

Richmond Events in Parks Policy Consultation

1. Introduction

Richmond Council carried out a public consultation from 11 August to 5 October 2025 to gather views on its draft updated Events in Parks policy.

This report sets out the findings from the public consultation.

2. Executive Summary

There were 180 responses to the online questionnaire and an additional response received by email.

93% of respondents said that they live in Richmond borough.

The topline findings from the consultation are as follows:

- 72% of respondents said they had attended an event in a Richmond park, common or open space in the past year
- Walking (89%), spending time enjoying nature (77%) and relaxing/ socialising (68%) were the most frequently mentioned uses of parks and open spaces
- 44% of respondents said they usually use parks for sport or physical activity and 42% for attending events
- Community events (58%), theatre performances (57%) and markets (53%) were the events respondents would be most interested in attending in local parks and open spaces. 14% of respondents said they wouldn't be interested in attending any of the listed events
- 44% of respondents said they'd experienced an issue with events in public spaces. The most commonly mentioned concerns were excessive noise (22%) and litter (17%). Those who had attended an event in the past year were less likely to say that they had experienced any issues (39%)
- Respondents were asked their thoughts on the proposed changes for each element of the updated policy – detailed feedback is included in section 5 of this report
- The majority of comments were positive about the proposed policy changes, but there was also some negative feedback for each. Some respondents felt that no events should be permitted in Richmond's parks and open spaces

- Specific concerns with policy change elements that were mentioned by 10% or more respondents are as follows:

Ecology and biodiversity:

- The ecology and biodiversity element risks excluding too many areas as all parks are ecologically important (12%)
- The wording is too vague (12%)
- The policy requires clarification in terms of how specific or sensitive areas will be identified (11%)

Definition of an event:

- The lower limit of 30 people is too low (16%)

3. Methodology

Data was gathered using an online survey hosted on the Richmond Council website. The consultation material and questionnaire are included as appendices to this report. Paper copies and additional formats were available on request.

To promote awareness and ensure that everyone had the chance to participate, the Council publicised the engagement exercise in the following ways:

- Council news story shared on the news page of the Council website
- Press release
- Organic social media
- Targeted social media
- Email to Resident Associations mailing list
- Printed posters in parks and open spaces

The consultation was open to all, and respondents were asked for their full postcode and the capacity in which they were responding, to help the Council understand any impact on people in the local area.

The consultation responses were analysed and reported by the Councils' Consultation Team on an anonymous basis under the guidelines of the Data Protection Act. The Consultation Team are qualified researchers and certified members of the Market Research Society, bound by the MRS Code of Conduct when conducting research.

Methodology notes

For each question the results shown refer to percentage of the total sample, not percentage of responses to that question. This approach is taken to help demonstrate how significant an issue or concern is across the wider population. The exception to this is the demographic profile in section 6, where the figures are shown as a percentage of the answer base to demonstrate the composition of the consultation sample. In the written text, percentages have been rounded for conciseness. For multi-choice questions or where respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, percentages will not add up to 100.

4. Response

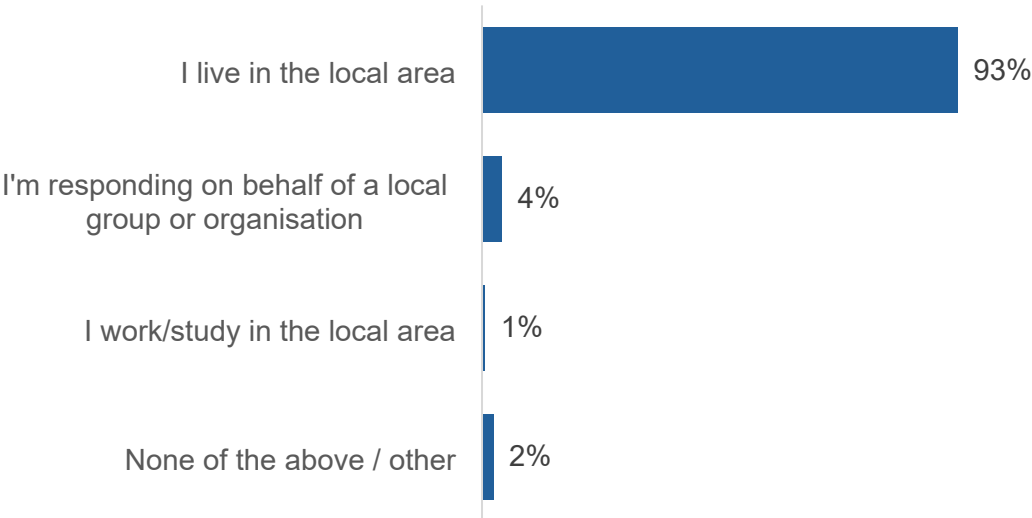
In total, the Council received 180 responses to the online questionnaire.

A demographic profile of respondents can be found in Section 6 of this report.

The Council also received an additional response via email; details of this can be found in Section 7.

5. Results

What is the main capacity in which you are responding to this consultation?



There were 180 responses to this question.

Most respondents said that they live in the local area.

Six people said they were responding on behalf of a named group or organisation; these were as follows:

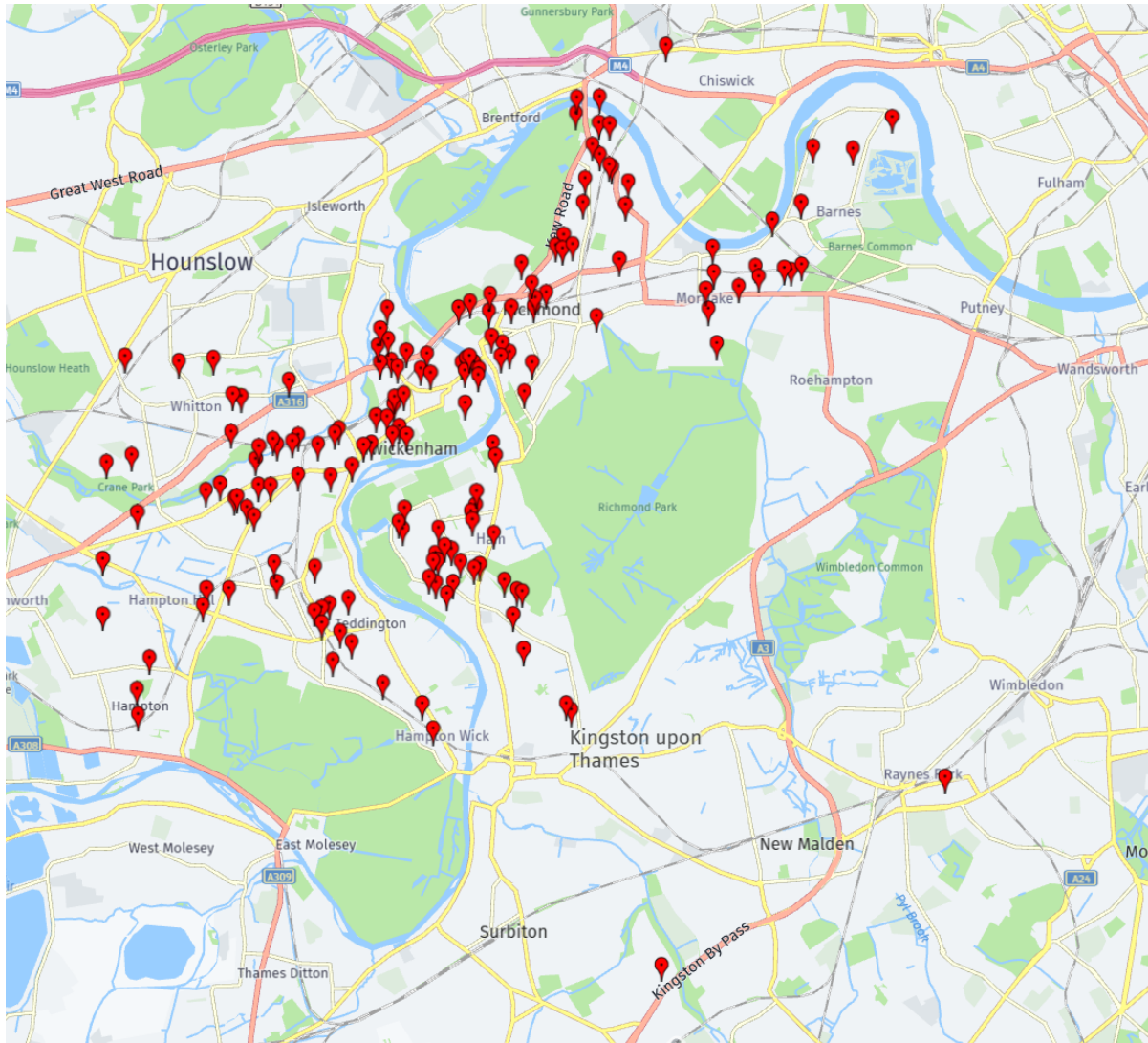
- Friends of Murray Park
- Friends of Palewell Common
- Richmond Shakespeare Society
- Barnes Community Association
- Friends of Richmond Green
- Old Deer Park Working Group

The full responses from these groups can be found in Appendix C.

