



London Borough of Hackney  
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**URGENT**

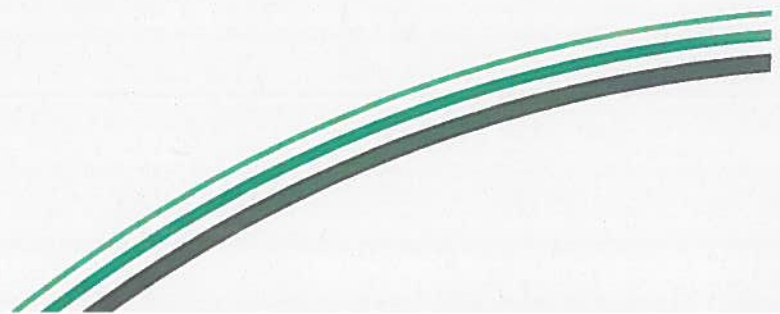
Licensing Team  
Level 1 – North – River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
N22 8HQ

Dear Haringey Licensing Team,

I would like to make a representation on behalf of the Brownswood ward (Hackney) in relation to the review of the premises license under s.51 and 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the following premises: LIVE NATION (MUSIC) UK LTD, Wireless, Finsbury Park. My representation also refers to Festival Republic who have run the Wireless festival and other large events in recent years, and were the event promoter rather than Live Nation in 2017 and 2018. Though I believe both are under the same ownership.

Residents in Brownswood Ward who live on roads nearby Finsbury Park (in particular) experienced significant 'public nuisance' and 'crime and disorder' impacts during Wireless 2017. This includes though is not restricted to the following:

- Persistent urination (and sometimes defecation) on our nearby streets
- ASB and criminal behaviour (often drug related) associated with large numbers of people arriving at the Park, exiting the park and hanging around for the duration of large events (including Wireless).
- Significant street litter and drug paraphernalia, and resulting grimy thoroughfares.
- Excessive noise levels. The 6 noise measure points, and more specifically the two in Brownswood do not appear sufficient to monitor all possible noise affects in the Brownswood area. In addition some of the language used by the main acts is clearly audible and not appropriate for Brownswood children to hear.
- Late event finish times which with subsequent hanging around, public nuisance, ASB and sometimes criminal and aggressive behaviour plus police helicopter noise kept residents awake until the early hours. A 30 minutes earlier [finish on Sunday](#) does not allow



sufficient time for residents to get to sleep early enough to start the working and school week on a good foot.

In addition Brownswood residents also experience:

- Building movement, experienced by residents as buildings 'shaking' or 'swaying' particularly on higher floors, prompting health and safety fears. On lower floors this is experienced in terms of windows rattling.
- Limited access to the park for significant periods during early and late summer in the run up to, during and take down of the events.
- Limited access to the town centre of Finsbury Park due to large volume of people, particularly during busier periods like egress. This is of particular concern for more vulnerable residents who resigned themselves to staying indoors and closing the windows for the duration (health implications during hot weather), hunkering themselves down so to speak.

This year (2018) Festival Republic responded to Brownswood residents issues and acknowledged that more should have been done in the past to minimise impacts to Brownswood residents. They, including Melvyn Benn CEO listened to residents' concerns at local ward meetings, promised a significant increase in security provision on key impacted streets, offered an additional residents response line, took part in a working group with residents reps, and provided the opportunity for a resident debrief during the large event weekend so that issues from the previous day could be addressed. This was appreciated by those taking part, as was a promise made by Melvyn Benn to fund 4 additional council wardens/ PSPO type personnel every Friday and Saturday night in Brownswood during the next year.

These measures did help to make a difference during the 2 back to back 3 day weekend events this Summer (2018) when all the promised resources were in place, particularly in terms of ASB and a better managed egress on some of the event days. However whenever the security provision was much less than promised or other factors came into play and resources were deployed elsewhere Brownswood residents yet again suffered from being at the front end of whatever the knock on effects were; the Liam concert and Wireless Sunday being particularly difficult for residents this year.

Irrespective of who the event promoter is, I believe the size of the bigger events is too large given how close the residential area is in the Brownswood ward. The noise experienced by many residents is intolerable, as is the grime, litter, ASB, hanging around, difficulty navigating their local high street, sleepless nights, drug taking and selling, drunken behaviour, urination and at times aggressive and intimidating behaviour.

Most Brownswood residents are sympathetic to young people (and older) having a good time as well as the events providing a useful source of revenue to fund Haringey parks which Brownswood residents benefit from by enjoying the park throughout the year. However as a

result of the impacts experienced and incremental increases in the number of large events over the last few years, a growing number of residents are beginning to oppose the events, who have been supportive previously.

On behalf of Brownswood residents, I suggest that the maximum size of events should be limited to 15,000 people which would require a much smaller footprint in the Park with significantly less impact on residents overall. Alternatively the number of large events (and total days) should be reviewed, and significantly reduced.

I hope you will consider these comments when making your review.

Kind regards

Clare Potter  
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