

Wandsworth Events in Parks Policy Consultation

Consultation Feedback Report

1. Introduction

Between 7 April 2025 and 12 May 2025, Wandsworth Council carried out a public consultation regarding its draft Events in Parks policy. The draft policy updates the existing policy which was last revised in 2014. This report sets out the findings from the public consultation.

2. Executive Summary

There were 833 responses to the online questionnaire and an additional 66 responses by email. The majority of respondents live in the borough, with 98% providing a Wandsworth postcode.

The headline feedback is as follows:

- 297 respondents (36%) reported attending an event in a Wandsworth park, common or open space in the past year.
- Walking (97%) and spending time in nature (89%) were the most frequently mentioned uses of parks and open spaces. Fewer than 10% mentioned attending events.
- The most popular types of events people were interested in were physical activities (36%) and community markets (28%). 31% of respondents used the open text box to comment that they preferred no or minimal events, while 6% expressed interest in small-scale options such as music festivals and nature walks.
- Over four-fifths of respondents (81%) reported experiencing issues with events in public spaces. Those who had attended an event in the past year were less likely to report issues. Common concerns included noise (46%), litter (43%), grass damage (24%), and restricted access to the open space (17%).

Summary of feedback on individual elements of the draft policy

- Most respondents (71%) opposed the proposal to allow winter events on grass due to damage concerns. 10% agreed with the proposal provided the ground is protected and the implementation is well managed.
- There was strong support (64%) for the proposal on protecting ecological sites, though some provided negative comments regarding the policy and felt it was vague and requires further clarification.
- Views on the policy regarding sports pitch usage were mixed, with 25% agreeing and 38% disagreeing with the proposed policy. Respondents were supportive if pitches are well protected, but many raised concerns remained about damage (15%) and year-round sports use (12%).
- Six in ten respondents (60%) opposed extending event end times beyond 10pm due to noise and disturbance, particularly for families, while a minority supported it with strict conditions.

- Just over a quarter (28%) supported the proposed change to the Council's events terms and conditions. However, 13% disagreed or preferred the existing approach, 12% wanted changes to reflect residents' interests, and 7% raised concerns about changes being made without proper consultation.
- 40% of respondents supported the proposed change to alcohol licensing, while 6% disagreed. A further 24% opposed alcohol sales at events in parks entirely, citing concerns over litter, anti-social behaviour, and disturbance.
- 40% of respondents supported the existing policy on protecting grass, trees, and infrastructure but stressed the need for clearer enforcement, citing frequent damage and a lack of visible penalties.
- 28% of respondents supported the proposed policy for maximum audience size, while 5% opposed increases and 9% felt the 10,000 cap was already too high. Respondents felt there is a need for clear information on how the policy would be enforced.
- 17% of respondents agreed with the proposed policy on large event frequency, while 24% opposed the proposal. Concerns focused on reduced access during setup and takedown, especially for events held on consecutive weekends. Some felt the change could increase the overall impact on open spaces, with some calls for stricter limits per park, per year, and based on audience size.
- 30% of respondents opposed the proposed noise policy, feeling that the language needs to be clearer and expressing concerns about policy enforcement. 17% agreed with the proposal. There was support for fixed noise limits tailored to residential areas (17%), with calls for clearer definitions (12%) and location-specific criteria (3%).
- 31% of respondents opposed the proposed weekend events policy, particularly restrictions on public access and fencing off of areas. 18% were opposed to private or ticketed events in parks—especially at weekends or in non-public areas. 23% of respondents supported the change, with many feeling that usual regulations should apply.
- Just under a quarter (23%) supported the proposed policy on making variations to the Events Policy, while 38% disagreed or preferred to retain the existing policy. Key concerns included perceived rule relaxation, lack of clarity, potential conflicts of interest, and a need for consultation and clearer definitions of 'material change'.
- A quarter (25%) supported the proposed policy on community events without a charge, while 16% disagreed or preferred the existing policy. Some felt the proposal lacked clarity (5%) or was open to abuse, with mixed views on whether such events should be charged or discounted.
- 40% agreed with the proposed wording of the policy's scope, while a small number felt it should include all bookings (3%) or exclude informal gatherings (3%). Some called for clearer wording (2%).
- 42% agreed with the proposed definition of an event, though some sought further refinement (3%) or exemptions for informal gatherings (4%). 8% of respondents raised concerns about the 30-person threshold and its enforcement.
- 44% supported the proposed policy encouraging sustainable events, with some calling for stronger or more specific wording (8%). Over one-fifth raised concerns about enforcement, including doubts about compliance (8%) and clarity on how it would be enforced (13%).
- 41% supported the proposed policy to limit the sole use of public spaces, though 5% called for clearer specifics, such as defining how much space must remain accessible during events. Nearly one-fifth (19%) opposed any full closure of public spaces, with additional concerns about Council events closing whole parks (10%) or restricting access to specific areas (8%).

- 34% of respondents supported the proposed policy for better engagement and consultation on all event categories, with some calling for wider resident involvement alongside Friends groups. 12% wanted assurance that the Council would listen to and act on consultation feedback, including post-event responses.
- Around a third (34%) supported the policy requiring event organisers to deliver social value, though some called for clearer definitions and measurable targets. Some respondents (6%) viewed the policy as ineffective, with others (4%) feeling fewer events would better serve social value.
- Around a third (36%) supported the policy requiring ticketed events to offer inclusive tickets for eligible Wandsworth residents, though some (9%) felt all residents should benefit.
- Many respondents used feedback opportunities throughout the questionnaire to object generally to events, citing concerns over environmental, noise, and community impacts.

3. Methodology

Data was gathered using an online survey hosted on the Wandsworth 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
- Brightside Online
- Email to Resident Associations mailing list
- VCS Newsflash
- Printed posters at:
 - King George's Park
 - Tooting Common
 - Wandsworth Common

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.

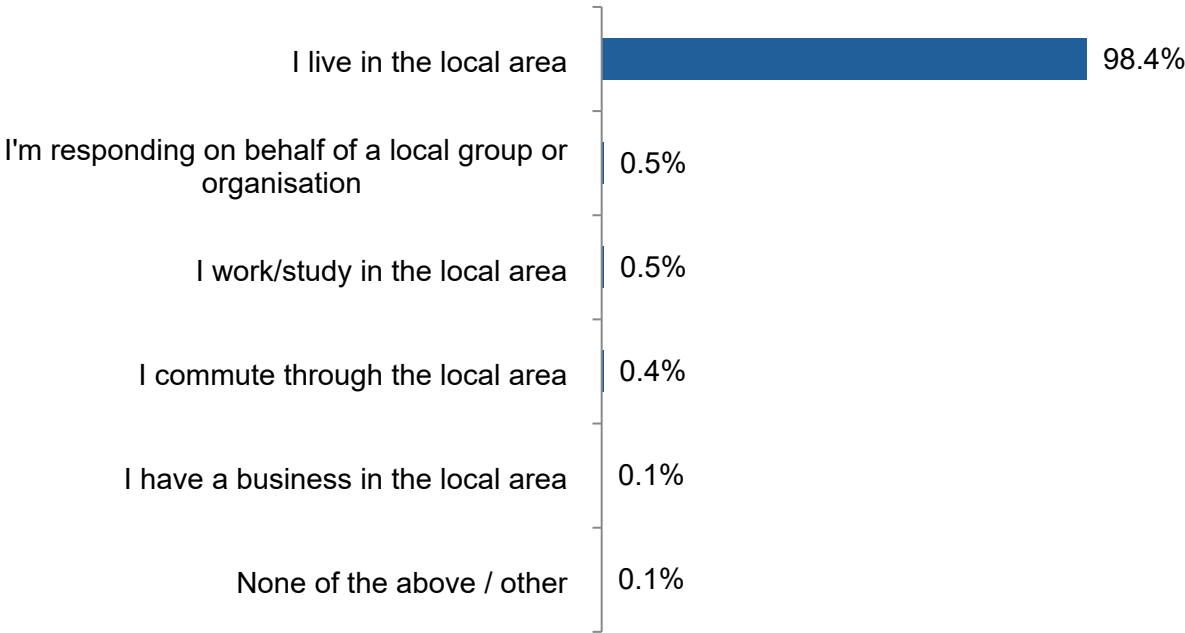
The consultation responses were analysed and reported by the Councils' Consultation Team on an anonymous basis under the guidelines of the Data Protection Act. The Consultation Team are qualified researchers and certified members of the Market Research Society, bound by the MRS Code of Conduct when conducting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

4. Response

In total, the Council received 833 responses to this survey. A demographic profile of respondents can be found in Section 6 of this report. The Council also received an additional 66 responses via email; details of these can be found in Section 7.

5. Results

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



There were 833 responses to this question.

Almost all of the respondents said that they live in the local area. In addition, there were responses from people with a business in the local area, people who commute through the local area or work/study in the local area, and in any other capacity. There were four responses submitted on behalf of a local group or organisation:

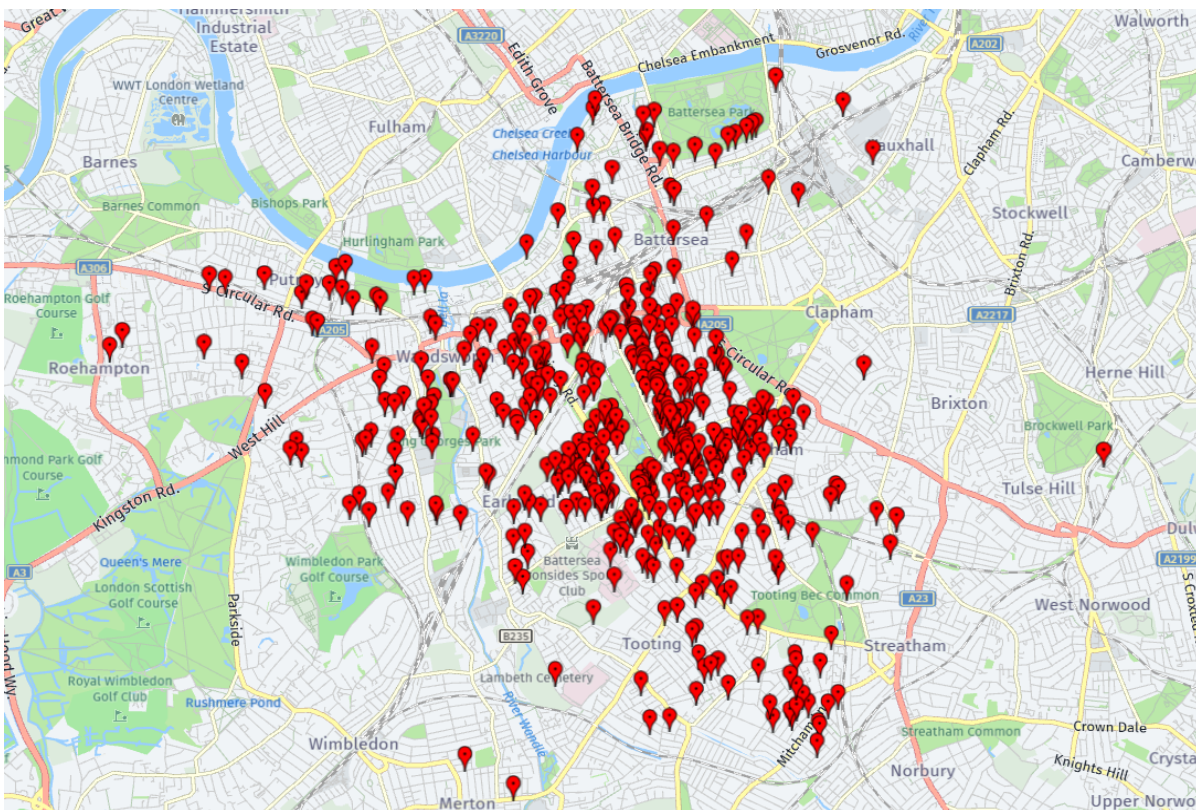
- Battersea Park Action Group
- Battersea Society
- Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee
- Wandsworth Council Conservative Group

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

Please tell us your postcode:

There were 831 responses to this question. The postcodes provided were used to create a map illustrating where people were responding from. 817 respondents (98%) provided a Wandsworth borough postcode.