Please tell us your postcode:

There were 179 responses to this question. The postcodes provided were used to create a map illustrating where people were responding from.

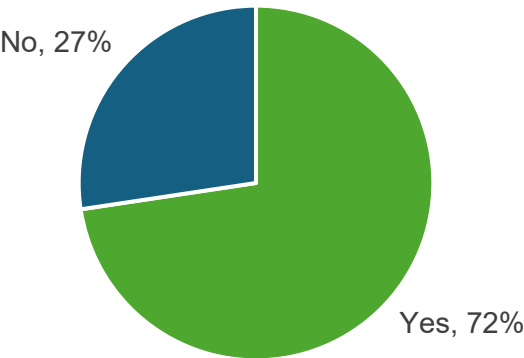
The map below shows the distribution of responses from all respondents who provided a postcode, excluding one respondent who provided an out of the London area postcode.



Park Use

Have you attended an event in a Richmond park, common, or open space in the past year?

There were 179 responses to this question. Nearly three quarters of respondents said they had attended an event in a Richmond park, common, or open space in the past year, while just over one quarter said they had not. One respondent did not answer this question.



NB Pie chart does not include 'not answered' responses so will not sum to 100%

How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?



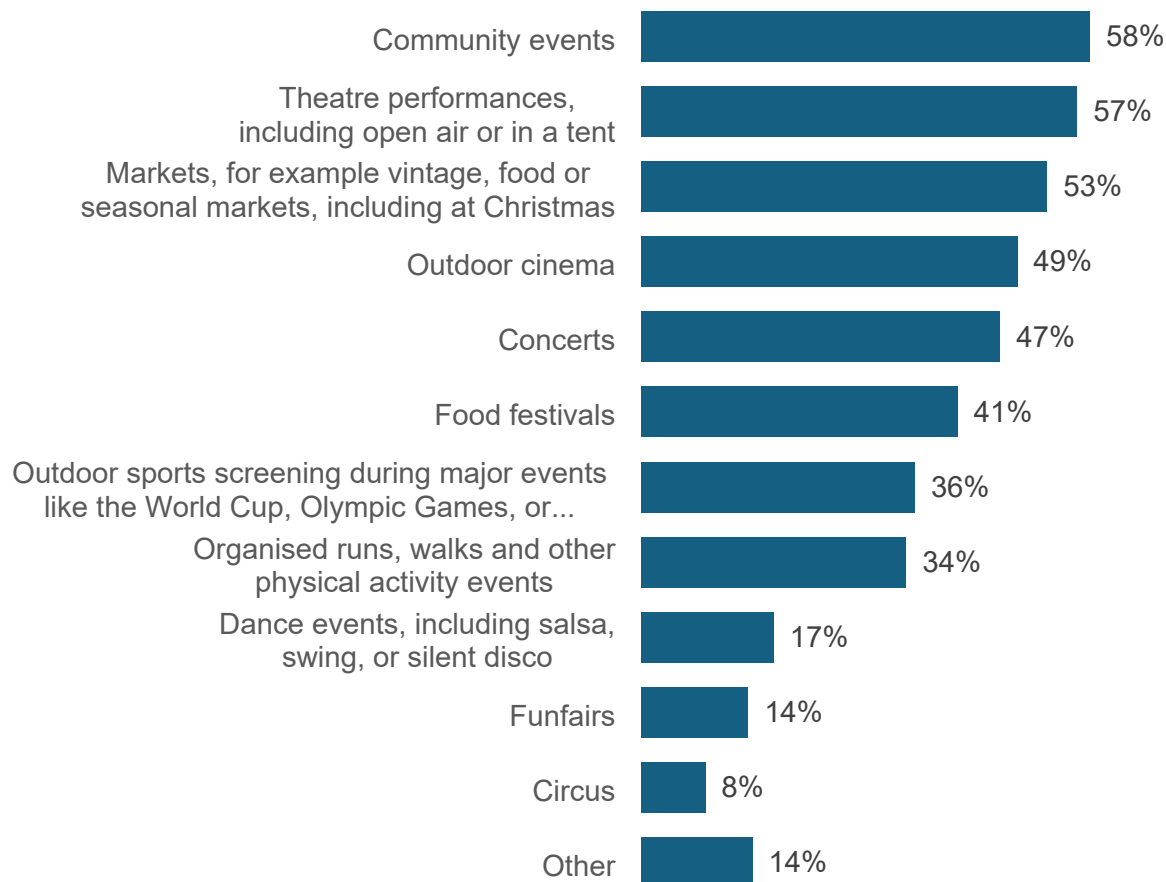
Respondents were asked how they usually use local parks and open spaces. There were 180 responses to this question.

Walking was the most frequently mentioned activity, mentioned by 89% of respondents, followed by spending time in nature, mentioned by 77%. 68% of respondents said they use parks and open spaces for relaxing/ socialising and 44% for playing sports or doing physical exercise.

42% of respondents said they use local parks and open spaces for attending events, 30% for taking children to play and 29% for dog walking.

19 respondents (11% of respondents) mentioned using local parks and open spaces for other reasons, including cycling, taking photos of animals and plants, volunteering or working, supporting mental health and enjoying the open space, peace and quiet.

What kind of events would you be interested in attending in our parks, open spaces and commons?



There were 180 responses to this multi-choice question.

Community events were the most popular choice, mentioned by 58% of respondents. Theatre performances were mentioned by 57% and markets by 53%.

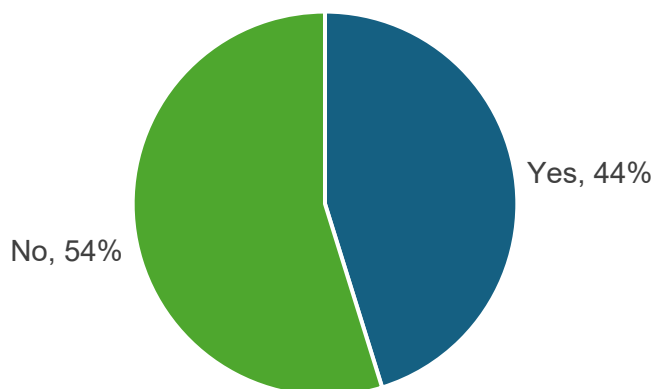
Just under half of respondents mentioned Outdoor cinema (49%) and Concerts (47%).

25 respondents (14%) answered this question with 'None of the above'.

An open textbox was also provided to allow respondents to submit their own alternative suggestions. 25 respondents (14%) submitted an answer in this section. Six mentioned sporting themed events including cycling, duathlon, swimming, yoga or tai chi, parkrun, cricket and sports training. Other suggestions included a range of different activities

including nature and wildlife education events, animal free-circus, picnics, dog shows, charity events and playing pétanque on the top of Richmond Hill. Three respondents used the opportunity to express their objection to events in Richmond parks in general.

Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces?



NB Pie chart does not include 'not answered' responses so will not sum to 100%

There were 177 answers to this question.

44% of respondents reported experiencing some kind of issue with events in public spaces. Respondents who had attended an event in a Richmond park, common or open space in the past in the past 12 months were less likely to have experienced any issues (39% compared to 59% of those who had not attended any such events).

Three respondents did not answer this question.

Respondents were provided an open textbox to give more information. 80 respondents provided a response.

The most common issues experienced by respondents were excessive noise (22%) and excessive litter (17%). Other issues experienced included personal inconvenience/ restricted access (6%), damage to the park surfaces/ grass (6%) and antisocial behaviour including drug use (6%).

