturbance is enough.

The park was not properly cleared last year. Bottle tops were littered in the grass for weeks.

I fear for the wildlife. I see little benefit for local residents, how much does the Council get paid for holding this event? Where is the money spent?

**43.** Climate change is happening now, the environment and conservation of nature must take priority over money making schemes that are ruinous to the precious green spaces in cities.

PLEASE do not allow the proposed 6 day event planned for Peckham Rye Park. The 3 day event causes huge amounts of damage to the wildlife and plant life as it is (the area still hasn't recovered from this summer's event). Also the 3 day event should be moved to August at least then the nesting birds have a chance of raising the next generation, May is the worst possible time.

PLEASE take advice from bodies like the London Wildlife Trust.

**44.** I support this event which uses a little used part of the park and raises revenue. Can I ask that organisers do not put signs on the pavement, especially on east side as this obstructs the pavement.

Also it is a nuisance that they block the obvious path to cycle on to the crossing on PR west side but last year the stewards were more helpful in letting cyclists through when it was safe.

**45.** Thank you for your email. I am, however deeply concerned that you appear to have considered my communication to merely be a comment on the proposals for Gala 2024, which it was not.

If you re-read my initial email, it is asking for information regarding the criteria employed by both the Events team and the ultimate Decision Maker in carrying out their statutory obligation to provide objective information, seek an adequate level of public engagement and consult affected residents, prior to making any decisions regarding this event.

This relates to any earlier decision to site this event annually in Peckham Rye Park and any forthcoming decisions regarding its duration.

Could you kindly furnish me with the details I previously requested.

**46.** I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the GALA music festival in Peckham Rye Park in May 2024.

I think it absolutely shameless the attempts this company has made to increase the length of the festival - and thereby the disruption to local residents. Last year, they tried to double the length to cover two weekends - an attempt that was rightly opposed by concerned residents. And now they're at it again, attempting to add extra days before and after the weekend.

This is a particularly unbearable proposal given that the dates this year are before half term. We live 30 metres from the festival and have three children aged 9,7 and 5. They go to bed at 7pm. How on earth are they meant to sleep with deafening music in their bedrooms until 10.30pm?

I've made some of the points below before, but I'm going to repeat them because this causes so much stress to local families year on year.

- This festival is bad for the park and appalling for local residents
- I don't want to be a NIMBY. I enjoy music festivals, in the appropriate setting. But I've never been to one which is less than 30 metres from many people's bedroom windows, across four nights. That experience is genuinely torturous to inflict on a community.
- Gala's event is entirely unsuitable for a residential neighbourhood which is predominantly populated by families with young children. Last year the organisers admitted that only 12 per cent of festival goers came from SE15 and SE22 postcodes. I'm not saying that Southwark shouldn't be a welcoming borough, but it is effectively being asked to host a party for over 30,000 people, aimed primarily at 20-30-year-olds from other boroughs but impacting hugely on 0-10-year olds and people aged 40+ living in SE22
- The lower end of Friern Road, where I live, is populated by a dozen families with young children. 10.30pm might seem like an early finish, but that's more than three hours after most young children's bedtimes - three hours in which the music is so loud in our house that we can't even hear each other speak.
- Access to our local park is ruined for 21 days. These are often some of the best days of the calendar, straddling the June half-term and the beginning of warm weather. This will have a hugely negative impact on all local residents. The organisers say that it's only 12.5 per cent of the park, but it's 100 per cent of the park that we use. It also ruins the enjoyment of the rest of the space, which is very difficult to access for the thousands of families who live on the west side of the park
- To make matters worse, Gala has a poor track record of clearing up their damage afterwards. It has taken months for repairs to be carried out, with the result that the park is less enjoyable throughout the rest of the summer and early autumn as well. Gala leaves, with their profits; we live through the results of their negligence
- I note that in Southwark's Notice of Decision of 19th May 2022, this committee heard from "the applicant's legal representative who advised that the application was amended to read the maximum capacity would be 9,999 **and would take place for a maximum of three days for each calendar year**". (the bold and italics are mine)
- Gala strikes me as a slick outfit (their approach to clearing up after themselves aside) with some laudable social goals and an ability to put on a good event. I would probably support a weekend festival on the main part of the Rye, where the circus and the fair appear each year, but this is just ridiculous. Please make this torture end.

**47.** I could write a very long email about the negative impact this event has had on me and my family over the last couple of years but suffice to say the loss of amenity, noise, disruption etc is not acceptable.

Adding insult to injury is Southwark profiteering from a private venture with a much used and needed public space.

Please do not let this event expand and if possible to not go ahead.

**48.** I am opposed to expanding the festival. Inner city parks are a lifeline for residents and their families. They're not meant for festivals.

Gala got their weekend and it's the thin end of the wedge to Peckham rye becoming the disgrace that Lambeth have allowed in Brockwell Park where families can't use half the park for most of summer. They didn't get to double in size last year so now they're back again trying to expand but by bit. It's so cynical, and clearly the community doesn't want them to expand, but nonetheless they disrespect resident's wishes and try again. That says everything about these promoters.

Leave things as they are, don't grant any more time and space to festivals taking over public space, let them expand into private land.

**49.** REF: SWEVE000694 To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Friern Road, I strongly object to the proposal to extend Gala Festival by 2 days in May 2024.

I object for the following reasons:

- restricted access for local residents of the park during the spring/summers months, especially unfair for families and dog walkers
- noise pollution
- damage to the park environment
- excess litter in park and surrounding areas
- pressure on local transport services
- additional crime during the festival

Please consider the above during the consultation.

**50.** As a Southwark resident, I'm expressing dissatisfaction with the proposed increased duration of the Gala Festival, from three to six days not including the days of setting up and dismantling.

Every day involves noise pollution, damage to an important green space and harm to wildlife habitat.

Three days is Plenty.

Also in the spirit of democratic financial transparency, whilst maintaining commercial confidentiality Southwark should publish an approximate range within which lies the fees/money expected to be gained.

**51.** As a local resident (and someone who works in the music industry), I am writing to object to extending the Gala Festival 2024 from 3 to 5 days, not including site build and site break. Essentially half of Peckham Rye will be unusable for almost an entire month which is not acceptable

Local residents have been more than accommodating in over the past 5? years that Gala has been running. A 3 day festival in our local park is more than sufficient. The 2 additional "Arena shows" with their increase in footfall, noise, and traffic contradicts Southwark's policy on green spaces and environmental impacts.

**52.** I live locally to Peckham Rye Park and I find utterly no benefits to myself from the Gala event that happens in June. I normally walk my dogs in the park but have to avoid it when the gala is on. Additionally, I hear noise from the music even where I live which I dislike. I also have neighbours whom I know feel the same. I would clearly not support making this event any longer than it already is. The thing I dislike most however is the destruction of the park that occurs from the machinery and the heavy crowds. The environment is disfigured afterwards for some time and I find it tragically sad that at this time when the natural environment is already under threat from the climate catastrophe, Southwark Council feels it has to raise money by further degrading the formerly lovely green spaces and parks it offers residents. I hope my concerns are registered in this consultation.

**53.** As a local resident, I would like to object to the proposal to extend GALA.

The existing festival makes a real mess of the park. While I realise remedial efforts are introduced afterwards, there is significant damage to the grass and landscape where the festival takes place. This would get worse with a longer festival.

The park is also very well-used by local residents, and while I don't object to a closure of a significant park section for a few days, this would extend to an almost two week period under the proposals. This hiving-off of a significant section of the park has a significant negative impact on local residents who use the park.

I do not object to retaining the GALA festival in its current format (although more needs to be done to protect the park from the damage that the festival causes); but I do object to extending it.

**54.** I think you should have firstly provided an accessible survey as part of this consultation rather than an email. How are you going to interpret the data in emails?

I wholly disapprove of the extension of the Gala festival in 2024. The supposed benefits of 500 extra free tickets for local people, the proposed access for local food outlets to sell there or for greater access for marginalised communities really does not justify the extended proposal. Reasons why I am against it:

1. Most importantly We are denied access to our wonderful natural amenity, the park. Our park is that, it's 'ours', it's a free space in our city for us to enjoy nature and to be active. The field used by the festival is an area for dog walkers, picnics, football games, a place for local families to congregate. The noise prevents us from using the rest of the park too.

2. The festival is not an attraction for the demographic of the local area, 3. It is intrusive, noisy and the only benefit locally is for Southwark Council who make money from it.

4. Disabled people such as my blind husband can no longer walk their guide dog and the noise for him is overwhelming. Similarly my son who lives in supported accommodation in [REDACTED] cannot tolerate the noise. He is neurodivergent and we work hard to help him through the days when the festival is on. More days of noise would be intolerable for him.