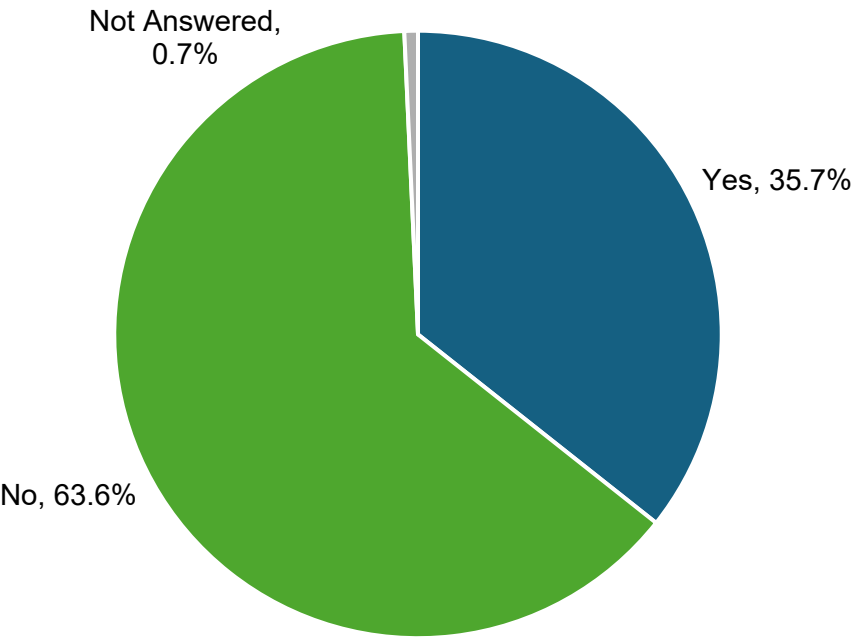
The map below shows the distribution of responses from all respondents who provided a postcode (excluding one respondent who provided an out of the London area postcode).



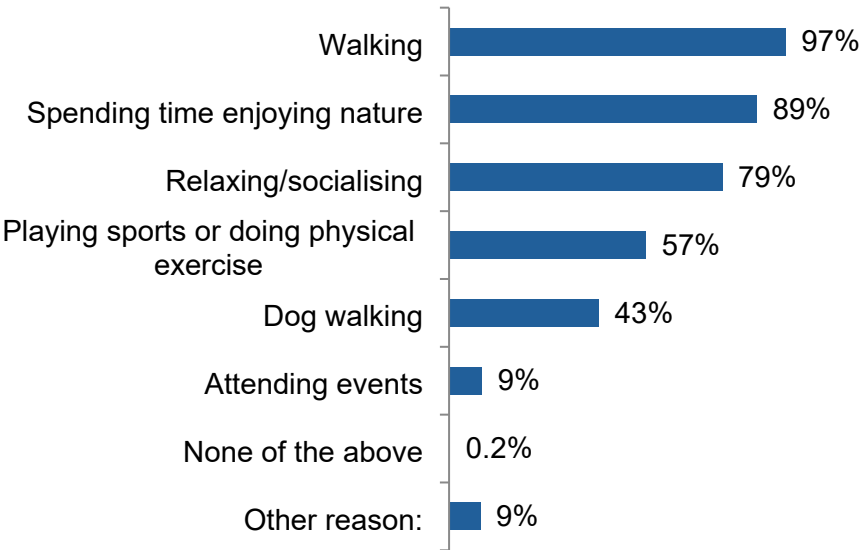
Park Use

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

There were 827 responses to this question. Just over one-third of respondents reported attending an event in a Wandsworth park, common, or open space in the past year, while just under two-thirds said they had not.



How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?

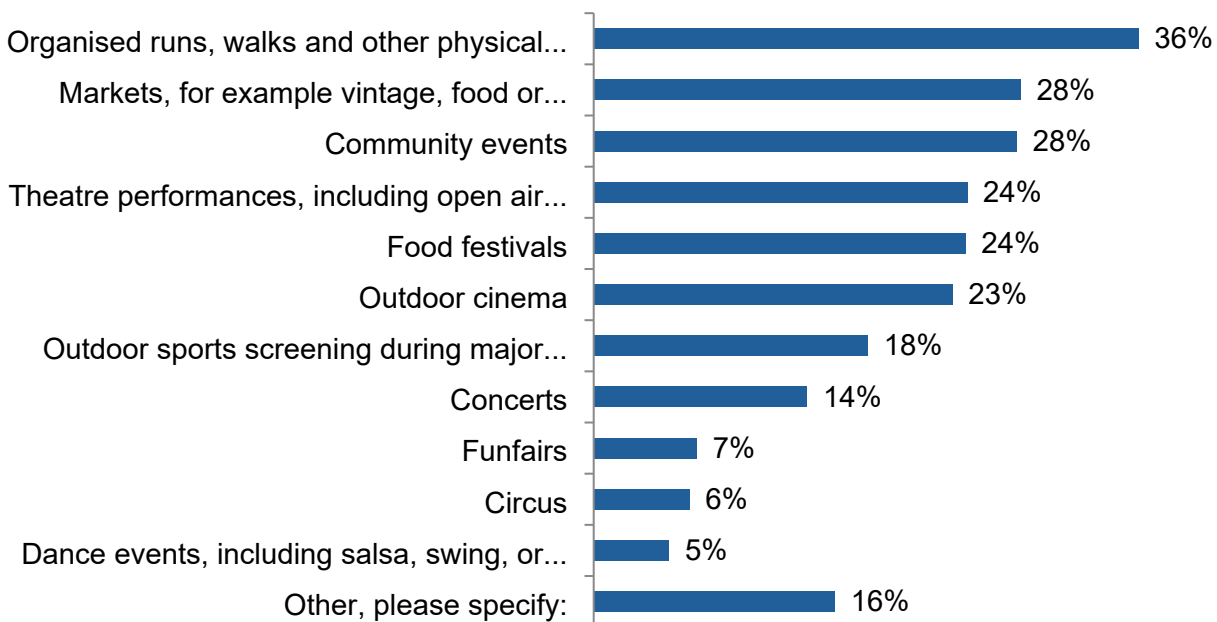


Respondents were asked how they usually use local parks and open spaces. There were 828 responses to this question.

Walking was the most frequently mentioned activity, cited by 97% of respondents. This was followed by spending time in nature, mentioned by 89%. Attending events accounted for just under 10% of responses to this question.

75 respondents mentioned using local parks and open spaces for other reasons, including taking children to playgrounds, cycling, observing wildlife, supporting physical and mental wellbeing, and engaging in social or volunteering activities.

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

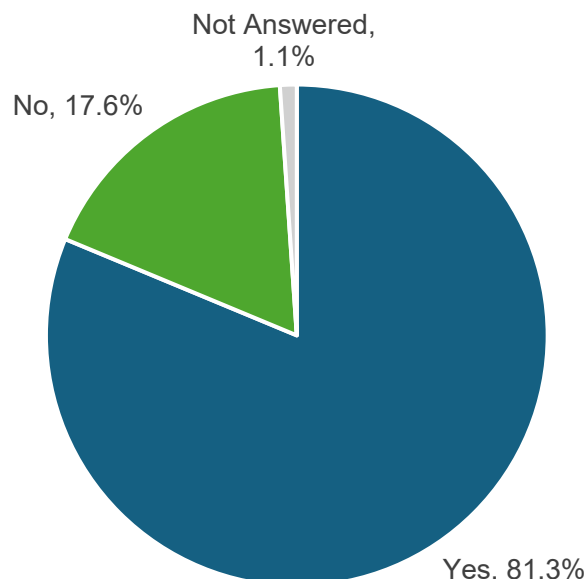


Respondents were asked what kind of events they would be interested in attending in the Council's parks, open spaces and commons. 643 respondents provided an answer to this question.

The most commonly mentioned events were organised runs, walks, and other physical activity events, cited by just over one-third of respondents. This was followed by markets and community events, with 28% of respondents expressing interest in attending these types of events.

An open-text box was provided to allow respondents to submit alternative suggestions. A total of 310 respondents provided a written answer in this section. Of these, 258 answered 'None' or 'As few as possible'. A further 48 respondents suggested other types of events they would be interested in, including music festivals, nature walks and talks, and a preference for small-scale, local events only.

**Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces?
e.g. noise, access restrictions, litter etc.**



There were 824 answers to this question. 81.3% of respondents reported experiencing an issue with events in public spaces. 17.6% of respondents reported not experiencing any issues with events in public spaces.

Respondents who had attended an event in a Wandsworth park, common, or open space within the past year were less likely to report experiencing any issues with events (75%), compared to those who hadn't attended an event (85%).

Respondents were provided an open-text box to give more information. 663 respondents provided a response.

The most common issues reported by respondents were excessive litter and noise in parks, cited by 43% and 46% of respondents respectively. Just under one-quarter of respondents highlighted damage to the grass in parks and commons as a result of events, with 14% specifically referring to Wandsworth Common being affected by circuses and funfairs.

A total of 138 respondents (17%) reported experiencing personal inconvenience due to being unable to access or use parts of a park or common during events. A further 11% of respondents reported experiencing issues with antisocial behaviour as a result of events, including instances of drug use. Just under 10% of respondents mentioned general damage in parks, with another 6% highlighting damage to the nature and wildlife.

Respondents made comments about specific parks and commons across the borough of Wandsworth, including Wandsworth Common (13%), Clapham Common (9%), and Battersea Park (2%).

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

Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces?

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
Excessive Noise in parks	383	46%
Excessive/ extra Litter in parks	359	43%
Damage to park/ common grass/ turned to mud	203	24%
Personal inconvenience/ can't access parts of the common/ restricted access	138	17%
Antisocial behaviour/ including drug use	91	11%
Other damage in parks - unspecified	77	9%
Damage to nature/ wildlife - unspecified	46	6%
Other disruption/ nuisance/ inconvenience - unspecified	38	5%
Damage/ Barriers/ fences left up reduces access/ usability for some time after events	32	4%
Parking issues	32	4%
Congestion/ increased traffic	31	4%
Parks: Too many people/ crowds	30	4%
Public urination in parks/ bushes	26	3%
Drunkenness	26	3%
Personal inconvenience: can't enjoy peace and quiet of park	25	3%
Increased crime/ theft in local area	25	3%
Human excrement in parks	20	2%
Circus damages grass - venue unspecified	19	2%
Aggressive/ threatening behaviour/ intimidating visitors/ feeling unsafe	13	2%
Litter in street/ local area/ gardens	13	2%
Urinating/ defecating in street/ garden	13	2%
Funfair damages grass - venue unspecified	12	1%
Inadequate/ pressure on public transport	9	1%
Unauthorised parties/ gatherings (including during Covid)	8	1%
Issues with runners; rudeness/ anti-social behaviour/ restricted access	7	1%
Pollution	5	1%
Excessive/ extra dog faeces	4	0.50%
BBQs/ Fires	3	0.40%
Other issues experienced	30	4%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

The table below shows the responses regarding specific parks, commons, or open spaces.

Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
Any Wandsworth Common mention	111	13%
Wandsworth common Grass damage from circus	71	9%
Wandsworth common Grass damage from Fun fair	24	3%
Wandsworth common grass damage – unspecified	14	2%
Wandsworth common noise	13	2%
Wandsworth common litter	12	1%
Wandsworth common other	9	1%
Trinity fields noise	1	0%
Any Clapham Common mention	77	9%
Clapham common noise	54	6%
Clapham common Grass damage - other/ event unspecified	9	1%
Clapham common litter - event unspecified	7	1%
Clapham common Grass damage - Concerts/ festivals	3	0.40%
Clapham common other	15	2%
Any Battersea Park mention	16	2%
Battersea Park Fireworks – Noise	4	0.50%
Battersea Park Litter	3	0.40%
Battersea Park damaged grass	2	0.20%
Pear Tree Café - noise/ Anti-social behaviour	2	0.20%
Battersea Park Other	8	1%
Brockwell Park - Grass damage – concerts	2	0.20%
Brockwell Park – other	2	0.20%
Tooting Common - noise from circus	1	0.10%
Tooting Common noise - event unspecified	1	0.10%
Tooting Common – other	2	0.20%
King George's Park - event unspecified	2	0.20%
Spencer Park Grass damage from Fun fair	1	0.10%
Wimbledon Park damage - event unspecified	1	0.10%
York Gardens – other	1	0.10%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

Access - Enabling more residents in more parts of the borough to access events

Allowing events on grass areas in winter:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy allowing events on grass areas in winter. 807 respondents provided an answer to this question.

One in ten respondents agreed with the policy change, provided it is well managed (4%), and the ground is protected, restored, and in good condition for Summer (6%). Just under three-quarters of respondents (71%) expressed an objection to events in winter, either in general or in relation to specific locations. 11% of respondents objected to events on grass in winter at Wandsworth Common.

27% of respondents felt that holding events in winter damages the grass and ground, with a further 10% expressing concern that this does not allow sufficient time for recovery and could potentially cause permanent damage. In addition, 8% of respondents commented that the ground in local parks is unsuitable for events in winter, as it becomes very wet.

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

Allowing events on grass areas in Winter Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	84	10%
Need to ensure grass/ ground is good for summer/ restored/ protected	53	6%
Policy needs to be managed well	34	4%
Expressed ANY Objection to events in winter; either generally or at a specific location ¹	589	71%
Objects to events in winter generally/ disagrees with the proposed change	478	57%
Objects to winter events at a specific location ²	164	20%
Objects to events on Wandsworth Common	94	11%
Objects to events on "The Common(s)"	62	7%
Objects to events on Spencer Park	3	0%
Objects to events on Tooting Common	3	0%
Objects to events in Battersea Park	3	0%
Spoils/ damages the grass/ ground	222	27%

¹ This theme combines the two themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total because some respondents objected to both events in winter generally and at a specific location, and are therefore counted only once.

² This theme combines the five themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total because some respondents objected to events in more than one location and are counted only once.

Events disrupt people's use of the commons/ parks/ limit access	97	12%
Spoils/ damages the parks/ commons unspecified	94	11%
Winter events don't allow time for park/ grass to recover/ damage will become permanent/ parks need winter to recover	81	10%
Concerned about impact on wildlife/ environment/ biodiversity/ flora & fauna	69	8%
Ground in local park is unsuitable/ gets very wet in winter	66	8%
Events disrupt the peace and quiet of the commons/ parks/ enjoyment of nature	50	6%
Objects to/ concerned about noise of events	46	6%
Concerned about increased litter	30	4%
Sports events/ physical activity are OK/ should not be counted as events	23	3%
Events don't benefit the community/ Community not wanting events/ no case for change	23	3%
Concerned conditions/ case-by-case assessment will not be properly managed/ enforced	21	3%
This is just a money making scheme	18	2%
Will lead to increase in crime/ ASB	17	2%
Wildlife/ ecology should be undisturbed	15	2%
Need to limit frequency/ number of events	13	2%
Will increase traffic/ congestion/ parking problems	12	1%
Parks are already busy/ crowded	12	1%
Depends on the event/ needs to be case-by-case	11	1%
Need to limit number of visitors to events	7	1%
Prefer smaller/ lower key events	7	1%
Will bring crowds/ over-crowding	7	1%
Events should not run so late	6	1%
Local infrastructure/ transport insufficient for events	5	1%
Should be specific policy for each park depending on space/ locality etc	3	0%
Other - events on grass	41	5%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
Objections to events

Protecting ecological sites:

Respondents were asked for their views on the proposed policy change to ensure that events can take place in larger parks away from areas of specific ecological importance. 786 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just under two-thirds of respondents (64%) agreed with the proposed policy change. 130 respondents (16%) commented that they feel it is important to protect ecological sites, with a further 7% expressing concern about the impact of events on wildlife and birdlife, and the need for protection.

60 respondents (7%) commented that they disagreed with the proposal. Some respondents disagreed as they felt the proposal doesn't offer enough protection, while others felt the case-by-case provision allows definition creep over time.

Some respondents provided negative comments regarding the proposed policy. These included views that the policy is greenwashing, ineffective, and unnecessary. Others criticised the wording, feeling it requires further clarification, with questions raised about how ecological sites will be defined and how the policy will be monitored.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally (6%) or at specific locations (10%).

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

Protecting ecological sites Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	532	64%
Expressed ANY Objection to events; either generally or at a specific location ³	132	16%
Objects to events generally	46	6%
Objects to additional events at specific location ⁴	87	10%
Objects to events at Wandsworth Common	44	5%
Objects to events on "The Common(s)"	40	5%
Objects to events in Battersea Park	3	0%
Important to protect ecological sites	130	16%
General disagreement with proposal for ecological sites	60	7%
Concerned about impact on wildlife/ bird life need protecting	55	7%

³ This theme combines the two themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total because some respondents objected to both events in winter generally and at a specific location, and are therefore counted only once.

⁴ This theme combines the three themes directly below it.

Disagree; proposals not enough/ don't give enough protection	35	4%
Questions how ecological sites etc. are defined/ identified	25	3%
Events 'Next' to ecological areas still cause damage/impact	23	3%
Need to protect all grassland, not just ecological sites/ All grassland / green space is an ecological site	18	2%
Proposal needs further clarification/ too vague/ exclusions not specific enough	15	2%
Questions how proposals will be policed/ monitored	14	2%
Disagree with proposal; Case-by-case provision allows definition creep over time	8	1%
Proposal/ change unnecessary	8	1%
Seeks further information	7	1%
Proposals are 'greenwashing'/ ineffective	4	1%
Other - ecological sites	35	4%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
Objections to events

Use of sports pitches:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy on the use of sports pitches. 748 respondents provided an answer to this question.

One-quarter of respondents said that they agreed with the proposed policy change. 7% mentioned that they support the policy change, provided there is a strong process in place to protect, repair, and maintain the sports pitches and to ensure they are available for use during the sports season. For 4%, support was dependent on the type of event being held, and provided rigorous, independent evaluation is undertaken.

In total, 317 respondents (38%) either expressed disagreement with the proposed policy or a preference to retain the existing one. 15% of respondents were concerned that using sports pitches for events out of season would cause damage, commenting that pitches need time to recover during the off-season. A further 12% highlighted that the pitches are used by others throughout the year and felt they should be kept available for sports rather than being used for events.

11% used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at specific locations.

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

Use of sports pitches

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
Expressed general disagreement/ objection to changes/ want no change; no events on sports pitches	317	38%
General agreement	205	25%
As long as there is a strong process to protect/ maintain/ repair sports pitches/ no impact on availability during sports season	55	7%
Support, dependent on the event/ subject to rigorous/ independent evaluation	30	4%
Events SHOULD happen on unused pitches (out of season)	14	2%
Depends on case-by-case evaluation; not clear if supports or not	8	1%
Only with involvement/ cooperation of sports clubs	5	1%
Using sports pitches for events out of season will damage them/ Pitches need time during off-season to recover	122	15%
Pitches are used by others out of season/ used all year round/ need to be kept available for sports (so no events)	98	12%
Supports continued usage of parks for sport	73	9%
Some of park space/ time needs to be free of sports/ events - sports pitches already take up a lot of space	37	4%
Will result in (long term) damage to parks	26	3%
General agreement - for sport usage	40	5%
Questions/ Does not trust case-by-case decision making/ process not clear enough	12	1%
Need to protect/ will have negative impact on wildlife/ nature/ the environment	10	1%
Policy wording not clear enough/ open to abuse	10	1%
Currently too much sport	8	1%
Sports events have negative impact for residents; e.g. parking/ traffic/ noise	7	1%
Change to policy will increase costs (for maintenance)	5	1%
Policy change wording is confusing/ not clear enough	4	1%
Expressed an objection to events generally OR events at a specific location ⁵	89	11%
Objects to events generally	54	7%
Objects to events in specific location ⁶	37	4%

⁵ This theme combines the two themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total because some respondents objected to both events in winter generally and at a specific location, and are therefore counted only once

⁶ This theme combines the three themes directly below it.

Objects to events on Wandsworth Common	21	3%
Objects to events on "The Common(s)"	15	2%
Objects to events on Tooting Common	1	0%
Other comment - sports pitches	59	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
Objections to events

Changing event end times:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the end times of events. 787 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just under one-fifth of respondents (18%) agreed with the proposed policy change. Some respondents agreed but only under certain conditions. These included proper consultation on extensions (1%), keeping extensions rare (3%), managing events well (1%), putting residents' needs first (2%), providing benefits to the local community or businesses (2%), and avoiding events near residential areas (3%).

496 respondents (60%) disagreed with the proposed policy change and did not want events to extend beyond the existing 10pm time limit. One-fifth of respondents felt that events finishing late have a negative impact on residents, particularly families with young children and the elderly. Respondents cited noise (11%), anti-social behaviour (5%), insufficient transport infrastructure (3%), and a lack of justification or demand for the policy change (3%) as reasons for their disagreement.

Several respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally within Wandsworth borough (15%), as well as specific locations such as Wandsworth Common. Other respondents expressed their disagreement with alcohol being served at events in parks and commons, particularly after 10pm.