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces? Please tell us more:		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
Excessive noise in parks	40	22%
Excessive/ extra litter in parks	30	17%
Personal inconvenience/ can't access parts of the park/ restricted access	11	6%
Damage to park/ damage to grass/ turned to mud	10	6%
Antisocial behaviour, including drug use	10	6%
Insufficient toilets	7	4%
Parking issues	7	4%
Congestion/ increased traffic	6	3%
Other issues	28	16%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not add up to 100

Respondents were asked their thoughts on the proposed changes for each of the following elements of the updated policy:

- Impact - Improving the management and mitigation of event impacts
- Engaging communities and stakeholders
- Securing additional social benefits from events

Impact – Improving the management and mitigation of event impacts

Event size

144 respondents provided an opinion in response to this question.

42% expressed general agreement with the policy, while 6% were opposed to the change, stating that they saw no need to change the policy or that they would prefer to retain the current policy.

5% of respondents felt that the maximum event size of 10,000 is too high; 5% felt that the lower limit of 30 is too low.

8% of respondents used the space to express their objection to the use of Richmond parks and open spaces for events, or at least to large or commercial events in general.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Event size Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	75	42%
General disagreement with change/ no need for change	10	6%
Current max audience sizes (10,000) too high/ need to be smaller	9	5%
Lower limit of 30 is too low	9	5%
Policy not clear/ too ambiguous	4	2%
Should be venue specific maximum size	3	2%
Does not believe numbers will be effectively controlled/ asks how this can be enforced	3	2%
Objects to any (additional) events in specific location	4	2%
Objects to all events	5	3%
Objects to large/ commercial/ evening events	15	8%
Other comments on event size	31	17%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Frequency of larger events

Respondents were asked for their views on the proposed introduction of limits on the frequency of large and major events. 149 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just under half of respondents (47%) expressed an agreement with the policy change while 8% objected.

7% of respondents expressed a concern that events have a negative impact on local residents (inconvenience, noise, litter etc.) while 5% noted that too many events have a negative impact on parks and commons.

6% said they wanted fewer event days, or did not want to see more event days, 4% that the limit for large or major events should be lower. 4% stated their objection to large events happening while 3% objected to any events in Richmond parks and open spaces.

3% of respondents felt that the proposed changes would make it more difficult to hold events, resulting in fewer events being held.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Frequency of larger events Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	84	47%
General disagreement/ no change	15	8%
Events have negative impact on local residents; inconvenience, noise, parking, ASB, litter etc.	12	7%
Too many events has negative impact on parks/ commons/ environment	9	5%
Should be case-by-case assessment	6	3%
Seeks further information/ policy too vague	5	3%
Changes will reduce ability to hold events/ result in fewer events	5	3%
There should be a limit on the total number of event days allowed across all event sizes	5	3%
Objects to any more event days/ wants fewer	10	6%
Limit on large/ major events should be lower	7	4%
Objects to large events	7	4%
Objects to any events at all	5	3%
Other comments on frequency of larger events	26	14%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Weekend events

The updated policy states that weekend events must be open to the public unless held in private, standalone facilities that are normally closed to the public in any case. Respondents were provided an open textbox to express their thoughts on the proposed change. 148 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Just under half of respondents (47%) expressed their agreement with the policy change while 11% expressed their disagreement or preference to retain the current policy.

6% expressed strong disagreement, feeling that the revised policy could have serious unintended consequences; e.g. being forced to invite the general public to attend an event aimed at children at a local cricket club.

8% of respondents felt the proposed wording was not clear or sought further information to inform their opinion, while 2% stated that they did not understand the proposed change.

Other comments included a general objection to events in Richmond parks and open spaces (2%) and specifically an objection to private events (4%).

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Weekend events Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	84	47%
General disagreement/ keep current policy	19	11%
Revised wording is not clear/ seeks further information	15	8%
Strong disagreement/ change may cause significant issues	10	6%
Against any private events in council parks	8	4%
Objects to events/ more events	4	2%
Does not understand proposed change	3	2%
Locals should have reduced price access to ticketed events	3	2%
Other comments on weekend events	25	14%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Noise control

The updated policy proposes changes to the control of noise from events. 150 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

44% of respondents expressed general agreement with the proposed changes while 5% expressed a disagreement or that the policy should remain unchanged.

7% of respondents noted that noise from events disturbs local residents or that it is important to protect local residents from the noise of events. 6% commented that events should have a curfew time for making noise.

5% of respondents were concerned that the proposed changes are over-restrictive and would prevent events from happening, while 4% felt the proposals were impractical, e.g. it is not possible to stop noise drifting outside the boundary of a park. 4% felt that the proposed changes would not be followed or enforced while 4% asked how this policy would be measured or enforced by the council.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Noise control: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	79	44%
Important that noise levels are controlled	18	10%
Noise disturbs local residents/ need to protect residents from noise	13	7%
There should be curfew time to stop making noise	10	6%
General disagreement / No change	9	5%
Concerned changes over-restrictive/ would stop events like concerts happening	9	5%
Questions how this is measured/ enforced/ what if breached?	8	4%
Does not believe best practice/ rules will be followed/ enforced	8	4%
Proposal is impractical/ can't stop noise drifting outside park boundary	8	4%
There should be no events with amplified music/ no loud events	7	4%
Important to have monitoring/ enforcement	5	3%
Agree as long as events not too frequent	5	3%
Proposal is ambiguous/ not clear/ has question/ suggestion	5	3%

No exception for licensed events/ no event should be heard outside park boundary/ all events should have noise limits	4	2%
All events generate some noise so there should be no events at all	3	2%
Current noise level from events is too high	3	2%
Noise from events disturbs wildlife/ nature/ need to protect wildlife etc. from noise	3	2%
Other comments on noise control	24	13%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Event finish times

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed changes to event finishing times. 145 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Just over half (53%) of respondents expressed an agreement with the proposed changes while 4% disagree or felt that the current policy should stand.

9% of respondents felt that the proposed 10pm curfew was too early and would be happy for unlicensed events to finish later, while 2% stated that 10pm was too late and the curfew should be earlier. 5% stated specifically that 10pm is an appropriate time for a curfew and that they would object to a later time, while 5% felt there should be no exception for licensed events and all events should be subject to a 10pm curfew.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Event finish times: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	95	53%
10pm is too early/ happy for later finish	16	9%
10pm is appropriate/ objects to any later	9	5%
There should not be an exemption for certain events e.g. licensed events/ sports events	9	5%
General disagreement/ object to new policy/ policy not required	8	4%
Objects to all events/ evening events	5	3%
Events finishing late have negative impact on families with young children/ elderly/ residents	4	2%
10pm is too late; should be earlier finish	3	2%
Questions how/ will the council enforce the curfew?	3	2%
Other comments on event finish times	16	9%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Licensing permissions

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the need for a Premises Licence or Temporary Event Notice. 126 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Just under half of respondents (48%) agreed with the proposed changes while 5% disagreed or felt there should be no change. 5% asked for further information to inform their opinion or stated that further clarity was required in the policy wording.

4% suggested that the updated proposal would impose too much bureaucracy and paperwork on event organisers, especially for smaller events.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Licensing permissions: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	87	48%
General disagreement/ No change required	9	5%
Seeks further information/ further clarity required	9	5%
Imposes too much bureaucracy/ paperwork on event organisers/ small events	8	4%
Objects to events with alcohol sales in parks/ commons generally	4	2%
Should exclude certain events, e.g. sport events at cricket club	4	2%
Proposed change gives greater clarity	3	2%
Requests that process does not become over bureaucratic	3	2%
Other comments on licensing permissions	13	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Ecology and biodiversity

The updated policy states that events will not be allowed in or next to areas identified as ecologically important; respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change. 153 respondents provided a comment in response to this question.

Just over half (52%) of respondents expressed general agreement with the proposed policy change. 13% disagreed or expressed a concern that the revised policy would be too restrictive.