I do not like the festival being on Peckham Rye in a residential area, denying us access to peace and quiet, denying us our right to enjoy our green spaces, but I accept it's here to stay. However I do not accept the proposed additional days are of any benefit to the community, I feel instead they are entirely detrimental to our environment.

**55.** I attended the GALA stakeholder meeting on 29/11/23. I oppose the GALA event and especially the extension to a 6 day event, due to the noise for myself and other local residents, especially people who cannot afford to leave the area and will be trying to put children to bed for school during the proposed extended event and then also losing the May half term holiday in the park. I also oppose the loss of access to nature and quiet space as the section of the park that remains open is incredibly noisy and overcrowded. This does not allow for the needs of local children who need outdoor space, especially over the May bank holiday which is such an important time for nature and affects the whole summer in the park which does not benefit from hosting this event. This is a small park which is incredible well utilised and taking it out of the use of the public for a month is unacceptable and the lack of transparency of the profits and where they go is also very worrying.

**56** I received the letter about the consultation. Here are some views as a local resident.

Whilst I'm not wholly against the festival happening despite the noise it causes each year, I think the timings could be altered slightly to have less impact on those living and working nearby.

Specifically, Piplings Nursery (The Elms, Forest Hill Road) are direct neighbours of the site and the babies and children there will be subjected to extremely loud music on the Friday from 2pm. Being right next door, it will be extremely disruptive to the

children and staff for that afternoon. If the festival started at 5pm instead it would be far less intrusive for these vulnerable youngsters.

Please could you consider this to make their lives a little easier?

**57** I want to object to the Gala proposal.

Every year, it restricts access to the Park at the nicest time of year, including half term. It causes a major noise nuisance to those living nearby, and it damages the park. As Southwark won't say how much they are paid for this event, perhaps they could tell us how they work out the cost benefit analysis. How much, and what level of distress are you prepared to accept, before you decide it is not acceptable? The proposal to extend the event to 6 days this year is appalling and will just increase the stress, damage and disruption to unacceptable levels.

**58** Having brushed aside all residents problems regarding this event under the carpet, we've had to live with this burden for a number of years and NOW it's expanded, we all like our environment as it is, daily dog walks children playing birds singing , it's a wonderful place to live , till your Fiasco lands and completely ruins it, last years efforts to reinstate the park was absolutely rubbish, you can still see the damage caused last year today, why don't you put your hands in your pocket and pay what's required somewhere else, because it's all about Southwark making as much as possible and not caring about the residents that contribute to your salary, we don't want this event ,

**59** Why can't the council publish what proportion of funds received from gala are reinvested back into the park, since this would be meaningless to competing operators but provide transparency to residents?

As usual I wholeheartedly object to this event. The noise is unbearable for local residents, the park is too small and not suitable for a concert and it is outrageous that Southwark allow this to take place over a bank holiday and the now proposed 6 days. It's a money making scheme that serves no benefit, only a nuisance, to local residents.

The park is supposed to be a public space, providing a natural space for wildlife and visitors to enjoy for free. It should not be fenced off and damaged so that event operators and the council can cream off a profit at the expense of the public.

Southwark council are failing in their responsibility to local residents. There is no need for the event to be held let alone extended - it is not wanted in the area. If it is held yet again against locals wishes it merely demonstrates that the council don't

care about the well-being and mental health of residents who want to be able to enjoy their tranquil homes and local community without the noise of thumping music etc that harms local wildlife and prevents children from sleeping and enjoying the parkland that they are entitled to use for free and in peace!

**60** I wish to oppose the application for the expansion of the GALA festival for 2024, for the following reasons:

- The extension of the event to 6 days is too excessive and as well as the noise, causes a lot of disruption to local residents.
- The end time should be earlier. After festival attendees leave the event at 1030pm they are walking through the local area making a lot of noise making their way home. They also leave a lot of litter, including empty bottles and cans, in streets. Any clean-up needs to extend to streets between Barry Road and Lordship Lane.
- I find it disgraceful that trees will be felled to enable the event to take place, which goes completely against the green agenda.
- A wide expanse of the park will not be in use for local residents and closed off with high fencing.
- I am not confident that any money raised by the event is invested back into the park, or indeed the local area.

**61** I object to the application for GALA to hold a six day event in Peckham Rye Park resulting in a large usable area of the Park being inaccessible to the public for up to a month.

- It is not acceptable for local residents to be inconvenienced and disturbed for up to 6 days
- The site cannot withstand a footfall of up to 50,000 over 5 days
- The site will be severely damaged by heavy equipment i.e. stages being in situ for over 5 days
- The reinstatement of the site has not been acceptable. Damage is still apparent from previous years
- The holding of the event is of little benefit to the Park

**62** I object to the proposed extension of the GALA festival in 2024. It was three days in 2023, and six days are proposed in 2024.



I live close to the park and the issue for me is the noise. The deep bass is very loud and in the evening is impossible to escape, even inside the house. Only the bass is audible, and without the rest of the song it's a loud thumping sound that's almost like torture – especially when two bands are playing. There's nothing you can do in the house without hearing and feeling this bass, right up to 10.30.

I've lived here during all GALA concerts. I can survive two days; by the third day I've mentally had enough and am ready for it to end and give us a break. That is why I am horrified at proposal to double the length to six days (Weds to Monday), and I PLEAD with you to restrict the event to the three days that it lasted last year. This is primarily a residential area – a weekend event is one thing; a six day event that stops people relaxing in their own homes for six full days is inappropriate.

**63** I am writing to object in my capacity as a ward councillor for Dulwich Hill to the extension of the GALA festival from 3 to 5 days in 2024.

My reasons are set out below:

-The current festival is already a compromise with the local community who use the park, as it reduces access to the park for the period of the festival along with the site build and site break.

-Extending the festival increases the potential noise and environmental impact on the park and the community.

-Peckham Rye Park is a vital green space for residents, and extending the length of the festival risks jeopardising the remaining goodwill from residents on this matter.

I would appreciate confirmation that you have received my objection.

**64** Application: **SWKEVE000694**

I am a tenant and resident in Dunstons Rd of

Southwark Council near Goodrich school.

I did speak last year to the event person did express the music & believe at time voices & cheering

of recollection could be hurd in our garden that whent on for many hours when just wanting

Quite enjoyment which I am entitled to & of other residents.

Of evening time when returning from parents the event could also be hurd from Frien Road and upland Road.

In addition to this for elderly people whom live in close proximity must be worse & of animals and that of wild life of Peckham Rye park.

My veiw is that Southwark Council always feel can do what they wish until challenged and no regard to residents.

And appears its about financial gain.

This should not be allowed to proceed of my view and opinion on.

I would like a response whom ever is dealing with this above subject matter out of courtesy.

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**66.** GALA consultation SWKEVE000694

TO: Southwark Events

RE:Gala Consultation SWKEVE000694

I have been trying to access your petition for this event on your website. It is impossible. So I am writing an objection via e mail instead.

I object to the application by Gala to hold a six day event next summer in Peckham Rye Park. The three day event held last summer and previous summers have led to large areas of the park being unusable, and some areas have still not been reinstated.

Peckham Rye park is a public park, there is nothing to be gained for the people of Peckham by a noisy six day event with up to a month of areas being unusable. I object to parts of a public park being fenced off.

Please do not give permission to extend this event yet again.

## **67. Gala Consultation. SWKEVE000694**

I wish to object to the Gala Festival music event, which is proposed for Peckham Rye Park in May 2024.

My objections are based on my experience of last year's event and details published by Gala Festival.

### **1. Noise pollution.**

The closest properties to the events sound stages are barely 100 metres away.

There are hundreds of private houses within a few hundred metres.

How can this site be considered an appropriate location for an amplified music event?

### **2. Air pollution.**

The festival creates a large amount of airborne pollution from several sources.

Diesel generators for sound stages, lighting and food franchises, Lorries on Strakers Road and the park during build up and break down.

Strakers Road is the only logical way for festival contractors' vehicles to access the festival site. Unfortunately it is a major thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the park and a café and large child's play area are located beside it.

Last year we saw large lorries waiting on Strakers Road for long periods on five days during build up and again during break down, they cannot all get on site at the same time and timed arrivals can never be accurately planned. The waiting lorries will sit with their engines running, this is not a good environment for a child's play area.<sup>1</sup>

Gala claim that in 2023 the three day festival produced "105,190 kg/Co2e"<sup>3</sup> from what they describe as "Purchased Goods and Services"<sup>1</sup>. This is an increase from 83,953 for the same three day festival in 2022. I assume Purchased Goods and Services means running the festival.

Other claimed GHG (Green House Gas) emissions are Energy, Waste, Water 13,148 kg/Co2e and Artist Travel 12,801 kg/Co2e.

This amounts to a claimed total GHG emission for the 2023 three day festival of **131,139 kg/Co2e**

To give this figure some context; a new 4 litre diesel Range Rover is claimed to generate 3.72 kg/Co2e per 10 km<sup>4</sup>

That Range Rover would have to drive 352,524 km to generate this much pollution. That is driving around the world nearly nine times!