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

The end time on events:

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General disagreement/ No events beyond 10pm	496	60%
Events finishing late have negative impact on families with young children/ elderly/ residents	171	21%
General agreement	146	18%
As long as consultation on any later events	9	1%
As long as extensions are/ rare exception	26	3%
As long as decisions to extend are well managed	9	1%
As long as impact on residents is at forefront of decision making	19	2%
As long as the event creates opportunities for locals/ local businesses/ benefits the community	2	0%
As long as not near residential areas	3	0%
Concerned about late-night noise	90	11%
Disagrees with events beyond 10pm but only in specific location	45	5%
Concerned about ASB from later nights	43	5%
Noise/ disturbance continues after 10pm with take-down/ dispersal	38	5%
OK for/ exception for NYE	29	3%
Do not trust case-by-case assessment; will let more/ most things through	28	3%
10pm is too late; should be earlier finish	25	3%
Local transport/ infrastructure cannot support later events	23	3%
There is no demand/ need for this change	22	3%
Questions/ Not clear what would justify extending limit	21	3%
Proposed change does not benefit/ not needed by local residents	21	3%
No alcohol after 10pm	14	2%
No alcohol at events in parks/ commons	14	2%
Will have negative impact on wildlife	13	2%
Later end time creates public safety issue	9	1%
Extend to 11pm only	5	1%
OK if event is relatively quiet/ not really noisy/ no music/ concerts	3	0%
Expressed an objection to events generally or events in a specific location ⁷	123	15%
Objects to all events	32	4%

⁷ This theme combines the two themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total, as some respondents objected to both events in winter generally and at a specific location, and are therefore counted only once

Objects to events in a specific location ⁸	111	13%
Objects to events on Wandsworth Common	59	7%
Objects to events on "The Common(s)"	50	6%
Objects to events on Tooting Common	1	0%
Other - event end times	76	9%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Impact - Improving the management and mitigation of event impacts

The Council's terms and conditions for events:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the Council's terms and conditions for events. 680 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just over one-quarter of respondents to this survey (28%) agreed with the proposed policy change. A small proportion of respondents felt that there needs to be regular reviews (6%) and interest groups should be consulted on (1%). 12% of respondents commented that any changes should include input from and be in the interest of local residents.

A total of 108 respondents (13%) expressed disagreement with the proposed policy or stated that the existing policy should remain unchanged. A number of respondents felt that the policy wording is too vague (2%) and requires further clarification (4%), including specific timeframes and decision-making processes. Some respondents felt that the proposed change would enable changes to be made without proper consultation (7%), with many expressing a lack of confidence in the Council (4%). Other respondents questioned how the terms and conditions would be monitored and enforced (3%) and felt that any changes should be clearly communicated to residents (2%).

Several respondents used the open-text box to object to events in the Wandsworth borough (9%) and to express concerns that the proposed policy changes would negatively impact parks and wildlife (2%).

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

The Council's Terms and Conditions:

⁸ This theme combines the three themes directly below it.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General Agreement	236	28%
General Disagreement/ Wants no change	108	13%
Changes should include input from local residents	81	10%
Seems the changes are to change the rules/ enable more events by stealth/ without proper consultation	62	7%
Need to be regular reviews	50	6%
Does not trust/ have confidence in the council	37	4%
Seeks further information/ clarification on wording	32	4%
Questions how changes to Ts & Cs will be monitored by the council	27	3%
Changes are meaningless/ too vague/ ineffective	26	3%
Wording is too vague; needs specific timeframes and process	20	2%
Changes need to be in the interest of local residents	20	2%
Questions if the council can monitor enforcement of Ts & Cs effectively	20	2%
Events are just a means to make money	19	2%
Changes are not in the interest of the local residents	18	2%
Any changes to Ts & Cs should be clearly communicated to local community	14	2%
General disagreement/ no change in specific location	13	2%
Interest groups should be consulted	12	1%
Residents need mechanism to provide feedback on any changes	12	1%
Changes will have negative impact on wildlife/ nature/ environment	11	1%
Changes will have negative impact on the parks	10	1%
Objects to events generally or in a specific location ⁹	79	9%
Objects to events generally	46	6%
Objects to events in specific location	35	4%
Other - council T&C	61	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY

⁹ This theme combines the two themes directly below it. The total number of comments is lower than their combined total because some respondents objected to both events in winter generally and at a specific location, and are therefore counted only once here

General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Premises licences and alcohol sales:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding premises licences and the sale of alcohol. 707 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Two-fifths of respondents expressed their agreement with the proposed policy change. 6% of respondents commented that they disagreed with the proposed policy change.

Many used this question to share their views on whether alcohol should be permitted at events, rather than commenting directly on the proposed policy change. 14% of respondents objected to any events with alcohol sales in parks and commons in general, while 9% specifically objected to alcohol sales at particular locations. Respondents who objected to alcohol sales at events felt that it leads to increased litter, disturbance, and anti-social behaviour (11%), and noted that there are already sufficient outlets selling alcohol near parks and commons (4%).

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

Premises licences and alcohol sales: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	333	40%
As long as events not too frequent	3	0%
Ensure residents are informed of events	2	0%
Objects to events with alcohol sales in parks/ commons generally	114	14%
Objects to events with alcohol sales in a specific location	71	9%
General disagreement/ No change required	47	6%
Events with alcohol lead to increased litter/ disturbance/ disruption/ ASB	95	11%
There are plenty of outlets to buy alcohol by the Common/ Park already	33	4%
Seeks further information	21	3%
Surprised this isn't already the case/ this is just a statement of law	17	2%
Events serving alcohol will have a negative impact on local pubs/ bars etc.	9	1%
Potential conflict in interest in process for granting licences	8	1%

Changes to policy make little material difference	8	1%
All events (with alcohol) should require consultation of local residents	5	1%
Bins in the park/ common already insufficient before adding alcohol/ need more bins/ formal clean up	5	1%
Other - alcohol sales	67	8%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Care of grass, trees, and infrastructure:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the current policy regarding the care of grass, trees, and infrastructure. 709 respondents provided an answer to this question.

40% of respondents to this question expressed their agreement with the current policy, with 6% feeling that it is important to protect parks and their grass and infrastructure. Many of the respondents raised concerns about the enforcement of the policy: 14% felt the policy needs to be enforced better and another 14% described the current policy as ineffective or unenforced, highlighting damage from previous events. 9% believed the policy is not strict enough and called for tougher penalties, and another 9% expressed concerns that events cause damage regardless of the policy.

Some respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at specific locations.

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

Care of grass, trees, and infrastructure: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	331	40%
There has been damage after previous events/ current policy is ineffective/ not enforced	119	14%
Needs to be (better) enforced	116	14%
Events will cause damage regardless of policy/ event managers don't look after the parks	74	9%
Current policy is not strict enough/ want to see tougher action for infringement	71	9%

Important to protect the parks/ grass/ infrastructure	47	6%
Questions what is the consequence for damaging the grass etc./ who is policing it	25	3%
This is hard to enforce	17	2%
Events will cause damage which restricts access for some time/ takes time to recover	17	2%
There should be fines/ penalties for not making good after an event	16	2%
More (Winter) events will increase damage regardless	16	2%
Scope of policy not wide enough; needs to cover full ecosystem of park	14	2%
Policy needs to include toilet provision to properly protect grass and tress	3	0.40%
Objects to events/more events generally	29	3%
Objects to events in specific location	22	3%
Other - care of grass, trees etc.	54	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General objection to events being held

Maximum audience size:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the maximum audience size at events. 733 respondents provided an answer to this question. Many respondents to this question judged this policy in the context of their local park, which may be very small, rather than the borough's parks in general.

Just over one-quarter of survey respondents (28%) agreed with the proposed policy change. However, many also provided negative comments, with 5% explicitly disagreeing with the change, another 5% opposing any increase in the maximum audience size, and 9% feeling that the current maximum of 10,000 is already too high and should be reduced.

Comments were made regarding how the policy would be implemented and enforced. 29 respondents (3%) commented that agreed limits must be observed and enforced, while 4% questioned how this would be achieved. A further 3% of respondents queried who would be responsible for deciding audience sizes.

Additionally, respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events in parks and commons, with 13% objecting to large or commercial events in the borough generally, and a further 15% objecting to large events in specific locations.

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

Maximum audience size:

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	235	28%
Current max audience sizes (10,000) too high/ need to be smaller	77	9%
General disagreement with change	45	5%
Doesn't want any increase to maximum audience size	40	5%
Would prefer smaller events (but didn't express an objection)	34	4%
Max size needs to be an absolute/ specific number	33	4%
Does not believe numbers will be effectively controlled/ asks how this can be enforced	30	4%
Agreed audience limits must be observed/ enforced	29	3%
Questions who will police/ monitor decide audience size?	29	3%
Proposed max numbers will have negative impact on parks/ commons	19	2%
Should be venue specific maximum size	18	2%
10,000 is a big number (but didn't ask for change)	12	1%
Questions whether new policy will allow events of more than 10,000	10	1%
Should be consequences for exceeding agreed limit	4	0.50%
Objects to large events in specific location	122	15%
Objects to large/ commercial/ evening events ¹⁰	105	13%
Objects to all events	63	8%
Objects to any (additional) events in specific location	46	6%
Other - audience size	91	11%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Frequency of large events:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding the frequency of large events. 731 respondents provided an answer to this question.

¹⁰ Comments relating to this theme include all those in the theme directly below. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large, commercial, and evening events.

17% of respondents to this survey commented that they agreed with the proposed policy change. Meanwhile, 24% disagreed, with 15% expressing concern that event days, including setup and takedown periods, negatively impact residents' ability to use and enjoy the borough's parks and commons.

39 respondents (5%) felt that the updated policy would increase, rather than reduce, the impact on parks and commons. A further 4% commented that too many events have a negative effect on these spaces. In addition, 3% were concerned that this proposed policy change is a means to increase the total number of event days.

In total, 140 respondents (17%) objected to events being held on consecutive weekends, with respondents feeling that this creates increased disruption and limits access for residents. Other respondents felt there should be limits on the number of events overall (4%), the number of events per park (2%), and the total number of event days (3%), as well as consideration of attendee numbers (2%).

Many respondents also used this question as an opportunity to raise objections to events taking place within Wandsworth borough parks and commons.

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

Frequency of large events: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General disagreement/ no change	202	24%
Objects to consecutive weekends	140	17%
General agreement	138	17%
Event days/ set up/ takedown days impacts residents' ability to use/ enjoy parks/ commons	129	15%
Consecutive weekends limits access for users	55	7%
Events inconvenience local residents; noise, parking, anti-social behaviour, litter etc.	49	6%
Consecutive weekends causes increased disruption for local residents	47	6%
Updated policy will increase impact on parks/ commons (not decrease)	39	5%
There should be a limit to the number of events allowed	37	4%
Too many events has negative impact on parks/ commons	37	4%
Concerned that policy change is a means to increase total event days	27	3%

There should be a limit on the total number of event days allowed	26	3%
Event days should include set-up/ take-down days too	25	3%
Policy needs to consider no. of attendees as well as frequency	15	2%
Seeks further information/ policy too vague/ open to abuse	14	2%
There should be a limit on number of events/ event days per park (varied)	14	2%
Sport/ physical activity events should count towards total event days (if they restrict access)	6	1%
Events do not benefit local residents	6	1%
Objects to large events ¹¹	94	11%
Objects to any events at all	62	7%
Objects to any MORE event days/ wants fewer	63	8%
Objects to ANY events in specific location	85	10%
Objects to any MORE event days in specific location	11	1%
Other - frequency	77	9%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Managing noise levels:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy on managing noise levels. 733 respondents provided an answer to this question.

In total, 141 respondents (17%) expressed their agreement with the proposed policy change, while 30% disagreed. 5% of respondents were unsure how to evaluate the policy and sought further information.

99 respondents (12%) felt that it is important that noise levels reflect the residential nature of the areas surrounding the parks and commons where the events are held. 17% of survey respondents felt that a fixed/absolute noise limit would be more appropriate than the proposed policy, with another 12% feeling that clarity is required surrounding what the phrase 'best practice' means. 27 respondents (3%) felt that the criteria should be specific for each location.

12% of respondents provided comments regarding the enforcement of this policy, with many expressing concerns that it would not be properly monitored or enforced. Additionally, 4% queried what the consequences would be if the policy were breached.

¹¹ Comments relating to this theme include all those in the theme directly below. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large, commercial, and evening events

Respondents made general comments regarding noise, with many feeling that it disturbs local residents (8%) and wildlife (3%), and emphasising that protections should be put in place.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at specific locations.