12% of respondents suggested the policy risks excluding too many areas, as all parks are ecologically important. 12% said that the policy wording was too vague or not clear and 11% cited the need for clarification on how specific or sensitive areas will be identified.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Ecology and biodiversity: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	94	52%
General disagreement/ concern too restrictive	23	13%
Risks excluding too many areas as all parks are ecologically important	22	12%
New policy wording too vague/ not clear	21	12%
Need clarification on how specific/ sensitive areas will be identified	20	11%
All parks are ecologically important	12	7%
Policy needs more flexibility/ depends on area/ event/ impact	4	2%
Important to protect the parks/ grass/ infrastructure	4	2%
Other comments on Ecology and biodiversity	16	9%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Sustainability

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the requirements for event organisers to improve event sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of events. 151 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Just over half of respondents (52%) expressed general agreement with the updated policy wording while 4% expressed disagreement or that the current policy should stand. 6% of respondents felt that the revised policy wording should be stricter or should set out specific obligations rather than 'taking steps'. 8% of respondents commented that the policy would need to be enforced or questioned how the policy would be enforced.

10% of respondents commented that it was important that events clear up any waste or litter while 9% of respondents made their own suggestions on things that event organisers should be obliged to do, such as mandating no single-use plastic, ensuring there is cycle parking, banning plastic water bottles / disposable food packaging / diesel generators and encouraging engagement with local vendors.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Sustainability: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	93	52%
Important that/ events must clear up any litter	18	10%
Suggested specific requirements	17	9%
Policy needs to be enforced/ questions how it will be enforced?	15	8%
Policy needs to be stricter/ more specific; not just 'taking steps'	10	6%
General disagreement/ no change needed	7	4%
Events have negative impact on parks/ prefer no/ fewer events	7	4%
Security deposit against litter/waste clean-up/ fines for non-compliance	5	3%
Policy too onerous/ will prevent some events happening	3	2%
Event organisers can't control how people travel to events	3	2%
Other comments on sustainability	25	14%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Grass areas

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the use of grass areas. 144 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Just over half (52%) of respondents expressed general agreement with the updated policy while 8% disagreed or wanted no change because they felt the proposed policy would be too restrictive.

4% of respondents felt that the policy should apply year-round rather than within the specified dates, some noting that bad weather can occur throughout the year.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Grass areas: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	93	52%
General disagreement/ too onerous/ restrictive/ wants no change	15	8%
Policy should be year-round/ poor weather happens in summer too	7	4%
There should be no vehicles on grass	4	2%
Events will cause damage regardless of policy/ event managers don't look after the parks	4	2%
Policy should specify to make good any damage	4	2%
Objects to events/ more events	4	2%
Needs to be enforced	3	2%
Questions the consequence for damaging the grass etc./ who is policing it	3	2%
Seeks further information	3	2%
Other comments on grass areas	13	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Trees

No changes were proposed to the policy with regard to trees; respondents were invited to express their thoughts on this. 99 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Over one-third of respondents (37%) expressed general agreement with the policy while 5% said the current policy is OK or no change is needed.

8% of respondents noted that it is important to protect trees and 2% that trees may need temporary protection measures while events are happening.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Trees: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	67	37%
Important to protect trees	15	8%
Current policy OK/ no change	9	5%
Trees may need temporary protection	4	2%
Events will damage trees despite mitigation	3	2%
Other comments on trees	8	4%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Scope of the policy

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the scope of the policy. 130 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

43% of respondents expressed a general agreement with the proposed policy while 4% disagreed or suggested the current policy should stand.

8% of respondents commended that the proposed changes would make it more/ too difficult to put on events introducing too much red tape, while 6% felt the proposed wording lacks clarity or they needed more information to inform their opinion.

4% of respondents questioned why the policy does not include sports bookings.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Scope of the policy: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	78	43%
Changes make it more difficult to put events on/ too much red tape	14	8%
Needs more information/ clarity	11	6%

Disagree/ Maintain current policy/ No change needed	7	4%
Policy should include sports bookings/ why not include?	7	4%
Objects to any/ more events/ large events	5	3%
Small informal events should not be excluded from scope	4	2%
Street parties/ events on highways should not be excluded	3	2%
Other comments on policy scope	19	11%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Definition of an event

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the revised definition of an event. 132 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

39% of respondents said they agree with the proposed wording while 9% said they disagree. A further 9% specifically said that they disagree because they feel there is a risk that events which have happened in the past will be problematic under the proposed new policy.

16% of respondents felt the lower limit of 30 people is too low, while 2% felt 30 people is too high. 7% commented that small events with a gazebo/ table, e.g. children's parties, family gatherings or a cricket match should be excluded from the scope.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Definition of an event: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	70	39%
Limit of 30 people is too low, should be higher	29	16%
General disagreement	16	9%
Disagree – risk that events which have happened in the past will be problematic under new policy	16	9%
Small events with a gazebo/ table e.g. kids' parties/ family should be excepted	12	7%
Policy needs further refinement	7	4%
Seeks further information/ clarification	7	4%
Useful to have a definition	7	4%
Limit of 30 people is too high; should be lower	4	2%
Objects to all/ large / more events	3	2%
Other comments on definition of an event	18	10%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Encouraging communities and stakeholders

Making changes to this policy

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding making changes to the Events in Parks Policy. 115 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

41% of respondents expressed their agreement with the proposed changes while 4% disagreed or felt the current policy should remain. 6% of respondents commented that it would be necessary to provide a definition on what constitutes a material vs minor change to inform their opinion.

5% of respondents commented that any change to the policy must have consultation.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Making changes to this policy: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	74	41%
Material/ minor change needs to be defined	11	6%
Any change must have consultation	9	5%
General disagreement/ objection/ keep as it is	7	4%
Concerned brings in too much bureaucracy	4	2%
Questions extent to which the council can be trusted to manage this process/ act on results of consultation	3	2%
Seeks further information	3	2%
Other comments on making changes to this policy	17	9%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Stakeholder consultation, engagement and communication

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy on the consultation process for events. 132 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

42% of respondents said they agree with the proposed changes while 6% disagreed or stated that the current policy should be retained.

11% of respondents commented that more consultation is a good thing while 8% were concerned that it brings in too much bureaucracy.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Stakeholder consultation, engagement and communication: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	76	42%
Comments that more consultation is good/ supports more consultation	20	11%
Concerned more consultation brings too much bureaucracy	15	8%
General disagreement/ retain current policy	11	6%
Concerned vocal minority can prevent events that majority would be happy with	6	3%
Need to introduce feedback post events	6	3%
Important to publicise consultations	5	3%
Need reassurance that the council will publicise/ listen to and act on consultations/ post-event feedback/ views of residents	5	3%
All events (big and small) should require consultation	3	2%
Seeks further information	3	2%
Other comments on stakeholder consultation etc	23	13%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Securing additional social benefits from events

Social value

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed addition of a policy which seeks to ensure organisers deliver social value to events. 138 respondents provided a comment in answer to this question.

Over half of respondents (56%) expressed their agreement with the proposed policy while 8% disagreed. 4% of respondents were concerned that the policy would lead to fewer events and 4% said they felt the policy should be optional and encouraged rather than mandatory.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Social value: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	100	56%
General disagreement	14	8%
Concerned will lead to fewer events	8	4%
Should be optional/ encouraged but not mandatory	8	4%
Local residents should benefit from events; invest in local community	6	3%
Policy needs to be applied/ enforced/ followed up post event	6	3%
Seeks further information	6	3%
Other comments on social value	13	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

Inclusive ticket offer

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on a proposed policy which requires organisers of ticketed events to provide an inclusive ticket offer for eligible Richmond residents. 139 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just over half (53%) of respondents agreed with the proposed policy change while 6% expressed their disagreement. 8% said they approved of locals getting offers for events while 5% said there would be a risk that some events won't happen or that the revised policy would impose an unacceptable burden on event organisers. 4% of respondents commented that any offers should be for residents of the whole borough, not just those living next to the proposed event.

The comments received were analysed and the most common themes are listed in the table below.

Inclusive ticket offer: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	95	53%
Good that locals/ neighbours to events get offers	14	8%
General disagreement	11	6%
Risk that some events won't happen/ unacceptable burden	9	5%
Offers should be for residents of the whole borough	8	4%
Seeks further information e.g. how discounted tickets will be paid for?	6	3%
Objects to all events/ commercial events/ large events	4	2%
Should not apply to smaller/ community/ charity fund-raising events	3	2%
Other comments on inclusive ticket offer	19	11%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages will not equal 100

6. Demographic Profile

The table below shows the composition of the consultation sample.