The proposed six day event in 2024 could be expected to produce nearly double the amount of GHG emissions.

The level of pollution from even a three day event must be totally unacceptable when TFL are spending a lot of money just to get a few older vehicles off the road.

### **3. Misuse of a public park.**

When Southwark Council purchased the land in 1894 to create a park they said the park would be free and for the benefit of everyone.

Gala Festival is proposing to deny the enjoyment of park to the residents for one month.

Approximately 25% of the park will be fenced off and the remaining area will be excessively noisy for six days and during build up and break down key areas of the park will be busy with contractors' vehicles.

### **4. Misleading information.**

*"GALA is a community-driven festival"*<sup>2</sup>

This implies that the local community supports this event; it most definitely does not.

*"Nine years on and we're no less passionate. Even the tiniest detail of the three-day weekend is painstakingly considered."*<sup>2</sup>

The music festival has only been held on Peckham Rye three times; this statement is intended to increase their credibility.

*"Aside from the music, we are heavily invested in making a positive impact within our community"*<sup>2</sup>

The Peckham Rye area is not "their" community. They do not live here and they are not invested in any way.

*"Independent three day music festival nestled in Peckham Rye Park"*<sup>2</sup>

They are intending to put on a SIX day festival.

Gala Festival has produced a document entitled "Net Zero"<sup>1</sup>; the document details their commitment to reduce their pollution by 50% by 2030. This is a long way from net zero.

Gala Festival "Sustainability Report 2023" statistics are contradictory.

Page 10. <sup>1</sup> Claims a total of 131,139 kg/Co2e for the 2023 event

Page 41. <sup>5</sup> Claims a total of 132,875 kg/Co2e for the 2023 event

This is a discrepancy of **1,736 kg/Co2e**. That is equal to over 4600 Range Rover kilometres.

The document does not explain thoroughly how these figures were obtained and the discrepancy must throw their accuracy into doubt.

The proposed event is totally unsuitable for Peckham Rye for the following reasons.

- Noise annoyance. From amplified music close to residential properties.
- Risk to health. From dramatically increased levels of airborne pollution.
- Risk of injury to pedestrians and cyclists. Due to lorries on the park.
- Theft of a public space for private company profit.

1. <https://thisisgala.co.uk/fullSite/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GALA-Sustainability-Report-2023.pdf> page 10

2. Gala Festival web site page entitled "Gala 2024 About".

3. kg/Co2e is a standardised method of calculating the total amount of greenhouse gas pollution generated, not just one pollutant. It is our best way of understanding real world impact.

4. <https://www.co2everything.com/co2e-of/land-rover-range-rover-2020#:~:text=Land%20Rover%20Range%20Rover%202020%20Carbon%20Footprint%20%7C%203.72kg%20CO2e>

5. <https://thisisgala.co.uk/fullSite/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/GALA-Sustainability-Report-2023.pdf>

## **68 GALA consultation SWKEVE000694**

Dear Southwark Council Events Department,

Ref GALA consultation SWKEVE000694

I am writing to object to the application for GALA to hold a six day event in Peckham Rye Park over the May Bank Holiday weekend 2024, starting from the Wednesday before the Bank Holiday weekend. My objections are the following

- Local people and other Southwark residents will be unable to use a large expanse of the Park during the period of the Festival and for the set up beforehand and takedown of the festival infrastructure afterwards. Altogether this puts this part of the Park off bounds for around three weeks.
- It is not acceptable for local residents to be inconvenienced and disturbed for up to 6 days. Many residents find the noise of the festival very upsetting and

some feel that they have no alternative but to move out of their homes while it is on.

- The site cannot withstand a footfall of up to 50,000 people over 6 days.
- The use of heavy trucks and equipment on the site has caused damage in the past and this can only increase because the period for which this area of the park is being used is increasing from 3 days last year, to 6 days in 2024.
- The reinstatement of the site has not been acceptable. Damage is still apparent from previous years. GALA always promises to take more effective action to remediate the damage caused, but this has never happened. As part of its bid to win an additional 3 days of disruptive festival in the park, the company has offered to give grants for actions to help nature, mentioning that they could install bird boxes, for example. The problem is that the festival itself has already made the location uninhabitable for many birds and insects. The best way to help nature would be not to hold the festival.

**69 GALA consultation \_ Ref : SWKEVE000694**

Ref : SWKEVE000694

Dear Southwark Council

I'm very concerned. This application to extend the Gala from three days to 5 to 6 days (Doubling the event) is even more extreme than last year's expansion application, which was rejected. The only difference is how they have cleverly worded the application. At first glance, you could miss that they're proposing three more event days. Calling the new dates "Arena shows" instead of "Gala Day."

What has changed that makes this acceptable that wasn't acceptable to last year's Council judgement? Nothing!

I've pasted below my original objection, which has stayed the same since last year and for the same reasons.

If you do come to the same conclusion as last year's decision. Please ask the event organisers to respect your decision and stop trying it every year. They should respect the council's decision.

Dear Sir

I'm greatly concerned about you extending the music concert dates for this year in Peckham Rye Park. It's been a struggle in the past to get through the long music weekend. We live at the top of Peckham Rye Park on Colyton Road. There had been several times in the past when the bass of the music from the park started to vibrate my chest and ears. At times, it feels like a physical assault. I'm also concerned about the health of us oldies in the area. My wife and I didn't want to be party poopers and were willing to put up with a 3-day concert plus set up once a year outside our house. We might take a holiday when it's on, although money is a bit tight at the moment, extending it seems very unfair. We have lived in our place for 23 years. The

concert turned up a couple of years ago, so we didn't buy a house outside a music venue, it moved to us and now wants to expand.

The summer is very short, and at best, unless you go to the concert, it spoils your day to be around it. They should not have more dates.

Please can you say no to their license?

**70. GALA consultation \_ Ref : SWKEVE000694**

Dear Events Team,

I am a resident of Aura Court, just next to the Rye, on the other side from where GALA is held. I have lived here for 3 years, but not far from the Rye for over a decade.

I am very supportive of GALA; it brings in money for the council with what I believe is minimal disruption to the park and surrounding area. The ethos of the festival is excellent too, and it is good publicity for the Peckham area. I look forward to going in 2024.

My only complaint is that the re-usable cup system last year was terrible - they could only be returned to one distant location, meaning most were discarded on the floor, and then they were not firm enough so were crushed by festival goers feet. This is a much worse outcome than using regular disposable (and thin) plastic. Also, the amount of cans on the floor was incredible - a proper reusable cup system with significant deposit for the cup should resolve all this (e.g. £3 per cup and a ticket so that it is a one-person-one-cup system). I know all the rubbish is cleaned up each day after the festival, but that just hides the overall waste problem.

**71. Hello,**

I am emailing with regards to the recent plans to extend the GALA festival to 6 days to ask the team to consider the below issues:

We live at the gardens so our home is located on a road directly facing the park:

- the primary issue we have had in the past is the amount of litter that was left on the streets surrounding the park (whilst the park may have been cleaned) the surrounding areas were evidently not. If this event is extended, I can only imagine this will be even worse. There were nos canisters everywhere along with food containers, bottles, sick etc.
- While we are not happy about music being on until 10:30pm on a work night - beyond that, thousands of intoxicated people leaving the event is SO loud and

likely to continue until later in the evening (11:30). Are you able to consider finishing earlier so the noise disruption doesn't continue late into the night

- Finally, if the event is at 5 this covers the start of commuting time home -the train station is overcrowded with poor access as the best of times - how will this be managed?

Thank you for your consideration,

**72.** I am writing to strongly oppose the event

I use Rye Park daily to go for a walk in peace and quiet and enjoy the environment, the greenery, the flowers and the restful and clean park.

I used to go to Brockwell park sometimes to do the same. Unfortunately Brockwell Park has suffered greatly from the events run in the park over the years. The grass is spoiled. The park looks run down and is often dirty.

I do not want the same to happen to Rye park

Rye park is already very popular attracting a great mix of people young and old and of all culture enjoying a range of activities, the outdoor gym, the space for running bikes, running, walking dogs, feeding ducks, sport activities football, cricket, picnic areas.

There is no need to attract more if it is at the risk of spoiling the very things that attract all these people in the first place ie peace, clean area and free open spaces for All, especially on a precious bank holiday weekend.

There is no detailed explanation about how the site will be reinstated to its former glory after the event. So watch how Brockwell Park has been spoiled for some.

Thank you for listening

**73.** I object to the application for GALA to hold a six day event in Peckham Rye Park resulting in a large usable area of the Park being inaccessible to the public for up to month.