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

Managing noise levels: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General disagreement (unspecified)/ No change	246	30%
General agreement	141	17%
Agrees; smaller events should also be subject to regs	7	1%
As long as/ Assumes new policy is higher standard than old/ less disturbance to residents	5	1%
Fixed (absolute) noise limit would be better	138	17%
Noise levels need to reflect that this is a residential area	99	12%
"Best practice" too vague/ not adequate/ Policy needs more clarity	98	12%
Noise disturbs local residents/ need to protect residents from noise	64	8%
No events with amplified music/ no loud events	48	6%
Sounds like watering down rules/ allowing more noise	45	5%
Council must monitor/ enforce noise levels (not leave it to event organisers)/ or morning after	42	5%
Seeks further information/ unsure how to evaluate	38	5%
Noise should be kept to a minimum	35	4%
Current noise level from events is too high	31	4%
Should be best practice AND fixed/ whichever is lower	30	4%
Questions how this is measured/ enforced/ what if breached?	30	4%
Criteria should be adapted/ specific for each location	27	3%
Does not believe best practice/ rules will be followed/ enforced	27	3%
Noise from events disturbs wildlife/ nature/ need to protect wildlife etc. from noise	25	3%
Important that noise levels are controlled	19	2%
Policy needs to consider impact of noise on wildlife/ doesn't currently	13	2%
Objects to events/ large events/ more events etc.	52	6%

Objects to events in specific location	50	6%
Other - noise levels	48	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Weekend events:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy regarding events on weekends. 686 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just under one-quarter of respondents (23%) agreed with the proposed policy change, with 2% agreeing on the condition that private events in restricted areas are subject to usual regulations.

31% of respondents either disagreed with the proposed policy change or wanted the current policy to remain in place. One-fifth of respondents felt that public access to common land should not be restricted and opposed any fencing off of areas for events. 63 respondents (8%) were either not aware of or wanted further information on areas which are not open to the public.

153 respondents (18%) expressed opposition to private or ticketed events in public spaces. Another 18% believed that private or ticketed events should not take place at weekends, while a further 16% felt that ticketed events should be prohibited in any restricted or non-public areas.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at specific locations.

The comments received were evaluated 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 disagreement/ keep current policy	259	31%
General agreement	195	23%
As long as such events (Private in restricted areas) are subject to usual regulations	13	2%
Public access to common land should not be restricted/ no area should be fenced off for an event	171	21%

Against private/ ticketed events in public areas/	153	18%
There should be no private/ ticketed events at weekends at all	150	18%
There should be no ticketed events (in any restricted/ non-public area)	136	16%
Not aware of/ wants to know about areas which are not open to the public	63	8%
No weekend events at all	53	6%
Locals should have priority/ reduced price access to ticketed events if limited number of tickets	12	1%
Seeks further information	11	1%
Revised wording is not clear enough/ open to interpretation/ abuse	8	1%
Questions how policy will be monitored	6	1%
Objects to events in specific location	48	6%
Objects to events	39	5%
Objects to MORE events	7	1%
Other - weekend events	85	10%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Variations to the Events Policy:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed policy change regarding making variations to the Events Policy. 626 respondents provided an answer to this question.

Just under one-quarter of respondents (23%) agreed with the proposed policy change, while 38% of respondents either disagreed or wanted the current policy to remain in place. One-quarter of respondents felt that the policy change represents a relaxing of the rules, while 5% believed the elected cabinet should have a say, and 10% stated that any policy change must undergo consultation.

6% of respondents felt that the policy wording is too vague and expressed concern about gradual changes over time, while another 7% were worried about a potential conflict of interest involving Council officers. Additionally, 7% of respondents felt that 'material change' needs to be defined.

Many respondents used this space to object to events generally or at specific locations.

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

Variations to the Events Policy: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General disagreement/ objection/ keep as it is	319	38%
Policy change is a relaxing of the rules	208	25%
General agreement	190	23%
Any change must have consultation	83	10%
Potential for conflict of interest/ council officers not acting in best interest of residents	58	7%
Material/ minor change needs to be defined	56	7%
Policy change is too vague/ ambiguous/ not clear enough/ not enough info/ open to abuse/ concerned about creeping change over time	51	6%
Elected cabinet should have a say	41	5%
Changes need to be monitored/ periodically reviewed by the Council	17	2%
Seeks further information	7	1%
Any change must be clearly communicated	6	1%
Objects to any events/ any large events etc.	28	3%
Objects to any events/ in specific location	21	3%
Other - policy variation	50	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Community events without a charge:

Respondents were asked about their thoughts on the proposed change to policy on community events without a charge. 560 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 206 respondents (25%) expressed their agreement with the proposed policy change, while 16% either disagreed or preferred to retain the existing policy. 5% of respondents commented that further information is required, and the proposed policy change is not clear.

50 respondents (6%) felt that no events should be held unless they are subject to a charge. Conversely, 4% of respondents agreed that community events should not have to pay a charge, or that the fee should be discounted.

A small number of respondents provided negative comments regarding the policy and felt that the proposed change is open to potential abuse (3%) and is an opportunity to increase fees (2%).

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally.

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

Community events without a charge: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	206	25%
Agrees with community events without/ discounted charge	33	4%
As long as the process/ events/ numbers etc. are controlled	6	1%
Policy change should not lead to increase in council tax	9	1%
General disagreement/ objection to change/ retain current policy	132	16%
Should be no events without charge	50	6%
Seeks further information/ change is not clear/ does not make sense	45	5%
Policy needs full review	26	3%
Charges/ conditions should be transparent/ sounds like changing rules to suit/ open to abuse	25	3%
This is just a money-making scheme/ opportunity to increase fees/ make more money	19	2%
All events should be free to attend/ free for local residents	8	1%
Should be consultation on changes	8	1%
Objects to all events	51	6%
Objects to events in specific location	32	4%
Other - community events	60	7%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Scope of the policy:

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed wording of the policy's scope. 551 respondents provided an answer to this question.

40% of respondents to the survey expressed their agreement with the proposed scope of the policy wording, while 4% disagreed. A small proportion of respondents (3%) felt that all bookings should be covered by the events policy, including small informal events and sports pitch bookings.

Conversely, 3% of respondents supported the exclusion of small informal gatherings from the scope of the policy. 2% of respondents also felt that the wording requires clarity and more information. Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at a specific location.

The comments received were evaluated 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	337	40%
General disagreement/ objection	31	4%
Happy for small informal gatherings to be outside scope	28	3%
Needs more information/ clarity	20	2%
Maintain current policy/ No change needed (unclear if this means event policy or policy scope)	16	2%
Small informal events should not be excluded from scope	15	2%
Supports community/ informal/ charity events only	14	2%
30 feels too low a threshold	10	1%
All bookings should be covered by events policy (including small informal/ sports pitches etc)	8	1%
Objects to any large/ commercial events ¹²	59	7%
Objects to ANY events	43	5%
Objects to events in specific location	33	4%
Other - policy scope	46	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Clarifying what counts as an event:

¹² Comments relating to this theme include all those in the theme below. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large, commercial, and evening events.

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed wording of the definition of an event. 635 respondents provided an answer to this question.

42% of respondents agreed with the proposed definition of an event, while 6% disagreed. An additional 3% didn't disagree with the proposed definition, however, felt the policy needs further refinement. A further 4% commented that small informal gatherings—such as those involving families, friends, or school groups—should be exempt.

A small number of respondents (3%) felt that the limit of 30 is too low and should be higher, while others (2%) felt that the limit is too high and should be lower. A total of 27 respondents (3%) raised concerns about how the policy—such as the 30-limit—will be monitored or enforced. An additional 21 respondents (3%) felt that all organised gatherings, regardless of their size, should be covered by the policy.

2% of respondents felt that gatherings of less than 30 people should be covered by the policy if they involve music, noise, and/or alcohol.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to specific types of events such as commercial events (5%), or those with amplified music (4%) or alcohol sales (4%).

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

Clarifying what counts as 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	348	42%
General disagreement	50	6%
Small informal gatherings (family/ friends/ school class etc. should be exempted)	36	4%
Policy needs further refinement (not against it, but needs more work)	28	3%
Questions how the policy, e.g. limit of 30 etc. will be monitored/ policed/ needs to be monitored	27	3%
Seeks further information/ clarification	25	3%
Limit of 30 people is too low, should be higher	23	3%
All organised gatherings/ events should be covered by the policy no matter how small	21	3%
Limit of 30 people is too high; should be lower	20	2%
Leave as it is/ maintain current policy (unclear if this is events policy or what counts as an event)	19	2%
Small events with a gazebo/ table e.g. kids parties/ family should be exempted	19	2%
Some gatherings of less than 30 people should be covered, e.g. if involves music/ noise/ alcohol	19	2%

Any event involving sale of alcohol should be covered	9	1%
30 person limit should be applied with discretion/ should be flexible	7	1%
Objects to all commercial events/ large events	43	5%
Objects to all events of more than 30/ very small number of people	35	4%
Objects to any events with amplified music	31	4%
Objects to any events with alcohol sales	31	4%
Objects to all events ¹³	25	3%
Objects to all events in specific location	27	3%
Objects to more events/ only want small number of events	5	1%
Other - what counts	46	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

Encouraging sustainable events:

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the addition of a policy which encourages sustainable events. 713 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 370 respondents (44%) expressed their agreement with the proposed policy, while 2% disagreed. An additional 8% agreed with the policy in principle but expressed some reservations. A further 5% felt the policy was too vague and needed greater specificity, while 3% believed it should be made stronger.

Just over one-fifth of responses raised concerns related to enforcement. Specifically, 13% questioned how the policy would be enforced, and 8% felt it was unlikely to be followed or adequately enforced.

32 respondents (4%) felt that events have a large impact and are not sustainable, while 5% commented on the importance of event organisers cleaning up litter.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to raise objections to the holding of events, both generally and more specifically.

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

Encouraging sustainable events:

¹³ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the four themes above. Respondents who objected to all events would, by definition, also object to large events, as well as those involving amplified music and alcohol sale

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	370	44%
Agree with principle but with reservations	66	8%
Policy needs to be enforced/ questions how it will be enforced?	105	13%
Does not believe policy will be followed/ can be enforced/ will be effective/ will be enforced	69	8%
Policy too vague/ needs to be more specific	39	5%
Important that events clear up any litter	39	5%
Events are not 'sustainable'/ have a big impact	32	4%
Policy needs to be stronger still	23	3%
Events create litter/ mess/ waste	19	2%
A penalty/ fine should be charged for contravention	16	2%
General disagreement	15	2%
Public transport in the area is inadequate	14	2%
Events bring noise/ disruption to locals	13	2%
There are parking problems without (additional) events	10	1%
Event holders must repair any damage post event	8	1%
Already lots of litter in the park/ common (before any additional events)	6	1%
Events are harmful to wildlife	6	1%
Events must have a toilet plan	4	0%
Seeks further information/ clarification	3	0.40%
Objects to large events	49	6%
Objects to commercial events	42	5%
Objects to all events ¹⁴	37	4%
Objects to more events/ wants fewer	12	1%
Objects to events in specific location	22	3%
Other - sustainable events	35	4%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Limiting sole use of public spaces:

¹⁴ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large and commercial events

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the addition of a proposed policy which aims to limit the sole use of public spaces. 702 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 342 respondents (41%) expressed their agreement with proposed policy, while 2% disagreed. An additional 5% agreed with the policy in principle but expressed some reservations. A further 5% felt that the policy needs to be more specific and should include the percentage of public spaces that must remain open when an event is being held.