Demographic	Number of respondents	Proportion of base (%)
What is your sex?		
Male	52	35%
Female	81	54%
Prefer not to say	17	11%
<i>Base: 150 respondents</i>		
Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?		
Yes	129	88%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	18	12%
<i>Base: 147 respondents</i>		
What was your age last birthday?		
19 and under	0	0%
20 – 24	0	1%
25 – 34	6	4%
35 – 44	18	12%
45 – 54	41	27%
55 – 64	29	19%
65 – 74	29	19%
75+	13	9%
Prefer not to say	14	9%
<i>Base: 150 respondents</i>		
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?		
Yes	7	5%
No	125	85%
Prefer not to say	33	10%
<i>Base: 147 respondents</i>		
What is your ethnic group?		
White	115	77%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	7	5%
Asian or Asian-British	3	2%
Prefer not to say	24	16%
<i>Base: 149 respondents</i>		
Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?		
Straight/Heterosexual	108	73%
Gay or Lesbian	7	5%
Bisexual	4	3%
Prefer not to say	28	19%

Other sexual orientation	1	1%
<i>Base: 148 respondents</i>		
What is your religion?		
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	62	42%
Jewish	3	2%
Buddhist	2	1%
Hindu	1	1%
No religion	58	32%
Prefer not to say	22	12%
<i>Base: 148 respondents</i>		

7. Other responses

In addition to the online questionnaire responses, the Council also received an email in response to the consultation from The Friends of Twickenham Green. Their full response can be found in Appendix D.

Their response highlights the range of events currently hosted on Twickenham Green, how they have addressed issues in the past and their assertion that although they welcome events in the borough's green spaces, their opinion is that the primary focus of Twickenham Green must be for ad-hoc recreational use by local people.

This email response has been considered alongside online submissions during the evaluation of the consultation feedback.

Appendix A – Overview



Richmond Events in Parks Policy Consultation

Closed 5 Oct 2025

Opened 11 Aug 2025

We're updating Richmond's Events in Parks Policy and want to hear your views.

We want to make the borough green, safe and fair. That means supporting people to:

- get active,
- enjoy local events,
- and take part in the local social and cultural life.

Events in our greenspaces and along the towpaths play an important role in this.

Richmond has some of the highest satisfaction ratings for greenspaces in London. These spaces are important for everyone. We care for them so that everyone can enjoy them - now and in the future.

[Why we're updating this policy](#)

To read the draft Events in Parks policy document, please click [here](#).

Summary of key updates:

- The draft policy introduces several key updates in line with best practice guidance from Parks for London, including:
- Protect our green spaces with measures like a cap on the number of event days, curfews, limits on audience sizes, and protection of habitats.
- Support sustainable events by asking organisers to reduce waste, limit air pollution, encourage public transport and add social value back to the community.
- Increase social value by offering discounted tickets for eligible residents and promoting inclusive, accessible events.

- Encourage community benefit by supporting events that bring people together and reflect the diversity of Richmond.
- Improve the application process so it's clearer and easier for event organisers to follow.

You can read the Equality Impact Assessment [here](#) which details the impact the draft policy may have on groups with protected characteristics.

Who we want to hear from

We want to make sure this policy works for everyone. That's why we are actively seeking feedback from:

- Anyone who uses our parks or open spaces
- Anyone who attends, organises or takes part in community events
- Anyone who may be impacted by events
- Anyone who needs additional support to access our parks and events
- Local businesses who want to see higher footfall and harness the benefits of the events
- Alongside this survey, we are running focus groups with targeted groups to ensure we hear from a diverse range of voices. We plan on engaging with residents and stakeholders for the next eight weeks.

How we will use your feedback

Your views will help shape the final version of the policy. At the end of the consultation, we will:

- Analyse all survey responses and engagement feedback
- Write a report summarising key themes and concerns
- Use the findings to refine the policy before councillors make a final decision

Have your say

Please complete this consultation by selecting the '*Online survey*' link below. If you need to request a paper questionnaire or any other format, please contact consultation@richmond.gov.uk or call 020 8891 1411 quoting *Events in Parks Policy Consultation*.

Appendix B – Questionnaire

Your privacy

All the information you provide will be treated in strict confidence and will only be used for the purposes of this consultation. The Council will do all we can to respect your privacy and to protect the personal information we acquire through responses to our consultations. You can read the Council's Privacy Notice here:

[Richmond Council Privacy Notice](#)

By clicking below you agree to participate in this activity and to the use of your response as described above.

☐ Click here to begin the questionnaire (Required)

Alternatively, if you do not wish to participate in the activity, please close your browser.

Your response

What is the main capacity in which you are responding to this consultation?

(Required)

- ☐ I live in the local area
- ☐ I work/study in the local area
- ☐ I commute through the local area
- ☐ I have a business in the local area
- ☐ I'm responding on behalf of a local group or organisation (please specify which below)
- ☐ None of the above / other (please specify below)

Please tell us your postcode:

This should be the postcode of your business or local group/ organisation if you are responding as either one of these groups.

If not, please enter your home postcode.

Park Use

Have you attended an event in a Richmond park, common, or open space in the past year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?

Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Attending events
- ☐ Playing sports or doing physical exercise
- ☐ Relaxing/socialising
- ☐ Taking children to play
- ☐ Dog walking
- ☐ Spending time enjoying nature
- ☐ None of the above

Other reason (please specify):

What kind of events would you be interested in attending in our parks, open spaces and commons?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Circus
- ☐ Community events
- ☐ Concerts
- ☐ Dance events, including salsa, swing, or silent disco
- ☐ Food festivals
- ☐ Funfairs
- ☐ Markets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas
- ☐ Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events
- ☐ Outdoor cinema
- ☐ Outdoor sports screening during major events like the World Cup, Olympic Games, or Wimbledon
- ☐ Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other, please specify:

Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces?

e.g. noise, access restrictions, litter etc..

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please tell us more:

Impact - Improving the management and mitigation of event impacts

The questions on this page ask you about the proposed changes to each element of the draft policy. If you would like to read the rationale for each one, please click on the drop down links.

Event size

Proposed change: The policy makes it clearer how we calculate the size of an event. The existing policy does not distinguish between events where people can come and go (like a funfair) and ticketed events with a fixed capacity (like concerts). The policy does not increase or decrease the event. It introduces the following event size categories:

- Small (up to 499)
- Medium (500–4,999)
- Large (5,000–9,999)
- Major (10,000+)

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Frequency of larger events

Proposed change: Limits will be introduced for the frequency of large and major events and for managing events on consecutive weekends. The policy limits the number of large and major events over a 6-month period.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Weekend events

Proposed change: Weekend events must be open to the public unless held in private, standalone facilities that are normally closed to the public in any case.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Noise control

Proposed change: Events that involve significant noise generating sources, must follow best practice guidelines for noise, including providing noise management plans. Noise limits for events will be set through the licencing process. Other events must not be audible outside the park boundaries.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Event finish times

Proposed change: Events not subject to licencing permissions must end by 10pm. Later finishes allowed only in exceptional cases, such as international sporting events. The finish times for all events requiring a licence will be determined through the licencing process.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Licencing permissions

Proposed change: Clarifies the need for a Premises Licence or Temporary Events Notice (TEN) for small and large events, and that land hire permission is separate from the TEN or Premises Licence.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Ecology and biodiversity

Proposed change: Events will not be allowed in or next to areas identified as ecologically important.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Sustainability

Proposed change: Organisers must take steps to reduce waste and pollution and encourage public transport and low-carbon choices.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Grass areas

Proposed change: Use of grass areas between 30 Sept - 1 Apr will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Event organisers must ensure that vehicles are not on site without consent and may be required to make alternative provisions in case of inclement weather.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Trees

Proposed change: No change proposed.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Scope of the policy

Proposed change: The policy applies to all events in parks, open spaces, commons and towpaths, but not to small fitness sessions, sports bookings or street parties and other events on public highways.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Definition of an event

Proposed change: Defines events as organised activities of 30+ people, with infrastructure (like gazebos, tables or sound systems) or licensable activity.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Engaging communities and stakeholders

The question on this page asks you about the proposed changes to this element of the draft policy. If you would like to read the rationale, please click on the drop down link.