- It is not acceptable for local residents to be inconvenienced and disturbed for up to 6 days
- The site cannot withstand a footfall of up to 50,000 over 5 days
- The site will be severely damaged by heavy equipment i.e. stages being in situ for over 5 days



- The reinstatement of the site has not been acceptable. Damage is still apparent from previous years
- The holding of the event is of little benefit to the Park

#### 74.

Whilst I do not object to GALA taking place in Peckham Rye Park from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May in 2024, I do strongly object to the proposal for additional days for the festival on Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Monday 27 May.

The Park plays an important role for local residents - a green area for relaxation, calm and exercise. The expansion of the festival from 3 to 6 days would cause serious disruption to local residents and wildlife that lives in the park. I am also seriously concerned about the amount of damage that would be done to the park by footfall of 51,000 over 6 days, as opposed to 27,000 over three days. The increase in damage would lead to an extended recovery time, which would further limit local residents' proper use of the park as we enter summer 2024.

No proper justification has been provided for doubling the length of the festival - it should be kept at 3, which was worked well in previous years in terms of balancing entertainment against use of the park. It is also worth noting that other London day festivals, such as All Points East and Field Day, are between only 1 and 3 days in length. Festivals that last for 6 days tend to take place outside of London - for good reason.

#### 75.

**I wish to register my strong opposition to the extension of the Gala festival 2024.** The council has a poor track record of responding appropriately to consultations. Last year's consultation revealed considerable opposition to the both the event itself and the extension of the time-frame. The council was forced to cancel the extended festival but proceeded to allow the festival itself to continue.

To date the council has failed to adequately respond to requests for specific data analysis of the consultation results.

I object to the proposal on these grounds;

1. The event is not focused on the needs of Southwark residents. The events team have not to date supplied adequate information on the numbers of out of borough ticket holders which suggests that the majority of attendees are in fact out of borough. The event impairs the living standards of local residents and council tax payers by restricting access to common land for up to 6 weeks in total.
2. The environmental damage caused by the event is much more significant than any other smaller events such as Zippos Circus. The length of time and the nature of the operation mean that the organisers have caused year -on -year damage to the park area which has not yet recovered.
3. The event negatively impacts on the experiences of local people who may not be lucky enough to have gardens by restricting access to an already well-used and over-populated park area.
4. There is a lack of transparency around the event and the awarding of the license which has caused significant local concern. There is no clear strategy for use of funds earned.
5. This event represents a trend of creeping privatisation of public spaces - widely reported in The Guardian and other outlets. Local residents should be given a council tax refund for the month of the festival (or 2 months if the extension is to go ahead) for impact on the quality of life for residents.

I expect to be provided with a full data analysis of the responses post consultation.

**76. Please add my points to the consultation responses**

I strongly disagree with the proposal to extend the festival in 2024. The festival has a negative impact on local residents and on the environment. It is at odds with the council's declared aim to reduce car travel by attracting primarily an out of borough audience, many of whom drive to the festival and park in local streets.

The consultation itself lacks transparency. Acknowledged stakeholders from last year were this year left out of the mailings and required to 're-register'. This was a blatant attempt to silence residents and opposition to the festival.

I am opposed to all aspects of the proposal and shall be making a Stage 1 complaint as to the handling of the consultation shortly.

77. As a local resident, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the extension of the GALA festival license to 6 days. My objections are as follows:

### **1) Long term damage to the park**

The current 3 day festival already results in damage to the grass across the entire GALA site - which covers a significant portion of the grassy area in Peckham Rye park. Even with fair weather last year, large areas of the lawn were destroyed and required fencing off for the subsequent 10+ months to recover. See attached photos taken a couple of weeks after the event. There was no evidence of reparatory work by the festival organisers to speed up the recovery process (e.g. re-turfing areas).

The damage is both unpleasant for park users - creating an eyesore in an otherwise lovely area of the park - and also reduces the area of park available to the public while damaged areas are fenced off to recover.

**If the festival is extended to twice the current length, it is reasonable to assume that the damage to the park will be double that already experienced.** This area of the park is not well drained and gets boggy during rain. **If there is a significant rainy period during a 6 day GALA (likely given our climate) the damage would be worse again - potentially destroying large sections of the grass for the rest of the summer and beyond. Peckham Rye is not a large park so this damage would significantly reduce the amenity value of the entire park over a period of several months.**

### **2) Removing access to a large area of the park for a 3 week period**

GALA festival already results in the closure of a large and extremely well used grassy section of the park for a period of weeks. The proposed licensing for this year would see the build/break down last from 13 May to 3 June - a period of 3 weeks and longer than previous years. **This privatisation of a public space for a three week period is not acceptable. A park exists for the benefit of all local people, but during this time the only benefit will be felt by those who wish to attend the festival. An extension of the license to 6 days is not reasonable and does not take into account the needs of park users who rely on this essential public space for their daily exercise and wellbeing.**

I would be very happy to discuss these objections with you in more detail. I have included my address and contact number below.

**78.** I am writing to object to the Gala Festival being held on Peckham Rye over the May Bank Holiday.

Last year the Council issued an events licence after the consultation had concluded and an outcome had been decided and accepted that it was made late. This was a breach of its obligations towards local residents and does not reflect a neutral position towards the application ie it feels like a done deal.

Noise

I live opp the park near Piermont Green. The sound from the festival reverberated in my garden making it impossible to spend time at home over the May Bank holiday. No amount of noise control and helplines will mitigate this. The fact is that the park is too small for a festival which is growing each year and my life is blighted by it . I welcome a local councillor to live in my shoes over bank holiday and experience it first hand. This is not nimbyism just a fact - the festival should be in a larger space in Southwark.

The noise control hotline was staffed by one person who seemed to be the only person on line. There was no GDPR protocols applied to handling my personal data - so for example when I rang back he said hello and my name whereas calls should be anonymised as I had requested.

The extended Gala festival and Knick on impacts to the park are disproportionate the the festival goers enjoyment. Many are young people who are no parks users so would not be impacted by the closure of part of the park for 15 days or more . The legacy before and after the festival in terms of returning the park to its natural state are also disproportionate to the enjoyment t of the minority.

Gala do not support the park or any other Southwark based charity. They do not employ local people. They generate revenue for themselves and do not share this in the community .

The impact on older residents or younger people who use the park is disproportionate- they are also not likely to take up the offer if reduced tickets - this is therefore a symbolic rather than practical gesture in the part of the Gala festival.

So in essence my view is they the disruption in terms of noise, lack of ability to relax over the BH due to noise, the inability of park users to access the park for up to 15 days beforehand and afterwards make this a disproportionate event which benefits the minority of festival goers to the detriment of t of local people. I understand that the council wishes to generate income but there are bigger areas of green space in the borough which would not have such a disproportionate impact on local residents and park users. Although statistics will show that the impact in terms of space used is minimal given the size of the park it is the proximity to houses which bear the brunt of the noise pollution which is the main point. Nothing the festival can do will mitigate this unless you move the housing. I do not wish another BH to be blighted by this

festival. I wish to use my garden etc like anyone else can during the break to enjoy some work life balance. I understand that the common cannot be used as the fencing is an issue but locating it near the housing side had a greater impact.

**79.** I am emailing in response to the current consultation concerning this event.

My address is Underhill Road, London SE22 0PD.

I object to Gala being allowed to hold their horrible noisy events on five consecutive days in May of this year.

The park is meant to be a free resource for everyone in this area. It seems extraordinary to me that a so called socialist Council can allow a minority with deep pockets, most of whom dont live round here, to drive the local residents out of their park for the best part of one of the loveliest months of the year .

They will damage the park and they will not clear up properly after themselves. They admit they did not clear up properly last year or the year before.

We are one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. So why hold a noisy event like this in a green space during the bird nesting season?

Anyone who lives anywhere this event will have five days of hell because of the noise. Why do this to local residents.?

You dont hold any free community events in this area that I am aware of.

There is no guarantee that the Council will get ever get any money out of them. Look what happened re the Pub in the Park event in Dulwich park.

So please do not proceed with this event.

**80.** Dear Southwark Council

I am writing to raise my concerns about a 5 day festival / event in Peckham rye this summer.

1. The concert falls within GCSE/A Level season which means children studying close by would be severely disrupted for a period of 5 days. This is unacceptable. We live a 5 minute walk from Peckham Rye common and every year all you can hear is the loud base / boom of the concert which would be deeply distracting to any students.

2. The noise pollution in general for a period of five days means local residents do not get quiet enjoyment of their homes.

3. The rubbish and mess left after the concert last year was awful. Whilst I appreciate the organisers and Southwark do their best to tidy up there were thousands of pieces of rubbish left on the green parts of the common last year. This is often treacherous for dogs who eat left over food, discarded plastic and metal.

We do not believe extending the duration of the festival is in the benefit of the community and would ask that you do not grant permission for the festival on these extended terms.