Almost one-fifth of respondents (19%) felt that no event should fully close a public space, with an additional 10% commenting that Council events should not be permitted to close access to a whole park or common. A further 8% of respondents commented that access to a specific location should never be restricted or fenced off.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally or at specific locations.

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

Limiting sole use of public spaces: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	342	41%
Agree with reservations	44	5%
No event should (fully) close a park	157	19%
Council events should not be permitted to close access to whole park/ Common	80	10%
Access to ____ location should never be restricted/ fenced off	63	8%
Policy needs to be more specific e.g. percentage	42	5%
Events should not be able to occupy too much of a park; large proportion should remain open	27	3%
No event should restrict access to ANY part of a park/ Common	23	3%
General disagreement	18	2%
Parks are different to Commons/ Commons are a special case legally	17	2%
No event can restrict access to a common	16	2%
Seeks further information	14	2%
Objects to large events	39	5%
Objects to commercial events	38	5%

Objects to all events ¹⁵	31	4%
Objects to events in specific location	28	3%
Objects to more events/ wants fewer	8	1%
Other - sole use	45	5%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

Being a listening council

Public consultation on events (Category A, B, C):

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed policy change aimed at ensuring meaningful engagement and consultation regarding events. 722 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 286 respondents (34%) expressed their general agreement with the proposed policy change, while 4% disagreed or preferred to keep the existing policy. An additional 5% agreed with the policy in principle but expressed some reservations.

A total of 90 respondents (11%) commented that they support more consultation and view it is a positive thing. Additionally, 7% of respondents felt that all events (Category A, B & C) should require consultation with local residents. A further 6% felt that local residents should be consulted in addition to friends' groups.

12% of respondents said they need reassurance that the Council will listen to and act on feedback from consultations and residents, seek post-event feedback, and publicise the results.

A total of 93 respondents (11%) used this space to express objections to large events in general. An additional 14% objected specifically to Category C events in specific locations, while 11% objected to Category B or other large events in specific locations.

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

¹⁵ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large and commercial events

Public consultation on events (Category A, B, C): Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	286	34%
Agreement with reservations	40	5%
Need reassurance that the council will publicise/ listen to and act on consultations/ post-event feedback/ views of residents	98	12%
Comments that more consultation is good/ supports more consultation	90	11%
All events (Cat A, B & C) should require local resident consultation (does not specify full public consultation)	61	7%
Local residents should be consulted (i.e. not just friends groups etc.)	48	6%
General disagreement/ support current policy	33	4%
Cat B/ Cat C should require input from local residents into approval process	23	3%
This consultation (on events in park) has not gone well/ is a problem	13	2%
Seeks further information	11	1%
Objects to Cat C events in specific location	114	14%
Objects to any Cat B+ / large events in specific location	94	11%
Objects to any events in specific location ¹⁶	49	6%
Objects to large events	93	11%
Objects to commercial events	41	5%
Objects to all events ¹⁷	37	4%
Objects to more events/ wants fewer	3	0%
Objects to any more events in specific location	3	0%
Other - Public consultation	66	8%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

¹⁶ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to any events in a specific location were, by definition, also objecting to Cat B+/C events in that specific location

¹⁷ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large and commercial events

Securing additional social benefits from events

Social value from commercial events:

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on the proposed addition of a policy which seeks to ensure organisers deliver social value to events. 657 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 283 respondents (34%) expressed their general agreement with the proposed policy, while 9% disagreed. An additional 7% agreed with the policy in principle but expressed some reservations.

A small number of respondents (2%) felt that the policy should include specific, measurable, and enforceable targets, while a further 3% commented that the term 'social value' needs to be clearly defined.

47 respondents (6%) felt that the policy serves as 'window dressing' to support the approval of a draft Events Policy perceived as unpopular, while an additional 6% believed the policy has no real value and is ineffective. 4% of respondents felt that not having events and not reducing access to parks delivers more social value, with a further 3% commenting that the proposed events provide no benefit to the local community.

Many respondents used this space as an opportunity to object to events generally.

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

Social value from commercial events: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	283	34%
Agree in principle but with reservations/ conditions	55	7%
General disagreement	74	9%
This policy has no value/ is ineffective	48	6%
This is spin/ window dressing to get through an unpopular change (events)	47	6%
Having fewer/ no events/ no reduced access to parks delivers more social value	35	4%
Proposed events provide no benefit to/ cause disruption to local community	27	3%
Need to define "Social Value"	26	3%
Policy needs to be applied/ enforced/ followed up post event	23	3%
This does not make sense/ not understood/ nonsense	23	3%

Any events should contribute to a fund/ event revenue should fund to improve the parks/ commons	18	2%
Policy should include specifics and measurable targets that can be enforced	17	2%
Need a mechanism for reporting/ evaluating social value	14	2%
Social Value not important/ interesting/ relevant	12	1%
Proposed events cause damage/ disruption to parks/ Commons	10	1%
Seeks further information	10	1%
Should only apply to commercial events/ events above certain size	8	1%
All events should have affordable/ free/ discounted tickets for local residents	8	1%
Objects to commercial events	77	9%
Objects to large events	69	8%
Objects to all events ¹⁸	53	6%
Objects to events in ___ location	37	4%
Other - social value	41	5%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
Objects to events at specific locations
General objection to events being held

Ticketed events and supporting inclusive access:

Respondents were asked for their thoughts on a proposed policy which requires organisers of ticketed events to provide an inclusive ticket offer for eligible Wandsworth residents. 631 respondents provided an answer to this question.

A total of 304 respondents (36%) expressed their general agreement with the proposed policy, while 9% disagreed. An additional 6% agreed with the policy in principle but expressed some reservations.

71 respondents (9%) felt that all residents should receive free, priority, or discounted tickets, not just those who are eligible for Access for All. Other respondents commented that the proposed accessible ticket offer doesn't make up for a loss of access to open spaces (3%), with a further 2% feeling that this proposal is aimed at appeasing objections to the broader policy.

A total of 98 respondents (12%) used this open-text box as an opportunity to object to ticketed and/or commercial events. Many respondents also used this space to object to events in parks generally and in specific locations.

¹⁸ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large and commercial events

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

Ticketed events and supporting inclusive access: Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.		
Themes	Number of comments on this theme	Percentage of all survey respondents
General agreement	304	36%
Agreement with reservations/ conditions	47	6%
General disagreement	74	9%
(All) Residents should get free/ priority/ discounted tickets (not just access for all)	71	9%
Accessible ticket offer doesn't make up for loss of access	21	3%
Looks like bribery/ to appease objections	15	2%
Seeks further information e.g. how discounted tickets will be paid for?	13	2%
Immediate neighbours of the event/ those affected should be offered free/ discounted tickets	11	1%
Free/ subsidised tickets puts the price up for everyone else/ workers	7	1%
All tickets/ events should be free	5	1%
Unsure/ doesn't understand proposal	3	0%
Objects to commercial/ ticketed events	98	12%
Objects to large events	61	7%
Objects to all events ¹⁹	52	6%
Objects to events in _____ location	52	6%
Objects to more events/ wants fewer	3	0%
Other - inclusive access	51	6%

NB Respondents were able to make comments on more than one theme, so percentages may add up to more than 100

KEY
General agreement
General disagreement
General objection to events being held

¹⁹ Comments relating to this theme are also included in the totals of the two themes above. Respondents who objected to all events were, by definition, also objecting to large and commercial events

6. Demographic Profile

The table below shows the composition of the consultation sample.

Demographic	Sample base	Proportion (%)
What is your sex?		
Male	434	55%
Female	264	34%
Prefer not to say	88	11%
<i>Base: 786 respondents</i>		
Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?		
Yes	688	89%
No	2	0%
Prefer not to say	81	11%
<i>Base: 771 respondents</i>		
What was your age last birthday?		
19 and under	2	0%
20 – 24	8	1%
25 – 34	58	7%
35 – 44	79	10%
45 – 54	148	19%
55 – 64	182	23%
65 – 74	131	17%
75+	54	7%
Prefer not to say	49	6%
<i>Base: 784 respondents</i>		
Do you consider yourself to have a disability?		
Yes	57	7%
No	639	81%
Prefer not to say	89	11%
<i>Base: 785 respondents</i>		
Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?		
Straight/Heterosexual	540	68%
Gay or Lesbian	15	2%
Bisexual	14	2%
Prefer not to say	188	24%
Other sexual orientation, write in	3	0%
<i>Base: 799 respondents</i>		
What is your religion?		
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	321	40%
Jewish	5	1%
Muslim	5	1%

Buddhist	7	1%
Sikh	2	0%
Any other religion, write in	6	1%
No religion	250	31%
Prefer not to say	174	22%
<i>Base: 799 respondents</i>		

7. Other responses

In addition to the online responses, the Council also received 66 emails in response to the consultation. Responses came from 56 individuals and 10 local groups:

- Friends of Tooting Common
- Friends of Wandsworth Common
- Open Spaces Society
- Toastrack Residents Association
- Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee
- Wandsworth Common Local Conservative Action Team
- Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee & Friends of Wandsworth Common
- Wandsworth Council Conservative Group
- Wandsworth Liberal Democrats
- Wandsworth Society

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

The majority of email respondents provided negative feedback on the draft Events in Parks Policy. Common concerns about large-scale events included excessive noise, litter, crime, anti-social behaviour, disruption to local residents (such as increased traffic and restricted access to parts of parks), and damage to the environment and local ecology. Many respondents also expressed concern that the use of parks and commons may be used as a means of generating revenue, feeling that this could conflict with their primary purpose as public green spaces.

Most of the responses were related to the potential impact of events on Wandsworth Common, with many making specifically mentioning Bellevue Fields as an area of concern.

Email responses have been considered alongside online submissions during the evaluation of the consultation feedback.

Appendix A – Overview



Events in Parks Policy Consultation

Closed 16 Feb 2025

Opened 6 Jan 2025

Update 25/04: We have created an FAQ's document which we may add to throughout the engagement process. To view the FAQ's, please click [here](#).

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We know how much residents value our brilliant parks and open spaces, and we want them to be at the heart of Welcome to Wandsworth 2025, a celebration of our borough's traditions, festivals, food, and arts. Culture brings joy, improves wellbeing, and strengthens communities. Events in parks and green spaces can play a central role in this.

From Battersea Park Fireworks to grassroots community events, Wandsworth's parks are already buzzing with activity. When we developed our London Borough of Culture bid and programme, residents told us that they wanted to see more cultural and community events in parks.

Our new draft policy aims to improve access across the borough, ensuring every corner comes alive in an explosion of creativity - from Roehampton to Battersea, Tooting to Putney.

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

The current policy, last updated in 2014, needs a refresh to better balance event opportunities with protecting green spaces and minimising disruption to local communities.

The draft policy sets out how we will support vibrant, community focused events while keeping our award-winning parks and open spaces safe, sustainable, and accessible for all.

Whether you love cultural celebrations or community gatherings, or the natural environment of your local park, this consultation is your chance to help shape the future of events in Wandsworth's parks, commons and open spaces.

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

Summary of key updates:

The revised policy introduces several key updates, including:

- Allowing more flexibility for events in winter (with safeguards in place)
- Strengthening protections for ecological areas
- Requiring event organisers to reduce noise and environmental impact
- Ensuring ticketed events offer discounts for low-income residents
- Increasing public consultation and engagement on events in line with our commitment to being a listening council

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 space
- 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
- Any other interested party

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 feedback received
- Write a report summarising key themes and concerns
- Refine the Events in Parks policy to reflect the findings of this consultation

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 consult@wandsworth.gov.uk or call 020 8871 6000.