Making changes to this policy

Proposed change: Material changes to the policy require public consultation and committee approval. Non-material changes can be made by officers in consultation with the councillor who chairs the committee.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Stakeholder consultation, engagement and communication

Proposed change: There will be clearer consultation processes depending on the event size, and post-event feedback will be required for larger events. These include community stakeholders, Management Advisory Committees (MACs)/Friends groups and general resident notices. The full details of how we plan to engage for events of different sizes is included in the [draft policy document](#).

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Securing additional social benefits from events

The questions on this page ask you about the proposed changes to each element of the draft policy. If you would like to read the rationale for each one, please click on the drop down links.

Social value

Proposed change: Commercial organisers must deliver social value in line with the Richmond Social Value Toolkit, such as offering volunteering opportunities or supporting local causes.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

Inclusive ticket offer

Proposed change: Ticketed events must include inclusive offers for Richmond residents, aligned to clear eligibility criteria.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

► [Click here for more information on this policy change and its rationale.](#)

About you

The following optional questions will help the Council to improve its services and be fair to everyone who lives in the borough. The information you provide will be used for statistical and research purposes only and will be stored securely. If there are any questions you do not wish to answer, please move on to the next question.

► [Why do we ask the 'About you' questions?](#)

What is your sex?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, write in gender identity below
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What was your age last birthday?

- ☐ 19 and under
- ☐ 20-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

If you have or care for children, please tell us how old they are:

- ☐ Under 5
- ☐ 5-7
- ☐ 8-11
- ☐ 12-15
- ☐ 16+
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Does not apply

What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other ethnic group, please specify

Appendix C: Online survey responses from local organisations/groups

Question	Response
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What is your religion?

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Any other religion, write in

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Straight/Heterosexual
- ☐ Gay man or Lesbian

Have you attended an event in a Richmond park, common, or open space in the past year?	Friends of Murray Park • Yes Friends of Palewell Common • Yes Richmond Shakespeare Society • Yes Barnes Community Association • Yes Friends of Richmond Green • Yes Old Deer Park Working Group • Yes
How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?	Friends of Murray Park • Walking • Attending events • Playing sports or doing physical exercise • Relaxing/socialising • Taking children to play • Spending time enjoying nature Friends of Palewell Common • Walking • Playing sports or doing physical exercise • Relaxing/socialising Richmond Shakespeare Society • Walking • Attending events • Relaxing/socialising • Spending time enjoying nature Barnes Community Association • Walking • Attending events • Relaxing/socialising • Taking children to play • Dog walking • Spending time enjoying nature Friends of Richmond Green

	- As FoRG we recognise all of these activities but organised sports activities involving more than 10 players are not permitted Old Deer Park Working Group - Walking - Attending events - Playing sports or doing physical exercise - Relaxing/socialising - Taking children to play - Dog walking - Spending time enjoying nature - The ODPG is involved in access and use of the Old Deer Park ("ODP") for leisure and sport involving projects, management (incl events) and conservation - all of which incl the Thames riverside and the Pools on the Park complex in close collaboration with Richmond Council, local community groups, Crown Estate, Thames Landscape Strategy and others
What kind of events would you be interested in attending in our parks, open spaces and commons?	Friends of Murray Park - Community events - Markets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas - Outdoor cinema Friends of Palewell Common - Community events - Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events Richmond Shakespeare Society - Community events - Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent Barnes Community Association - Community events - Concerts - Food festivals - Funfairs - Markets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas - Outdoor cinema - Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent Friends of Richmond Green - We do not think Richmond Green is suitable for any commercial events and support the existing agreement of no more than 4 charity events per year

	Old Deer Park Working Group • Circus • Community events • Concerts • Dance events, including salsa, swing, or silent disco • Food festivals • FunfairsMarkets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas • Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events • Outdoor cinema • Outdoor sports screening during major events like the World Cup, Olympic Games, or Wimbledon • Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent • The ODPG supports events in the ODP that achieve Policy objectives with an appropriate mix over time. We have not excluded any in the list but some have higher risk of noise disruption to residents and others which the ODPG would not support unless the noise can be mitigated. Were Firework displays in the list we would recommend very careful consideration.
Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces? Please tell us more	Friends of Murray Park • No Friends of Palewell Common • No Richmond Shakespeare Society • No Barnes Community Association • No Friends of Richmond Green • Yes • Issues for our members arise from events on Old Deer Park . Principally noise especially in the evenings but also site damage Old Deer Park Working Group • Yes • Individual Events in the ODP on occasion cause excessive noise for local residents, litter and damage to the grass surface. Access to other users can be inhibited. There is a cumulative impact over time depending on the frequency and size/type of events in the ODP and at nearby sites such as Richmond town, the Richmond Riverside and Richmond Green. Events not subject to Council Events Policy, such as at the RMSGC and RAG, are part of the cumulative impact. For example, there are multi-site firework events.

Event size Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - This does not take into account very small events/activities organised by Friends groups, such as our annual dog show, teddy bears' picnic, etc. Where we have fewer than, say, 75 participants & are well experienced, there should be a 'light touch' arrangement. Friends of Palewell Common - Event numbers must relate to adult users i.e. age 18+ Richmond Shakespeare Society - This policy is sensible and is welcome. It is good to be clear on the boundaries of event sizes and the proposed size brackets are reasonable. The new wording should be clear on the distinction between ticketed events vs events like funfairs where people can come and go. Barnes Community Association - We think this is fair enough..... Friends of Richmond Green - Agree with proposed categories in general but wonder how data is to be collected for non ticketed events. Large and major events are not suitable for Richmond Green Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG supports the proposed Event size bands and process for determination of size, which seem appropriate for assessing, conditioning and managing events in relation to benefits and risks. Also, the bands correlate to premises licensing bands should a licence be required.
Frequency of larger events Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We have no views on this. Friends of Palewell Common - Have no comment here but support in principle the proposal to limit the frequency of very large events Richmond Shakespeare Society - This proposal is sensible and is welcome. The policy should be designed to ensure that local residents' concerns about frequency of large&major events, which have been well-publicised in other London boroughs recently. Excessively permissive regimes for large and major events have generated opposition from local residents elsewhere, which can also translate into an opposition to all events including small ones. The policy should ensure that there is a balance between numbers of both large and small events, and non-event usage of the parks.

	Barnes Community Association - We agree that major (10,000) events should be limited to a maximum of 4 within a 6 month period and we don't currently run over 4 large (5000 people) but this is something that may happen in the future with events May-September so we would like some flexibility on this please. Friends of Richmond Green - We propose the open spaces near residential homes should subject to greater restrictions on the number of large and major events where amplified sound is involved. Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG believes that the proposed Policy's separate limits of 4 major event days (>10K participants) and 6 large event days (5k to 10K participants) in any 6-month period is not sustainable for the ODP. While these Policy limits may be reasonable across the borough, we recommend that the Policy allows for lesser frequency limits set according to event type and size appropriate to specific sites such as the ODP. We request an opportunity to discuss with the Council setting the limits for the ODP in conjunction with a cumulative balance over time for type, size and total number of events in the ODP and nearby sites.
Weekend events Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - Very small events organised by Friends groups are most likely to be held at the weekend. For example, our dog show welcomes families and children who can't take time off work or school. This policy proposal hasn't taken that sort of thing into consideration. To restrict this would prevent popular community events/activities. Friends of Palewell Common - Absolutely agree with weekend access for the public. Our main concern would be events such as the Easter Egg Hunt held for H&S reasons on the dog free area and where can cope with upto 50 adults. Richmond Shakespeare Society - This policy is sensible and welcome. Barnes Community Association - We don't have a problem with that. Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group