## **81. Dear Team**

I write to strongly object to Assembled Live's application to hold 5 days' events between Thursday 23rd and Monday 27th May.

In previous years, the event has been held on 3 days. This was quite bad enough - the noise was intolerable to many residents including those living on Friern Road, Upland Road, and Piermont Green as well as parts of Nunhead. The organisers say that the noise is within agreed limits and that few complaints were made to the noise hotline. The fact is that if the noise is within the limits, then there is not much point in complaining but this does not mean that many residents are not greatly disturbed. To ask residents to have to put up with another 2 days of events is unreasonable. Parents have told me that GCSEs and A levels take place around this time.

Yet again, the organisers fail to take any notice of the fact that the event will take place during the height of the bird breeding season. The boundaries of the ground are just yards from the woodland and shrubs where birds will be nesting. To add another 2 days, can only exacerbate the disturbance. "Mitigation" measures such as nest boxes elsewhere are neither here nor there - any area can only support a certain number of birds and adding nest boxes to other areas will increase competition for resources there.

The additional 2 days will nearly double the footfall and the ground will be subject to extreme compaction. Although this damage may not be noticed, the soil and ecosystem below ground will be damaged.

Although I refer to 2 additional days, at the consultation meeting on 29th November, the organisers said that there may be an additional event on Wednesday 22nd May. This really should not be allowed since only people who attended know anything about it and it is not referred to in the letter sent out on 17th November or on the website.

Two or 3 years ago, the event was held on the August bank holiday and I believe that this is a much more appropriate time to hold the event since it will not fall in the exam or bird breeding seasons, and more people will be on holiday.

To sum up, I am completely opposed to any extension to the length of this event and to the timing.

**82.**

I object to the length of the proposed closure of this section of the park. The cost to the public who use the park is out of proportion to the benefit of the attendees of the events and the revenue generated. I note the expansion of the proposed period and consider that this is completely in contradiction to the needs of local residents and ridiculous given the similar attempt and back track last year. I have changed the party I am planning to vote for in the next local elections as a result of this and one other issue. I am a Peckham resident.

**83.** I object to the proposal to extend the extension of this event from 3 to 6 days, on the grounds of noise and air pollution, damage to the environment and wildlife, removing access to a quiet and green natural space for residents and children without a garden, negatively impacting the lives of regular park users and those living close to the park. Attempts to extend the Gala festival are at odds with the Council's policies on creating a cleaner and greener environment.

Access to nature and quiet green spaces is vital and proven as essential for physical and mental wellbeing. The Gala festival negatively impacts all this at a key time of year, at the beginning of summer, when residents are most likely to want to access the park and enjoy the beauty of the natural world and some quiet.

I urge the council to rethink and to revoke the 6 day premises licence it granted this organisation last year, bringing about current attempts by the organisers to extend the duration of the event.

**84.** Dear Southwark Council,

I would like to complain about and object to the council's properly to extend the existing remit of the GALA festival, and implore you consider to moving the festival to the rye end of the park, with the open space that is usually used for events, rather than the more diverse park land area to the south.

I am disappointed that a council that holds itself out to have declared a climate emergency and to be publicising its production of "guidance for events sustainability" are happy to increase the number of weeks this highly polluting and damaging event takes place each year.

As you will know, the event severely damages the biodiversity of the more biodiverse end of the park, killing millions of insects essential for cross pollination of the local

area and damaging wild grassland, wildflowers and other areas the council spends the year trying to protect and help prosper. Other events are all held on the flat grassland on the rye, which is the better place for this event as (a) it is where all other events are held on Peckham Rye and (b) this type of terrain, whilst still needlessly damaged, stands better chance of recovering more quickly.

I cannot see any way the event in its existing guise, let alone with the proposed extension, can be anything but incompatible with the council's sustainability objectives, the council's licensing objectives or the commitment to sustainability required to limit the climate crisis you have declared. I am a sustainability professional and know this to be true.

Furthermore, the noise and light pollution to us local residence is absolutely unbearable and untenable. You receive countless complaints each year and the claims you make on the proposal of potential benefits to local traders, communities and finances are entirely hypothetical and unquantified, whilst the negative impacts are wholly measurable, recorded and material. This is an abuse of power and an unfair way to treat a local community with a high density of local families with young children who cannot sleep, schools that are affected and families without gardens or outside space who have their community outdoor space taken away for the best part of two months of the year. 6 nights of music in a row causes months of disruption as fences, toilets and waste ruin parkland and prevent access to community spaces. The noise is heard far and wide across Peckham and East Dulwich and causes us endless disruption.

The area has not recovered from two years ago and vehicle track marks are becoming entrenched. An "environmental strategy" simply meant a company putting up some orange wire and sowing some grass seed. The promises to make good last year were on paper only. This is a profit making activity that serves only the interests of the event organisers. I also understand you plan to remove trees to make it cheaper and easier for festival contractors to install drainage. Mature trees are expensive to buy and juvenile trees take many years to grow to provide anywhere close to adequate levels of carbon capture or storage, or appropriate biodiversity for local creatures and animals

Councillor Catherine Rose is representing her own interests and that of Gala festival over that of council tax paying residents and the local community which she is supposed to represent.

Furthermore, the "community benefits" referred to on the event/ consultation webpage are inadequately quantified, with no breakdown of supposed "additional funding for biodiversity projects" or the fee paid to the council to be used for the community's benefit. Nor are there



sufficient details of the size or application of the "Environmental Impact Fee" or the supposedly substantial "ground deposit".

Please do not further burden local residents by extending this event, causing further permanent damage to community land gifted to the council for public use by the community.

The event should be reduced in number of days or the set up and breakdown reduced so the park is not restricted for 6 weeks.

The event should also be moved to the Rye where less pregnant damage would be caused.

Furthermore, it is underhand that you chose for this consultation to be open only over Christmas and new year, and that you have not put notices through letterboxes of local residents and posted more prominent information about the consultation in a more fair and balanced way.

**85. Dear Events team,**

As a Southwark resident and regular user of Peckham Rye Park I would like to express concern at and object to plans to hold another Gala festival this year and in particular plans to increase the amount of time that this large section of the Park would be closed off for normal access should approval be given.

I object to the impact on wildlife - particularly at this time of the year. I also object to the closing off of valuable public space to local children and adults just as the weather is becoming more conducive to the opportunity of outdoor exercise and recreation.

From personal experience I know that this area of the park is used by those who want to steer away from the customary sports playing areas of the park where football and rugby pitches are marked out for much of the year.

I hope that you will bear my and other comments in mind when considering this application.

**86. Hi there,**

I'd like to reply to the consultation about the Gala music festival on Peckham Rye. I'm a resident who lives just a couple of minutes walk from the Rye, at The Gardens, SE22 9QF.

I'm unsure based on Southwark's page whether the consultation is asking whether residents support the extension of the festival, or whether it's asking whether we support the festival taking place at all.

To be clear, I'd like to request the festival does not go ahead at all and definitely is not extended.

The reasons for this are...

### 1. Effect on wildlife is incompatible with Southwark declaring a climate emergency

Peckham Rye [advertises itself as a wildlife centre](#). There is lots of excellent research and advice about the effect local festivals have on wildlife. You can read research from the [RSPB here](#), from the [RSPCA here](#), [research from MIT here](#), and a [meta analysis on the effect on birds here](#).

To summarise: sustained, loud noises and especially of bass devastate local wildlife. For example, birds become disoriented, fly off, and die.

Southwark Council hosting a loud, bass-heavy music right in the middle of a wildlife centre is **totally contradictory** to Southwark's declaration of a climate emergency. Simply, the Council can't have both!

### 2. Effect on the local area around the Rye.

Every year when the festival takes places, there are lorries and cars setting up the festival along the Rye and Forest Hill Road. The number of cars this requires, the effect on traffic, and the fact that all the vehicles are constantly stationary and idling their engines has a massive effect on air quality.

This particular area of Peckham is the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of worst air quality in the country - everyone in Peckham constantly breathes air that is over the WHO's guidelines. Air pollution kills tens of thousands of people in the UK every year. It's unacceptable that the Council suggests exposing residents to **even more** air pollution and - what's more - in a park.

Again, Southwark have declared a climate emergency (including a commitment to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases), and yet here the Council is simultaneously offering to host a highly polluting event in a local wildlife centre - it's contradictory and unfair to residents.

### 3. Noise

We live just a hundred yards from the road and the noise and light pollution from the festival is a problem every year. There's lots of evidence about the effect of noise pollution on people's health. It's unfair that residents have to put up with loud heavy bass during the night - my partner and I both have to get up early for work and our bedroom faces the Rye.

Please do get back to me confirming this feedback has been taken into account.

### 87. Hi

I am writing in response to the consultation about the Gala Festival 2024.