Appendix B – Questionnaire

Introductory text

These questions refer to the Events in Parks draft policy, which can be found [here](#).

Questions relating to the draft policy are optional - you can respond to as many or as few as you like.

To submit your responses, please select **Finish** at the bottom right of this page.

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](#):

[Wandsworth Council's 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)

Please select only one item

- ☐ 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 Wandsworth park, common, or open space in the past year?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Park Use

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?

Please tick all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Walking
- ☐ Attending events
- ☐ Playing sports or doing physical exercise
- ☐ Relaxing/socialising
- ☐ 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.

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
- ☐ Other, please specify:

Have you experienced any issues with events in public spaces?

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

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please tell us more:

Access - Enabling more residents in more parts of the borough to access 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.

Allowing events on grass areas in Winter

Proposed change: Previously, no events were allowed on grass from 30 September - 1 April (except for certain sports). The new policy allows events during this period on a case-by-case basis.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events are not allowed on grass from 30 September - 1 April, except for certain sports (e.g., the Boat Race).

Rationale for change: To enable events in other parks, commons, and open spaces during the specified period, subject to careful assessment of the impact on grassed areas.

Protecting ecological sites

Proposed change: Events will now be prohibited not just on, but also next to areas of ecological importance.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events are not allowed on sites of ecological importance.

Rationale for change: To ensure that events can take place in larger parks away from areas of specific ecological importance.

Use of sports pitches

Proposed change: Not all pitches are used all year. Different sports have different playing seasons. Events should minimise impact but may still be allowed based on case-by-case assessment outside of the playing season.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events cannot disrupt the maintenance or operation of sports pitches.

Rationale for change: Amended as the impact on maintenance can be managed so a case-by-case assessment is needed. The revised wording enables this.

Changing event end times

Proposed change: The existing 10pm event end time remains, but some exceptions (e.g., New Year's Eve, major international events) may be approved on a case-by-case basis. If an event needs a premises licence, then the licensing process would determine the end time. All licensing applications include a separate consultation.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: All events must end by 10pm.

Rationale for change:

1. To remove the explanatory text and retain the policy clause only.
2. To clarify that the event itself must stop at 10pm with egress permitted after this (or as agreed through the licensing process).
3. To provide the opportunity to go beyond this time in certain circumstances.

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.

The Council's terms and conditions for events

Proposed change: The new policy makes it clear that the Terms and Conditions will be regularly reviewed and updated by council officers to make sure they reflect best practice.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: The council has terms and conditions in place and these are reviewed from time to time.

Rationale for change: To ensure the Terms and Condition meet changing legal requirements and enable continuous improvement of the management of events.

Premises licences and alcohol sales

Proposed change: The policy clarifies that any event involving alcohol or regulated entertainment must have the proper licence or temporary event notice (TEN).

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events with alcohol sales or entertainment need a separate licence from the council's Environmental Services Division.

Rationale for change:

1. To clarify that this clause applies to events requiring licences or temporary event notices (TENs).
2. To remove reference to the names of specific council departments that may change from time to time.

Care of grass, trees, and infrastructure

No change to current policy: Event organisers must follow guidelines to protect park infrastructure.

Please tell us your thoughts about the current policy.

Maximum audience size

Proposed change: Events must stay within the approved audience size set at the application stage. This reflects that many events will have a smaller agreed attendance number.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events cannot exceed 10,000 attendees.

Rationale for change: To ensure that all events comply with the maximum attendance size approved at the application stage, regardless of the event size.

Frequency of large events

Proposed change: The new policy counts event days rather than event numbers and allows consecutive weekend events if it reduces overall impact.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: There are strict limits on the number of events in each park per year.

Rationale for change:

1. To move from number of events to event days to better manage impact.
2. To facilitate events on consecutive weekends as this can reduce the overall impact on the site, residents, reduce infrastructure costs and setup/down time.
3. To clarify that attendance relates to maximum capacity of the site rather than entire day attendance. For example, a free to access event with a specific site capacity may be visited by more people throughout the day.
4. To clarify that sport or physical activity events are not included in the event frequency limits.

Managing noise levels

Proposed change: The policy now requires all events to follow national best practice on noise control, rather than setting a fixed noise limit.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Events cannot exceed 75 decibels at 10 metres from the event site.

Rationale for change:

1. To ensure that any noise limits imposed are in line with code of practice rather than a set value. Note that noise is typically measured near sensitive receptors (e.g. residential properties) rather than at a set distance from the site perimeter.
2. To ensure smaller events are subject to noise control measures.

Weekend events

Proposed change: Weekend events still must be open to the public, including through tickets. In the future, private events would be allowed in fenced-off or restricted areas that are not normally open to the general public. There would be no loss of access to public areas.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Weekend events must be open to the public, including through tickets.

Rationale for change: To clarify that areas not normally open to the general public may be used for private hire events.

Variations to the Events Policy

Proposed change: Minor changes can now be made by council officers with Cabinet Member consultation. For example, this means that we can change references to specific legislation as new legislation is adopted. Any material changes would still need to be consulted on and approved by Cabinet.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Changes to event rules require Executive Committee approval.

Rationale for change: To provide a more responsive approach to amending the policy if required.

Community events without a charge

Proposed change: These rules will now be set through the annual council fees and charges process, approved by Cabinet. Doing this means we can be more responsive to changing needs from our communities. If we retain the current policy, we will have to carry out a full review of the policy to make changes to eligibility for hire fee discounts.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: The current policy sets rules for which community events do not have to pay a hire fee.

Rationale for change: To ensure that fees and charges are set annually through the Council's fees and charges process.

Scope of the policy

Proposed change: The policy now clearly defines that it applies to any organisation or individual booking a park or open space for an event, whether for commercial, charitable, or community use. It also states that small informal gatherings (under 30 people), sport pitch bookings and street parties are not covered by the events policy, as there are separate booking arrangement processes.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: The current policy has no clear statement on what types of activities fall under the events policy.

Rationale for change: To clarify when this policy applies.

Clarifying what counts as an event

Proposed change: An "event" is now defined as any organised activity with 30+ people, infrastructure (e.g., gazebos, tables), or licensable activities (e.g., alcohol sales, live music). If the event has fewer than 30 attendees and no infrastructure on site, no formal application is required.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: There is no clear definition of what qualifies as an event.

Rationale for change: To clarify when this policy applies.

Encouraging sustainable events

Proposed change: Event organisers must now reduce waste, promote public transport, and lower environmental impact.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: No specific requirements for event organisers to be environmentally responsible.

Rationale for change: To ensure that events are sustainable and minimise, mitigate and manage the impact on the environment and wildlife.

Limiting sole use of public spaces

Proposed change: No event (except council-run ones) can fully close a park, common or open space—some areas must remain open.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: Some events can take up an entire park or open space.

Rationale for change: To ensure that other parks, commons, and open spaces users may continue to have reasonable access parts of site while events are taking place.

Being a listening council

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.

Public consultation on events (Category A, B, C)

Proposed change: Residents and local groups (including Management Advisory Committees/Friends) must be consulted about minimising and mitigating the impact of all Category B (2,500-5,000 attendees) and Category C (5,000-10,000 attendees) events. More consultation and engagement is required for larger events than smaller events. You can see more detail on the requirements for different event sizes in the policy document.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: The current policy limits consultation and engagement to Friends groups and Management Advisory Committees. There is no consultation and engagement with other groups or residents.

Rationale for change: To ensure meaningful engagement and consultation takes place with residents and key stakeholders.

[Click here to read a breakdown of the capacity of each park](#)

	Category A - Up to 2500 capacity	Category B - from 2,500 to 5,000 capacity	Category C - from 5,000 to 10,000 capacity
Bramford Gardens	X		
Christchurch Gardens	X		
Coronation Gardens	X		
Falcon Park	X		
Fishpond Playing Fields	X		
Fountain Rec	X		
Fred Wells Garden	X		
Furzedown Rec Ground	X		

Garratt Green	X		
Garratt Park	X		
Godley Gardens	X		
Harroway Gardens	X		
Heathbrook Park	X		
King George's Park	X	X	X
Latchmere Recreation Ground	X		
Lavender Gardens	X		
Leader's Garden	X		
Montefiore Gardens	X		
Putney Park Lane	X		
Queenstown Green	X		
Shillington Park	X		
Swaby Gardens	X		
The Pleasance	X		
Tooting Common	X	X	X
Tooting Gardens	X		
Wandsworth Common	X	X	X
Wandsworth Park	X		
Vicarage Gardens	X		
York Gardens	X		

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 from commercial events

Proposed change: Commercial event organisers must now deliver social value (e.g., free activities, community partnerships) in line with the Wandsworth Borough Council Social Value Toolkit.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: No requirement for large event organisers to provide community benefits.

Rationale for change: To ensure that commercial event organisers deliver clearly agreed social value benefits.

Ticketed events and supporting inclusive access

Proposed change: Ticketed events must now offer discounted or free tickets to residents who are eligible for the Council's Access for All programme.

Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.

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

Current policy: No requirement for event organisers to provide discounted tickets.

Rationale for change: To ensure all residents have an equal chance to access local opportunities including leisure and culture.

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?

The Council asks Equality Monitoring questions at the end of all of our public consultations. It might not seem obvious why they're relevant to each individual consultation, but we need to be sure that we're being fair, and considering the impacts of any possible changes on any groups with protected characteristics. The Council is required to do this under Equalities legislation.

The questions help us to:

identify residents' needs and whether the services we provide are right for them

be better positioned to know whether we are providing fair and equal access to all groups of people who need our services

identify how we can improve services to make them more accessible and inclusive

understand who is or is not responding to our consultations

The questions are optional – if respondents don't feel comfortable providing this information they are under no obligation to do so. All monitoring data is classed as personal data and is treated as confidential, in line with Data Protection requirements.

There is a helpful guide by Stonewall on this issue called 'What's it got to do with you?' which you can read by clicking [here](#).

What is your sex?

Please select only one item

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

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

Please select only one item

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

What was your age last birthday?