	The Events Policy applies to the area managed by the Council for public use between the river Thames and the boundaries with the RMSGC and RAG. Generally speaking, there is no part of this area set aside for private hire whether at weekends or otherwise. The ODPG supports the proposed Policy's weekend restriction to public use as applied to the ODP. But we would not support the Policy being lifted on weekdays because of the explicit omission of a weekday Policy. We recommend the distinction between private hire and public use and commercial and charity use might be made clearer in the Policy.
Noise control Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - Murray Park is very small. To say an event mustn't be audible 20m away is not logical. You haven't really thought this through; the noise of laughter, children, etc. carries significantly. It would be better to say amplified music shouldn't be audible outside the park boundaries. Friends of Palewell Common - No comment No comment Richmond Shakespeare Society - Whilst the intent here is good, the requirement that events must not be audible outside of park boundaries is not practically feasible in smaller parks. The previous policy offered more room for a sensible and practical interpretation. The policy that significant noise sources must have noise management plans, and that noise limits will be set through the licensing process are both sensible and welcome, although further detailed definition should be provided for subjective terms such as 'significant' and further guidance needs to be provided as to what the authority will look for when reviewing and approving a noise management plan. "Not audible outside the park boundaries" is impractical and excessively onerous. In many cases, the need to provide sound reinforcement for the accessibility and enjoyment of the event across the whole event space, would be incompatible with a requirement that the event be inaudible from outside. For example, a play show or concert requires a certain level of amplification to ensure all audience members can hear it. When an event is outdoors, some spill of sound beyond the audience area is inevitable and accepted provided it is not excessive. The licensing and monitoring requirements which the current policy already provides for are sensible and are welcomed. In short, a balance should be struck between the current policy which is reasonable and proportional and the aim here. Barnes Community Association - Noise is always taken into account when planning Barnes events and care taken to avoid undue disruption. However with the

	location of Barnes Green, it is impossible to run any event that would not be audible outside the park boundaries to a certain extent. Residential houses line the streets of Barnes Green. Please note that we have never received complaints from Barnes Fair/Food Fair when the music ends at 5pm. Friends of Richmond Green • Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group • The ODPG supports the Policy's recognition that event noise may disturb local residents and other users of the ODP. But the Policy passes responsibility to other policies and guidelines set by Richmond Council, London Mayor and nationally and their application and enforcement by several authorities. There are deficiencies in approach that on occasion allow excess event noise to disturb residents near the ODP. There are weaknesses in applying noise level limits and duration, site layout, timely engagement with residents and failure to include the cumulative noise impact over time from multiple events when planning events, managing noise during the events and post event follow-up. There can be considerable harm to peoples quality of life and health. The ODPG seeks discussion with Richmond Council on noise management of events in the ODP. We are unable to give the noise topic the attention it needs in this short response to the public consultation. While in proximity to the ODP, the RMSGC, RAG and Cricket Ground are outwith the Council's Events Policy, similar noise issues can arise and we recommend similar noise management and control procedures be in place.
Event finish times Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park • We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common • No comment Richmond Shakespeare Society • For ticketed events eg plays, shows or concerts, 10:45pm would be a more realistic finish time. Barnes Community Association • That is fine. Friends of Richmond Green • Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group • The ODPG supports the proposed Policy's introduction of a curfew on finish times but urge improvement in the Policy on setting the

	times when an event is licensed. Many events in the ODP require a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) in line with the Licensing Act 2003 but to leave decisions on timing to the TEN process is seriously deficient. For a start there is no involvement of the local community on the times. Even when a full premises licence is required and the community has an opportunity to participate in the decisions there can be confusion and inconsistency between finishing times set by the Council's Events Team and Licensing Committee. It is not stated which decision process has primacy. Furthermore, the issues extend to other critical times such as opening times and public dispersal and staff times. The ODPG from experience on this matter does not believe the proposed Policy adequately deals with the timing of events which is a topic of considerable importance and we seek discussion with the Council on the topic.
Licensing permissions Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park • We thought it already was a separate requirement! Friends of Palewell Common • Agree TENs are separate from land hire permissions Richmond Shakespeare Society • No comments on this change, it seems sensible. Barnes Community Association • BCA now has a premises licence and will continue to ask event exhibitors to apply for their own TEN Friends of Richmond Green • Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group • The ODPG has expressed its concerns in relation to licensing and the Finish and other times in response to the question on Event Finish Times. We are not in support of permanent licences being granted for the ODP, as happened for the first time earlier this year, which we believe was a serious mistake by the Council. Applicants may argue there is an unnecessary cost in applying for return event Temporary full licences but this is relatively small and is not disputed when seeking TENs as is required in many cases. Events in open spaces such as the ODP can develop and morph in all sorts of ways that are not possible with built premises and are not envisaged or justified when a licence is granted for the first time. Also, permanent licences can be transferred to new operators who may be wholly unsuitable and without intervention of the licensing authority. Operators of park events have far less invested in the event site and hence reason to return than for example a pub premises licence holder. We do not believe there is sufficient protection for the ODP and stakeholders in relying on

	licence variations and reviews of a permanent licence. It is also not appropriate for the Council to hold a permanent licence for the ODP. The noise condition on licences is difficult to implement because applicants seek a non-disclosure agreement on commercial grounds which thereby prevents a group such as the ODPG discussing event noise management with its members. "Rational for the Policy" suggests more detailed guidance for event organisers. This is remiss and unfair in leaving out other stakeholders, such as the ODPG, on detailed guidance. Please also see the ODPG response on Noise.
Ecology and biodiversity Please tell us your thoughts about the current policy.	Friends of Murray Park - This is too vague - you need to define 'ecologically important'. Friends of Palewell Common - No comment Richmond Shakespeare Society - This is sensible. To make the policy clearer, state what are the criteria for determining ecological importance, and commit to regularly publishing a collated list of locations, so that event organisers can identify them and plan accordingly. Barnes Community Association - We have cancelled our annual Duck Race event as it was felt it might affect Beverley Brook but we assume from the policy that this proposed change would not affect Barnes Fair/Food Fair (or the Barnes Childrens' Literature Festival) which all take place near to Beverly Brook but are apart from Barnes Common. Barnes Green is not classified as a SAC/SAA/SSSI so we assume it would not be included. Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG supports the Proposed Policy in regard to Ecology and Biodiversity, which are important matters for the ODP.
Sustainability Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We can deal with waste and pollution generated from our events, but we cannot control how people travel to them! This policy point is aimed at large events and you aren't considering very small events. Friends of Palewell Common - Agreed Richmond Shakespeare Society

	- No comments on this change, it seems sensible. Barnes Community Association - BCA already does its best to make its events as sustainable as possible. Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group - Some Event applications fail to investigate the transport issue until reminded to do so - sometimes late in the day. The presumption sometimes is that there is a nearby car park, the Old Deer Park car park, and car parking available at the RAG. On occasion applicants think the public can park their cars on the ODP site itself. The ODPG have had to seek changes on the event website to ensure attendees use public transport. Greater emphasis on this topic would be welcome in at least the Event Application Process. On occasion noisy polluting generators are still used.
Grass areas Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common - Agreed Richmond Shakespeare Society - No comments on this change, it seems sensible. Barnes Community Association - This would only affect our Christmas Festival event which includes 2 funfair vehicles - which keep to the paths. If weather proved especially inclement, this event would be cancelled Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG supports the proposed Policy in regard to Grass Areas. The well being and maintenance of the Grass areas of the ODP are very important. As an example of misuse, damage to the Grass surface of the ODP was incurred by a recent event. Wet weather also meant dismantling the event had to be delayed to avoid further damage, which meant the area was not available for general public use for a considerable unplanned time. Use of track ways was absent and better precaution might have reduced the damage. More generally, it is important that sites are inspected by Richmond Council as a matter of course for any event that risks the grass surface and this could usefully be built into the Events Policy.