I object to the festival being held at all, and certainly to the extension of the length of the festival. I don't believe that the benefits outweigh the noise, limitation of amenity and damage to the earth which will as proposed last directly for a third of the summer and indirectly, in the case of the damage to the ground, more or less all year.

Excessive nuisance and removal of amenities: a three day festival led to the park being inaccessible for nearly two weeks of the summer. Having the same large area effectively unusable for a month would mean local residents facing a significant section of the park being unusable and looking like a prison for a third of the summer.

The noise from the music for such an extended period is intolerable anyway, especially in disrupting afternoon and evenings at one of the few times of the year locals can spend time enjoying the weather outdoors.

Ground damage: In previous years the festival has led to sustained damage to the ground. In particular major disrepair to large sections of the grass, with unsightly and dangerous cracking. This led in two sections to orange plastic railings being left for many months to protect damaged earth. The ground never really fully recovers before the following year's festival starts. This is an area of ground already suffering big problems with drainage, which I've no doubt is being worse.

I object to the festival being granted the required licences.

**88.**

As a local resident and user of the Park, I am opposed to the proposed extension of this event for the following reasons:

1. The impact of this event on the local community in terms of disruption, noise and construction activities has already proved to be significant in previous years. This is already a big event in a well-used recreational area open to all. To extend this as proposed over such a long period during the popular summer season is excessive and unacceptable.
2. It is disingenuous of Culture and Events and the Gala team to downplay the level of impact. As soon as the site build begins, the Gala event dominates the park. The erection of the high steel wall around the perimeter is both physically and visually disruptive. A number of pedestrian and cycling routes are blocked off resulting in long detours to get from one side to the other. The impact is even greater because the event compound is sited within the already enclosed area of the Park (limited access points, fenced in, thus limiting the routes that can be taken) rather than the more open area of the Common. If you're going to erect a ring of steel why not put it on the already established 'large events area' used for circuses, funfairs etc?
3. 21 days from site build to break is almost a month. This far too long to restrict use of the park for what remains essentially a commercial event. This is not what it is intended for. It puts an unfair burden on the local community.
4. Crucially, the proposed event days themselves would extend to over a whole week. The usual 3 days of event time already has a huge impact on the immediate community, not just through noise and disruption in the immediate area of the Park but Gala attendees flood the local area, gathering in large numbers in a much wider area before entering the event space itself. Nothing in the proposals takes account of this.
5. Southwark council should accept that, as shown by the consultation in 2023, goodwill for the Gala event is already at its limit. It should not be encouraging commercial interests to scale up what is already an excessively disruptive event.

**89.** I would like to comment on application SWKEVE000964 (Gala Festival at Peckham Rye).

I am against the proposal. Closing off a significant part of the park for three weeks in the summer is just too much, and the siting of the festival is in the wrong place - if we have to have it, it would be much better placed in the less-used, more open commonland at the northern end of the site. It would do less environmental damage there as there are fewer surrounding trees - though obviously there would still be noise pollution, disruption with lorries and ugly fencing so still not ideal.

I am not anti festivals at all (I actually attended Gala in its first year) but I felt then and still feel now that it is in the wrong place and closes off the park for the public for an unacceptably long time. Parks should not become de facto commercial venues - they are meant to be for the benefit of all.

**90.** I'm writing on behalf of my family to ask you to refuse Gala's application for 5 days of events between Thursday 23rd and Monday 27th May. And any other event proposed as part of this application.

We live on Friern Road and do not like the impact on the park - recreational disturbance, pollution (including trampled grass and plants), and lack of access/fencing off of a much needed, busy park used continuously by locals.

It isn't good enough for Gala to offer one evening with a discount for locals - many of us don't want to go, are disturbed by the people going to the festival and the loud noise, and still can't afford it.

The music last year was very loud (we are not adjacent to the park) oppressive and kept my children awake.

The area from Peckham Rye Station to the park was disastrous, with throngs of people from out of the area walking down the street from Peckham Rye Station to go to the event, many openly drinking alcohol in the daytime whilst walking in the road or trying to catch overcrowded buses, with some already drunk.

I took my kids to Peckham Rye Station to go into Central London while the festival was on, to get away from it. The station was heaving and there were broken bottles on the floor. My kids had to walk on broken glass with wine/beer spilt on the floor in their sandals to get through the station. The station staff could not cope with the disruption and it was a serious health hazard.

For older kids, this is very important GCSE/A level time and the noise and disruption adds to stress and issues with being able to concentrate on study.

Peckham Rye isn't surrounded by stations and busy London roads, unlike other local parks like Brockwell Park. It is a quiet family area and doesn't have the infrastructure/transport that can deal with it. And many locals don't want it.

Please refuse this application for the reasons outlined above, along with others objecting. It didn't work for us last year and we don't want it back this year.

**91.** To whom this may concern,

## **OBJECTION**

I would strongly object to the extension of this event within Peckham rye park.

1. This event was initially introduced as a combination of music events and family events, over 2-3 days. Which sounded inclusive to all. I'd note that the family events were rapidly phased out,
2. The park will be unusable for 21 days at the beginning of summer. Children, dogs and dog owners are inconvenienced and not welcome to use an important resource and public area during this time as most of the other areas in the park are also leased out to sports teams.
3. The noise on school nights will be extremely distracting, and detrimental to my daughter's sleep and concentration. I'd note that this is also in the middle of the major exam period.
4. While there are supposed funds to do works on the park area, there has been significant damage to the area over the years this ground has been used. It never recovers after the event and just gets more covered in bare patches and uneven grass with holes that is clearly a risk for anyone attempting to play games, run around or simply walk on the grass. This was never the case before gala. I've lived next to the park for 11 years, so can remember the situation very well. Clearly, expanding the number of days, and hence doubling the footfall, is going to further damage the area.

I have seen no direct benefit to the local community from this event and although I appreciate the council's overriding need for additional funding sources, a limit should be placed on the damage and inconvenience one area should suffer for this.

Please take these concerns seriously and do not extend the duration of this event.

## 92. Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to comment on this application: SWKEVE000694 - the GALA consultation

I use Peckham Rye park regularly and visit there about five times a week. I find that it is helpful for my physical and mental health to have access to this space. I have physical and mental health diagnosis - including sound sensitivity (part of ADHD) - and use the park to support my wellbeing.

I am concerned about losing access to Peckham Rye park as a place that I can enjoy as part of my routine during the GALA - and during set up and take down. Last time the park wasn't usable during the time of the festival as the noise level and disruption made it an unpleasant experience. The time of the set and and take down also has an impact on those using the space. The extension of the dates amounts to a loss of a community space for nearly four weeks.

In the consultation it states that only "12% of all available space (park and common)" will not be accessible for 21 days. But effectively 25% of the park will be inaccessible by this proposal. Additionally the festival has a negative impact on the rest of the space and people's enjoyment of this.

I am very concerned about the impact on wildlife and the plans to remove trees and damage to the grassland and other plants and animals of such a large festival. It is not clear - beyond vague statements - what will be done to protect the park in terms of wildlife and plants. Or what commitments there will be in terms of restoring the park - again beyond vague statements.

The proposal has very little community benefit in comparison to what is being lost during this time. In addition, even though we're not next to the park the event was audible during the time the festival was running.

It is not beneficial to the local community to take away green spaces in a city to run events that are best suited to nightclubs, pubs, indoor spaces or large fields. Peckham Rye park isn't a field - it's a community space and shouldn't be used for an event that not only excludes the community but has an adverse effect on them.

Additionally, this event isn't just running on its own but is part of a series that happen

in parks in Southwark over the summer and mean that people who rely on these resources are pushed out at a time when they would be accessing the most.

Lastly, as a Labour supporter I would expect my councillors to be against the privatisation of public resources. If such actions are necessary because of shortfalls in funding for essential services then there needs to be more transparency about how much profit is made in order to make a clearer financial argument for running such events.

**93.** We are local residents who walk our dog every day in Peckham Rye Park and we strongly object to the application to extend the duration of the Gala Festival. We feel lucky to have a beautiful, tranquil green space on our doorstep - it was one of the main reasons we chose to be resident in this area. We never take for granted the fact that we are within walking distance of an area which provides a beautiful habitat for abundant and diverse wildlife. The area of the park where the music festival takes place is totally unsuitable to be used to stage such an event. This application is also contrary to the council's commitment to a greener, pollution free environment.

Each summer we are dismayed by the huge crowds that descend on, and the disruption and environmental vandalism that is visited on Peckham Rye Park. The impact on wildlife is dreadful and needless. It is horrible for local residents, who value and look after our park every day throughout the year, to be banished from a large section of the park we use on a daily basis, and to make way for crowds who have no interest in the place other than as an arena for a music festival. We have to walk around the long perimeters of unsightly fencing and endure the noise that pollutes this beautiful place. It is also distressing to see the churned up areas that are revealed when the barriers are removed. These areas have never looked the same since this section of our park has been used to stage the festival.

We cannot understand why the festival doesn't take place on the open area of the Rye, where the circus, funfairs and fete are annually sited.

So many local residents feel exactly as we do - the offer of free tickets was made to local residents, but we, like a great many others, are not interested in attending an event which we consider to be an annual blight on our neighbourhood.



**94.** Hello

I am a resident of SE15 and would like to object to the extension of the Gala Festival based on noise, and impact on use of the park and green space during an important part of the summer for residents.

**95.** I am objecting to (1) the extension of the festival from 3 to 6 days and (2) its location in the park rather than the rye itself where all other events are held

**96.** Hi,

I'm unable to access this online planning application but I strongly object to the proposed extension of the Gala festival to 6 days.

- 1) This site is unable to sustain a footfall of 50,000+ people over 6 days
- 2) The noise pollution for local residents for 6 days is unacceptable
- 3) Closure to this part of the park for this length of time is not acceptable

**97. Re: GALA consultation - application SWKEVE000694**

I would like to object to the above application to extend the duration of the GALA event in Peckham Rye Part.

As a daily park user, I am concerned about the impact of this event on the natural habitat in the park and the disturbance to local wildlife.

The location of the event in the park is entirely unsuitable and would be much better on the main part of the rye, outside of the actual park.

**98.** RE: SWKEVE000694

The GALA team are proposing to offer a new programme of event activity across 5/6 days in 2024. This is an increase of 2/3 days of event activity in comparison to 2023.

I wish to oppose the plans of the GALA team to expand their event for the following reasons:

- This event is disruptive and damaging to the Park itself. Grass is trampled, trees and bushes injured, trash is left, park areas are used instead of public bathrooms. In past events, even though promised, the Park has not been properly restored to pre-event status. Increase in the number of days and the number of tickets will simply mean more disruption and damage to the Park.
- The committee pays the council a site hire fee. However, none of this fee goes to directly support Peckham Rye Park.
- The GALA team pays the council an Environmental Impact Fee in addition to the site hire fee. There seems to be no evidence this fee has been spent on projects which enhance Peckham Rye Park.
- Their application states additional funding will be provided by the GALA team for biodiversity projects, and that they are looking for projects to fund. But will these projects will directly support Peckham Rye Park? If past evidence is used, the answer is no.

**99. re SWKEVE000694**

I warned that this would happen when the first GALA application was made: perpetual expansion. OBJECTION. The park was obliterated enough from the FIRST festival let alone DOUBLE the days.

**100.**

I am a Southwark resident and live very close to Peckham Rye Park (Cornflower Terrace, SE22). I would like to object to the planned extension of the GALA festival over multiple weeks.

I have two key areas of objection:

- 1) **Increased damage to the park** – I walk through the park where the Gala festival is based most days of the week. Each year I witness the damage that festival inflicts both short term and long term. This damage will only be exacerbated the longer the festival goes on for.:
  - Short term – Discoloration to large sections of grass that can take most of the summer to recover (depending on the weather). Breaking up of the ground, especially where there has been heavy footfall, leading to bare muddy patches which last most of the summer and often beyond. Both these points mean that the point at which many local residents are looking to enjoy the park, it is at its worst.
  - Long term – There are parts of the park where the ground never recovers from the festival footfall and traffic. This will be worse with a

longer festival and could be catastrophic if the festival took part in heavy rain (something which has luckily been avoided to date).

- 2) **Limited use of the park** – In an area where many people have small or no gardens the loss of such a large section of the park impacts local residence quality of life. Only longer festival could see that part of the park off bounds for 3-4 weeks.

**101.** Hello,

### **SWKEVE000694 - Assembled Live Ltd - GALA Music Festival**

I would like to raise an objection to all the additional days applied for regarding the above event in Peckham Rye Park.

As listed in the letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 these extra days are outlined as Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Although online there is an additional third extra day proposed for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

As one of the residents close to the event I feel that this is excessive and adds extra days on to what already has a detrimental noise impact.

I also feel the loss of part of the park area for 21 days is too much and that Rye Common is overall a more suitable area for events to take place.

**102.** I am a Southwark resident and live very close to Peckham Rye Park (Cornflower Terrace, SE22). I would like to object to the planned extension of the GALA festival over multiple weeks.

I have two key areas of objection:

1. **Increased damage to the park** – I walk through the park where the Gala festival is based most days of the week. Each year I witness the damage that festival inflicts both short term and long term. This damage will only be exacerbated the longer the festival goes on for.:
  - Short term – Discoloration to large sections of grass that can take most of the summer to recover (depending on the weather). Breaking up of the ground, especially where there has been heavy footfall, leading to bare muddy patches which last most of the summer and often beyond. Both these points mean that the point at which many local residents are looking to enjoy the park, it is at its worst.
  - Long term – There are parts of the park where the ground never recovers from the festival footfall and traffic. This will be worse with a longer festival and could be catastrophic if the festival took place in heavy rain (something which has luckily been avoided to date).
2. **Limited use of the park** – In an area where many people have small or no gardens the loss of such a large section of the park impacts local residence quality of life and mental health. A longer festival could see a large part of the park out of bounds for local residents for up to 6 weeks.

**103.** Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident of Barry Road, SE22 0HU, and i wish to object to the expansion of the GALA festival to 6 days; it was bad enough when the festival was over 3 days.

The disruption and noise created by this event, in what is a residential area, is unacceptable.

Just because the festival ends at 10.30pm doesn't mean the noise stops. Noise from revellers leaving the festival often continues until 2am with people congregating outside my flat whilst waiting for Ubers or buses home - i have even caught people in my garden drinking. I have also seen evidence of drug use with nitrous oxide capsules littering the pavement outside.

Having to listen to drunk and boisterous people outside my flat into the early hours of the morning makes it impossible to sleep. I'm now dreading that i may have 6 days of this as i will end up going to work sleep deprived. Do Southwark Council not realise or care that people require sleep for work the next day?

If you want to have a music festival of this size and duration, i suggest you pick somewhere that is not a residential area.

**104.** I am writing to strongly object to the proposed festival. At the consultation meeting in November it was made clear by residents that this event is most unwelcome.

You heard that we object to our relatively small park being taken over for a minimum of 21 days. We know from experience that the park is not a pleasant place to visit during the build, festival and break up.

This is proposed to happen while schools are on half term. Many families nearby without gardens rely heavily on the park to provide safe, outside space during half term. Due to the lack of fences and gates the common would not be considered safe for children to play on. You heard how much mental stress is caused to parents with no access to outside space. You also heard about the mental stress caused by the extremely loud music.

Those with gardens are unable to enjoy their outdoor space due to the loud noise. During the loveliest part of the summer we have to stay indoors with all windows shut. This situation is becoming intolerable.

This event will be taking place during peak nesting period for birds, you will have noted the comments from 2 reputable birdwatchers. It was upsetting to hear that birds are losing their vital food supplies due to the compacted soil - caused by the contractors lorries.

You may feel that the number of residents at the meeting was low, please bear in mind that the time of the meeting would have been very difficult for many people to attend. However, those that attended were voicing the same concerns that we hear locally all the time.

It is clear to me that profit is your main objective and the views of the many nearby residents will be ignored. You are increasing the number of days this year and that will mean doubling our misery. In view of this can I ask you to make sure that the stages and loud speakers are positioned so that they face the common? This may or may not help but I think it is the least you can do.

#### **105. Objection to events licence application SWKEVE000694 (Gala)**

This application should be refused because of the time of year in which this applicant is proposing to hold very loud amplified music events in Peckham Rye Park.

Southwark's own 'Events Environmental Sustainability Guide' makes it compulsory for events of this size (8,000 - 9000 people) to

"Avoid the disturbance of habitat and vegetation during bird nesting season (March to July)".

The proposed events and the timing of them clearly do not comply with this requirement because

1/ Peckham Rye Park is the type of habitat which qualifies as one which should not be disturbed during the bird nesting season - it has been recognised by Southwark's Ecology Officer as a SINC - i.e. a Site Of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The Ecology report commissioned by Gala last year, confirms its importance to birds - the Ecologist reported that the trees and woodland surrounding their chosen site "had high potential for bird nesting and foraging."

2/ The type of events proposed are ones which definitely disturb habitat used by birds.

GALA deliberately direct their music towards the surrounding trees because they use them as a buffer to absorb the high volume acoustics of their music festival.

3/ The applicant proposes to hold the events in May, so is not avoiding disturbing habitat during the months of March to July. The reason they have chosen this time was given in their consultation this year -

From their record of this year's consultation:-

Q. Why is it always this bank holiday? This coincides with peoples experience with wanting to be outside during their time off.

A. It is a commercial choice. As it's a long weekend, more people can attend the event without having to take time off.

There are other long weekends they could've chosen - they have previously held their event around a Bank Holiday in August. This shows that they have made no attempt to avoid disturbance during the period March - July.