Trees Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park • ?! Friends of Palewell Common • No comment Richmond Shakespeare Society • No comments. Current policy is sensible. Barnes Community Association • Fine Friends of Richmond Green • Agreed but need to stop current practice of personal trainers using trees and benches as props which is not permitted but happens too frequently Old Deer Park Working Group • The ODPG support the proposed Policy section on Trees, which are important, especially given the ODP tree planting plans involving young saplings that can be damaged if care is not taken. There is an important row of young Jubilee Celebration Cherry Trees along the boundary with the play area in the ODP and other young saplings potentially in the area near the siting of ODP events. We believe more attention should be taken with regard to these vulnerable trees by event organisers who often place machinery etc close to the young trees.
Scope of the policy Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park • We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common • Assume small fitness sessions are defined Richmond Shakespeare Society • Sensible. Barnes Community Association • OK Friends of Richmond Green • Agreed but restrictions need to be imposed on small fitness sessions involving music and use of trees as props Old Deer Park Working Group • Proposed Policy scope agreed except please see our comment in the section on weekend events where we query the meaning of

	public events in relation to private events and commercial and charitable events.
Definition of an event Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - You have always specified 50 people for very small events/activities organised by Friends groups for local community events. Are you really proposing to reduce this to 30 people? That would basically make it unfeasible for us to organise anything! Friends of Palewell Common - This proposal will seriously reduce access for community activities at Palewell. A figure of 50 was discussed during the consultation and this should relate to adult ie 18+ - it is impossible to estimate how many siblings may be present at an accessible weekend event. Richmond Shakespeare Society - Sensible and welcome. Barnes Community Association - Good to have this clarified Friends of Richmond Green - Agree in principle but unregulated events of lesser numbers involving sound and structures should also be controlled where there is a nuisance factor for residents and the general public Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG is aware that some stakeholders are concerned at the practicality of the 30+ definition, for example in parks where people come and go for leisure. We do not believe this is likely to be an issue for the ODP. But that does not mean the concerns of others should not be taken into account by the Policy.
Making changes to this policy Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common - There should be public consultation particularly if it relates to Common land Richmond Shakespeare Society - Sensible and welcome. Barnes Community Association - The process is an onerous one and it would help if non material changes could be made quickly & considerately Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed

	Old Deer Park Working Group The ODPG believes it would help for there to be a readily available list of events approved and applied for in the ODP (others may seek likewise for other sites). Sometimes we are not sure whether repeat events are returning, and therefore listing an event as repeat or new would help. We appreciate that lists are produced by the Council and it may be that it is a matter of our keeping on top of things but with other pressures on time we sometimes find it hard to recall exactly the current situation with regard to the event list. The ODPG would wish to continue being consulted on all events in the ODP as they are very likely to be of a material size and impact. We are not entirely clear whether the proposed Policy will reduce the ODPG involvement in the application process and we would like re-assurance that it will not do so. The ODP falls within the Richmond North Ward but since the impact on noise and traffic etc effects the Richmond South Ward as well, it is important both sets of councillors are involved and that the ODPG can engage with all six councillors on the subject of ODP events. Additionally, we also seek engagement with Kew and North Twickenham wards when appropriate on the subject of events in the ODP.
Stakeholder consultation, engagement and communication Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We really struggle with the concept that you carry out extensive consultation about very small events organised by Friends groups. It builds in delays in our planning and makes an unnecessary administrative burden. Friends of Palewell Common - Applications where required from Friends groups should be deformed directly. Richmond Shakespeare Society - This is sensible and welcome. The council should ensure that publication and notices of events' dates is posted in the parks, particularly on gates or fences near the areas, so the public can see what is going on and where and when. Barnes Community Association - It needs to be taken into account that not all 'large' or 'major' events are similar and each needs to be taken on its own merit. The fact that - for Barnes - our events have been running successfully for many years should also be taken into account as does the fact that the organising committees for all these events are usually small and paperwork does not need to be increased. Post event feedback is always done internally and involves all the parties involved in its organisation to discuss detail. If a post event feedback form is requested by the Council, it should be concise.

	Friends of Richmond Green - Prior event consultation is key and needs to be consistently applied. Friends groups should also be consulted re coverage of general residents notices Old Deer Park Working Group - We refer also to our response to the previous question on stakeholder involvement. We appreciate the Policy aims include wide stakeholder involvement. The ODPG has been governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between its five member societies since 2012 - The Richmond Society, The Kew Society, The Friends of Richmond Green, The Friends of Old Deer Park and St Margarets Estate Residents Association. Matters concerning Events in the ODP fall within the remit of the ODPG on behalf of the five societies and in turn their individual memberships of over 2,000 local people.
Social value Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	Friends of Murray Park - We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common - Where appropriate Richmond Shakespeare Society - It is sensible and desirable to require commercially organised events, particularly large ones, to deliver social value. It should also be recognised that small, community-organised events are, in an of themselves, by their community-organised nature, significant social value generators in their own right. For these smaller community-organised events, hard-and-fast procurement requirements should be avoided as these may drive up event production costs and jeprodise event viability and lead to a loss of the social value of the event itself. Barnes Community Association - As a community organisation, BCA depends heavily on volunteers for the successful implementation of its events and that is probably the same with other local groups. Not sure this needs to be set in stone as other events may be organised differently.s Friends of Richmond Green - Agreed Old Deer Park Working Group - The ODPG supports the proposed Policy on Social Value.
Inclusive ticket offer	Friends of Murray Park We have no view on this. Friends of Palewell Common

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

- In principle where appropriate

Richmond Shakespeare Society

- Whilst the desire to be inclusive is noble, a policy of this nature would be very undesirable for small events. From the perspective of a small community event organiser, if a requirement of this nature were to become a policy requirement, it would significantly jeopardise the financial viability of small events where a large proportion of attendees are Richmond residents and where the revenue from the event would be greatly diminished if all those tickets had to be sold at a discount. Event prices should be set by event organisers based on event production costs, supply and demand etc. Small community events generate significant social value in-and-of-themselves, but the costs and viability of these events are frequently, concerningly, and increasingly marginal. Should these events become unviable due to a reduction in their potential income, the loss of social and cultural value to the community would be significant. A possible solution here would be to exempt events organised by non-profit organisations from this policy aim., whilst still ensuring it is applied to large-scale commercially organised events.

Barnes Community Association

- BCA events are all open to everyone in the community. Sometimes discounted tickets are offered to BCA members and at Barnes Food Fair under 16's go free.

Friends of Richmond Green

- Change should not apply to charity fund-raising events

Old Deer Park Working Group

- The ODPG supports the Proposed Policy on Inclusive Ticket Offer

Appendix D: Email responses from local organisations/groups

Local organisation/group name	Response
The Friends of Twickenham Green	Twickenham Green is a relatively small green space in the borough, compared with other local parks. The larger part of The Green to the west of the cross path, is sub-let to Twickenham Cricket Club. The smaller part to the east of the path constitutes the Events end. This means that from April to September, if there is a major event on The Green at the weekend, then the whole of the Events end is in use, and thus denied to all other users of The Green. Historically there used to be regular summer visits to The Green by both the circus and funfair. Problems occurred in two key areas. When heavy vehicles on the Events end coincided with wet weather, considerable surface damage was a consequence, resulting in costly repairs. In addition, the funfair became associated with low level anti-social behaviour. Local retailers and restaurants had experienced unfortunate issues with numbers of unaccompanied youths. The original proprietors of Arthurs restaurant had particular problems. These issues were addressed by Parks in consultation with the Friends of Twickenham Green, and other stakeholders. The solution was to shift the circus to September, thus if there was surface damage, there would be time over winter to effect recovery. The decision was also taken to decline further funfairs on The Green, because of the anti-social behaviour. N.B. The circus crowds are usually families who come to The Green as a group, and depart in the same manner, as distinct from the funfair, which attracted large numbers of unaccompanied youths. Other regular one day events on The Green include the Rotary Club Charity Fair (formerly The Hands Fair), a long established and popular institution that raises funds for many local charities. In the last three years we have seen The Green host a musical and charity event for The High Tide Festival. This family friendly day has become very popular, and in terms of wear and tear on The Green, is a low impact event with only one heavy vehicle. Each December, we regularly see afternoon/evening Christmas events in the form of carol services or charity stalls for Christmas grottos. A new addition this year was Solstice Yoga, where the summer solstice was celebrated with an early morning open air yoga session. It was very well attended, and we hope to see it again next year. Numerous other regular activities on The Green includes sports and recreational use by three local schools, plus several local fitness groups, and children's cricket and rugby clubs.

In addition, we now see Diwali and the Chinese New Year celebrated on the Green, not forgetting the local Christian Churches and their Easter Sunday open air service at the pavilion. It is worth noting that the pavilion itself, is used on weekdays as drop-in centre for a local mental health charity. Finally, the Amelie Delagrangé memorial bench has become an important focus for the White Ribbon Movement, who seek to raise awareness of the need to end violence against women and girls.' This small, but highly popular public space, is well used, appreciated and a vital community resource.

We would suggest that the primary focus for Twickenham Green must be for ad hoc recreational use for local people. Whilst organised events of a modest size are by and large cautiously welcomed, it is an open space for local residents, (be they dog walkers, people exercising, picnics or children's play, to name but a few of the activities to be regularly found there) that should be prioritised. We would be wary of further larger-scale commercial events, that whilst they might produce revenues, prevent essential access for local people, and alter the nature of The Green that is already clearly subject to such extensive use.