Just because the name of the Park is Peckham Rye Park, doesn't mean that it is in Peckham - it's in East Dulwich.

Peckham has a reputation as a destination for clubs, music events and late night entertainment.

East Dulwich is a residential area containing a large proportion of families with young children and elderly people. One of GALA's aims was to "draw new visitors to the area to experience Peckham and what it can offer." (From their application SWKEVE000569). I have experienced undesirable people who have been attracted by this event, waiting outside with balloons, in order to sell nitrous oxide to participants as they leave the GALA event.

Their very loud amplified music events continuing into late evening are inappropriate for this area and cause a lot of distress to many local residents. Their events are a nuisance. The park normally closes at dusk. To continue loud music into the late evening is detrimental to the sleep of young children, as many parents have reported.

The generators and lorries are a nuisance and a risk to health, particularly to children, with the noise and fumes polluting the air before, after and during the festival. I have also experienced smoke and resulting long-term damage to the ground in the park from food cooked by fire.

This is quite the wrong type of event for this park and particularly at this time of year.

**106.** To whom it may concern,

I would like to oppose the hosting of the Gala festival in Peckham Rye park. I am a local resident (Henslowe Road) and find the event highly disruptive. The primary issue is the noise created by the event that prevents my family, including two young children from sleeping. The event noise pollution is so bad that we have to plan to be away from my house over the weekend in order to sleep and enable my children to sleep. Based on this I absolutely oppose the additional days. It will not be possible to leave for an extended period due to school and work obligations and I should not have to leave my house in order to sleep and enable my children to sleep.

After the end of the event we also experience major noise disruption from people who attended the event walking through quiet residential streets, picking up Ubers and creating disruption.

Additionally, the event causes major disruption to the park, takes out of access some of the nicest parts of the park and fills the pathways with heavy good vehicles that ruin the paths and limit access.

Further the revenue from this event does not seek to be put back into the park. The playground consistently has apparatus out of commission for example.

## **107. Regarding Gala Consultation SWKEVE000694**

### Objection

Peckham Rye park is surrounded by busy urban streets, so each year Gala's noise and wildlife destruction affect thousands of people who are not involved in the festival.

Gala's marketing publicity misrepresents the area outside of the event as being a cartoon forest, encouraging their prospective clients not to think about their impact on the festival's neighbours.

Meanwhile, on Peckham Rye Common, the set up and break down endangers children and other members of the public and their dogs, with heavy trucks driving next to the playground and up the cycle path, which are not even shown on the site map so cannot possibly have been properly assessed for safety.

From the very first hour of set-up inside the park each year, contractors show contempt for wildlife, whizzing along in their vehicles to get their trackway laid as quickly as possible, damaging the low hanging canopies of trees next to the path without a care.

The festival and its set up and break down limit use and access to the park and common for several peak summer weeks, depriving thousands of people who have no gardens of open space and peace and quiet.

The timing of Gala clashes with school half term holiday, limiting inexpensive outdoor activity options for families in the cost of living crisis.

The timing also clashes with GCSE exams, severely interfering with study, concentration and sleep for students who live locally.



I am on the stakeholder list but have not been contacted by email, only by letter. The letter is not a full consultation as it incorrectly only lists 5 days, whereas the email lists 6. It also cannot be relied upon to consult, as Royal Mail services in SE22 are infamously unreliable.

Environmental damage to the park has been caused year after year. The area has not recovered from 2 years ago and vehicle track marks are becoming entrenched.

The letter states that "12% of all available space (park and common)" will be unavailable. This is incorrect and I believe deliberately minimising perception of the impact, which is actually 25% of the park.

Gala has been an extremely painful experience each year so far, and it certainly should NOT be allowed to continue making our lives a misery, let alone increased in length.

**108.** Hello

I'd like to go on the record as objecting strongly to the plan to extend this event; indeed, to hold it at all.

I think it's an effective enclosure of common land, the impact of which is most keenly felt by the area's poorest residents - those who have no private outside space of their own, who then, during the hottest period of the year, find their communal space privatised.

**109.** Please include the comments in this email in your consultation on the proposed increase of event days for the GALA festival.

For the record, I object strongly to the proposal for the following reasons.

The park is supposed to be for local people to enjoy all year round, however this is not possible for a month if this event takes place. The claim that only 12% of the park is occupied is spurious & misleading; it takes into account the Rye, which is not part of the park, therefore the area of the park which is out of bounds is nearer 25%. Of the remaining space, the two largest areas are allocated for Gaelic Football / Hurling, and football / cricket, and should not be considered useable for peaceful relaxation purposes.

Much is made by the organisers of financial benefits to the council, and the events and improvements to the park it will fund, but there is no information provided by

them or the council as to any financial figures, or what exactly these events & improvements are. I have no idea what the previous festivals have contributed to the local community, particularly the park. Shouldn't the council be promoting and publishing exactly what is funded by the event, and how much more will be funded if the event length is increased?

The damage to the park and the detrimental effect on its wildlife are not in doubt, and appear to be fully accepted by the organisers, based on their payment of an Environmental Impact Fee. A 100% increase in the length of the event will obviously lead to a related increase in the damage & impact caused by it - this really isn't acceptable, even with hollow promises of reinstatement. The latest event info shows that the organisers are still to appoint contractors for waste management & reinstatement, which is unacceptable for an established event which is applying to become bigger than previously - these aspects should be the very first to be addressed if the organisers are serious about looking after our park.

This EIF is apparently to be "ring fenced" to "enhance Peckham Rye Park", but no details are provided by the organisers or the council as to exactly what this will be, so there's no way of knowing if this a benefit of the proposed increase in days. There is also mention of funding for 'biodiversity projects' but again no details so a largely meaningless promise. The organisers even admit they don't know what these projects might be, as they are requesting suggestions. My suggestion is that the best thing for biodiversity in the park would be to hold the festival elsewhere!

The noise levels throughout the whole event are unacceptable for local residents. The council & organisers have assured us previously that there would be no overnight noise during set up, but last year there were two diesel powered refrigeration units running 24/7 for several days before & during the event days. The organisers said that there was nothing they could do about it, so another example of their lack of regard for local residents. Again, an increase in the number of days will mean an increase in the noise we will have to tolerate.

The event coincides with the last day of term for local primary schools, when traditionally the children visit the park en masse to celebrate in the good weather. This means the children are confronted by hoards of drinking / drunk festival goers on their way in. Last year I witnessed children playing in & around the bushes and undergrowth which incoming festival goers were also using to relieve themselves - apart from being grossly unpleasant, surely there are safeguarding issues here?

As part of the extension, there is a "family day" being touted, which is "for local people", but I thought the organisers main angle is that the whole event is inclusive, family friendly and for the local community, so which is the case? Either this "family day" is a hollow promise, or the rest of the event actually isn't suitable for everyone?

The organisers are offering an increase of 500 reduced price tickets for local residents if the event is extended. This is an increase of 14% on their offer for last year, but the event will be 100% bigger / longer. So this shows how little regard the organisers really have for local residents. Add to this that for some of the days these tickets will only be available via a ballot, and this disregard is increased. The organisers truly do not care about the people who are most impacted by this event.

Following on from this, the fact that only 239 of the 500 free tickets offered to local charities & organisations were taken up should indicate how unpopular this event is with the local community. Also, who exactly were offered these tickets? Again, no information is given.

The claim that local businesses, traders, artists, creatives and employees are provided with “opportunities” by the event is completely meaningless. They have exactly the same “opportunities” as all the other non-local ones; only if the organisers committed to using a large percentage of locals would it be an advantage, and an honest & transparent claim.

Ultimately this festival is purely a profit making exercise for the organisers, and our park is just a resource that they begrudgingly pay for; a venue for their business. It is the wrong site for this event; the damage to the land, the impact on the wildlife, the disruption for the local residents, the restrictions for park visitors, and with no visible benefits to the park or community. There is no valid reason why it should be allowed to go on for longer.

The role of local councils is to represent and serve the interests of the local community. Allowing this festival to take place in a public park during a half term holiday is not fulfilling this role, and increasing the period of disruption would be completely unacceptable.

**110.** I am a local resident and find this event very disruptive, to the point we feel the need to schedule our holidays during the festival itself. The site build and site break can also be disruptive and very noisy, sometimes long into the night.

I would prefer it if the duration of the festival was not extended.

**111.** Hello

I have already written to you to register my views in regards to this event which I oppose.

In addition I would like to know how widely you have consulted with stakeholders.

I was in Rye Park today and I saw one page of A4 attached to the door leading to the flower beds.

I noticed that no one was stopping to read it whilst I was there. I could see another notification anywhere else around the park.

I am just wondering how potential interested parties found out about this consultation. How do you expect people to feedback in time for your closing date?