Please select only one item

- ☐ 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?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group?*Please select only one item*

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

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?*Please select only one item*

- ☐ Straight/Heterosexual
- ☐ Gay man or Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other sexual orientation, write in

What is your religion?*Please select only one item*

- ☐ 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

Appendix C: Online survey responses from local organisations/groups

Question	Response
Have you attended an event in a Wandsworth park, common, or open space in the past year?	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Playing sports or doing physical exercise • Relaxing/socialising • Dog walking • Spending time enjoying nature <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Attending events • Relaxing/socialising • Dog walking • Spending time enjoying nature <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Relaxing/socialising • Spending time enjoying nature <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Relaxing/socialising • Spending time enjoying nature
What kind of events would you be interested in attending in our parks, open spaces and commons?	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events • Outdoor cinema <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circus • Community events • Concerts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance events, including salsa, swing, or silent disco • Food festivals • Markets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas • Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events • Outdoor cinema • Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food festivals • “Events should need to demonstrate how they help the achievement of wellbeing and health objectives and have community relevance. This should take priority over a desire to hold large income-generating events. Events need to be of a suitable size for the type of Green Space where they are held, rather than shoehorning in larger events because they generate more revenue. Events should be best suited to the location, venue structure, safety, and wellbeing of residents as well as the surrounding environment. Consideration should be given to other site venues which might be more suitable for certain events. The Council should assess each Green Space in terms of its suitability, what size events are possible, the types of events it is desirable to hold there and their frequency, and how easy it will be to mitigate any adverse ecological impacts. These assessments would need to be taken into account in the appropriate licence applications.” “Social inclusion outcomes should also be included in the list of criteria for assessing the suitability of events, and accessibility standards should be incorporated into event planning. One big issue is paid-for events: consideration needs to be given to restricting paid-for events to a designated amount of green space and time across the Borough.” “All events on the Common should primarily be for the benefit of local residents. and appropriate for them and local users. There should be consultation on a forward events programme.” “The assumption that events bring positive and lasting benefits needs to properly quantified, and in some cases challenged - very little analysis of the negative impact of events has been undertaken. The risk is that an event proposal may overstate positive values and understate negative ones” “There needs to be recognition that event which might be recognised as have wider positive value does not occur at a negative or disproportionate scale for those local neighbourhoods who bare the most immediate adverse impacts”. <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered
Have you experienced any issues with	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

<p>events in public spaces?</p> <p>Please tell us more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Noise excessive litter defecation and urination issues in undergrowth during day AC no particularly at night in and around the Pear Tree cafe and elsewhere” <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • “Littering is the issue I have encountered most frequently myself, but Society members have also told me of concerns re noise, access restrictions and anti-social behaviour” <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • “Damage to ground following funfair” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
<p>Allowing events on grass areas in Winter</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely not such events should be restricted and current regulations apply. The unpredictable weather during this off season would lead to damage to grass areas that during the non growing season would create a scar that could not easily be remediated. It’s a big NO! <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acceptable, provided that the careful assessment referred to is always carried out. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Council should assess each Green Space in terms of its suitability, what size events are possible, the types of events it is desirable to hold there and their frequency, and how easy it will be to mitigate any adverse ecological impacts. These assessments would need to be taken into account in the appropriate licence applications.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose this proposed policy change. The previous policy, which restricted grass-area events during winter months (apart from specific winter sports), was prudent and necessary. Grass and soil conditions during winter are highly susceptible to severe and lasting damage. Allowing events during this sensitive period—even on a “case-by-case basis”—significantly increases the likelihood of long-term degradation of our valued green spaces. This not only reduces amenity value for residents but also incurs higher restoration costs, placing unnecessary strain on council resources. Furthermore, we fully support the position outlined by the Wandsworth Common MAC and Friends of Wandsworth Common, highlighting that such events disproportionately damage

	<p>ecologically significant areas and conflict with existing ecological protection and re-wilding efforts. Their submission clearly illustrates how past winter events have led to prolonged environmental harm and disruption, demonstrating why winter events should continue to be restricted.</p>
<p>Protecting ecological sites</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absolutely not noise and disruption to wildlife and ecological damage is not something that should even be contemplated with the use of adjacent areas. Protect don't destroy the natural areas of the park and do t compromise them. I am surprised you are even contemplating such reckless action. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible; perhaps in addition a buffer zone should be specified? <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Events need to be of a suitable size for the type of Green Space where they are held, rather than shoehorning in larger events because they generate more revenue. Events should be best suited to the location, venue structure, safety, and wellbeing of residents as well as the surrounding environment. The Council should assess each Green Space in terms of its suitability, what size events are possible, the types of events it is desirable to hold there and their frequency, and how easy it will be to mitigate any adverse ecological impacts. These assessments would need to be taken into account in the appropriate licence applications." <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We acknowledge and welcome the proposal to extend event prohibitions to include areas adjacent to ecological sites, as it is a step towards recognizing the importance of safeguarding sensitive environments. However, the current policy lacks clarity regarding how "adjacent" is defined and assessed, raising concerns about its practical enforceability and effectiveness. • Clear and enforceable definitions of ecological sites and adjacent areas must be explicitly stated within the policy. • Assessments should comprehensively account for the scale of events, acknowledging that larger events pose greater environmental risks even when held adjacent to ecological sites. • Protecting these sensitive environments should include robust pre-event ecological inspections and clearly outlined conditions under which events must be cancelled to avoid potential environmental damage. Without addressing these aspects, the policy's good intentions may fail to provide adequate protection for ecologically important sites.
<p>Use of sports pitches</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Sporting activity should be sacrosanct and not play second fiddle to events

<p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose the proposed removal of explicit protections for sports pitches. Community sports pitches are essential public amenities, providing significant health, recreational, and social benefits. The proposed change undermines these benefits by increasing the risk that pitches become unusable due to event-related damage or extended periods of closure for repairs. We also emphasise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of sports pitches in supporting community health, well-being, and local sports participation. • The necessity of maintaining explicit safeguards that prioritize the ongoing operational use and quality of these pitches. • The requirement that event organizers be responsible for the timely restoration of any damage to ensure sports pitches remain reliably accessible to the community. Therefore, the existing protections must remain in place to ensure these crucial community facilities continue to serve residents effectively and without disruption.
<p>Changing event end times</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely not there is major noise emanating from the park already to local areas as well a deeply antisocial behaviour such a defecating and urinating in the undergrowth in the evenings. Absolutely NO to this proposal that would exasperate the issue <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This should be strictly adhered to and not be subject to any licensing process nor changed under “certain circumstances”. <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose the proposed removal of the existing 10pm event end time limit. Extending event hours beyond this time significantly increases the likelihood of noise, disturbance, and antisocial behaviour, severely impacting nearby residents' quality of life. The existing 10pm limit strikes an appropriate balance, permitting enjoyable community events while respecting residents' rights to peace and quiet. We specifically highlight that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later event end times pose heightened risks of antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, and public safety issues, as

	<p>previously evidenced by events extending into late evening hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport and security provisions after 10pm are inadequate to manage dispersal effectively, exacerbating risks and disturbance for local residents. Event infrastructure removal conducted late at night further increases disruption and noise. Therefore, retaining the current 10pm event time limit is essential to ensure a responsible balance between community event benefits and residential amenity.
<p>The Council's terms and conditions for events</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not just best practice but behaviour is controlled and proper security enforced <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "T and C's need to be accompanied by a proportionate and clear enforcement dimension with conditions adhered to in all circumstances. If Enable run an event, then this enforcement review needs to be undertaken by the council. The council also needs to employ its environmental health monitoring systems in assessing ecological and environmental conditions". "The organisers of events need to know the expectations of local residents and users. They should be responsible for undertaking a condition survey prior to approval of their contract." <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the principle of regular reviews of the Council's terms and conditions for events. However, we have concerns, notably that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant amendments to these terms should occur without thorough prior consultation involving local MACs, Friends groups, and the broader community. Clearly defined processes and transparency are essential, ensuring stakeholders can effectively engage and provide meaningful feedback on any proposed changes. Any variations to event details, including size, timing, frequency, and locations, must be explicitly treated as material changes requiring proper consultation and scrutiny. Incorporating these safeguards into the Council's terms and conditions will enhance transparency, accountability, and community confidence in the management of events across the Borough's parks and commons.
<p>Premises licences and alcohol sales</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be better controlled and policed to prevent defecation and urination in bushes and penalties applied. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible.

<p>about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support the proposed clarification that any event involving alcohol or regulated entertainment must have the appropriate premises licence or temporary event notice (TEN). However, we emphasize: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper licensing procedures must include adequate consultation with MACs, Friends groups, and local residents before licence applications are finalized, not merely after mitigation measures are proposed. • Robust security provisions, including coordination with the Metropolitan Police and Parks & Events Police, should be explicitly required for events involving alcohol sales, particularly given the heightened risks of antisocial behaviour, crime, and disorder. • Transport planning and dispersal strategies must be explicitly reviewed as part of the licensing process, ensuring adequate public safety measures are in place. These additional measures are essential to ensure licensing processes adequately protect residents' well-being and the integrity of our parks and commons.
<p>Care of grass, trees, and infrastructure</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the current policy.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate Licence to be fully enforced and drunken loutish behaviour not to be tolerated. Adequate facilities available to avoid defecation and urination in bushes <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OK so far as it goes but should be broader - mentioning biodiversity as well as grass and trees. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There needs to be a stronger element in the policy of minimising and mitigating effects on green spaces with minimal disruption to the environment and wildlife. One very strong objection to holding more events is their damage to the Common especially in periods of adverse weather, even if events are restricted to the summer months. Although measures are in place, there needs to be more confidence that they can cope with challenging and increasingly unpredictable environmental conditions. “Clear biodiversity monitoring will be required at each event site in order that the state of biodiversity can be assessed before and after events. This needs to be a core part of any new licence application. Wandsworth Council does operate a sustainability guide for running events (see here) although this appears to be advisory rather than contractual. E.g. ‘Identify species on site and their vulnerability to the nature of the event being run ... Identify species’ sensitivity to noise and light pollution’.”

	<p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose any weakening of protections for grass, trees, and infrastructure in our parks and commons. Maintaining the quality and ecological integrity of these assets is crucial, as they directly affect the enjoyment and wellbeing of residents. • <p>Pre-event inspections of designated event sites should be mandatory, clearly documented, and publicly accessible to ensure transparency and accountability. • Clear and enforceable conditions should be established under which events can be cancelled if site conditions pose a risk of damage to grass, trees, or infrastructure. • Event organizers must provide adequate financial guarantees or bonds to ensure prompt restoration and repair of any damage caused by events. • There must be clearly defined limits on event frequency and infrastructure placement, safeguarding trees, sensitive habitats, and community infrastructure. These measures are essential to preserve the long-term environmental and recreational value of our open spaces, ensuring they remain accessible and enjoyable for all residents.</p>
<p>Maximum audience size</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large events should not be encouraged and numbers restricted to stop overburdening the park. 10,000 people far to many <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “TC MAC supports this change.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose increasing audience sizes for events in our parks and commons beyond what is currently permissible. Larger-scale events significantly increase the risk of ecological damage, disruption to local residents, and strain on community infrastructure and amenities. We particularly emphasise: • <p>Wandsworth Common, King George’s Park and Tooting Bec lack the infrastructure and facilities required to safely accommodate Category B or C events, which involve large audience numbers. • Larger audiences exacerbate risks to local wildlife habitats, ecological sustainability, and biodiversity, undermining the extensive investment and community efforts in conservation and rewilding initiatives. • Significant social impacts, including inadequate security, increased antisocial behaviour, crime, and strain on local transport networks, remain inadequately addressed for larger-scale events. Therefore, event sizes should be clearly restricted to appropriate, manageable levels, aligning with the unique environmental and infrastructural capacity of each specific open space.</p>

<p>Frequency of large events</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be restricted to entire attendance day as park too busy. Impact on park needs to be better managed and regulations strictly applied to control events that are becoming or are out of hand. More policing and more park management control of event organisers. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible. NB members have expressed concerns to us the idea of introducing larger events on Wandsworth Common specifically. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The number of ‘event days’ should include site build and removal as this is far more extensive in terms of impact; including the total number of days an event will affect the green space would be more transparent.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We strongly oppose the proposed frequency of large events, particularly the allowance for multiple Category B and C events within short timeframes. This would effectively turn cherished community spaces into high-intensity event venues, undermining their primary purpose as accessible, peaceful green spaces for everyday use. Allowing up to 10 Category B and C “event days” in any six-month period is wholly inappropriate for spaces like Wandsworth Common, King George’s Park and Tooting Bec Common which lack the infrastructure to support frequent large-scale events. High-frequency events deny regular users consistent access to open spaces, compromise public enjoyment, and risk cumulative environmental damage, especially where recovery time for grass and habitat is inadequate. The policy’s attempt to justify consecutive weekend events as reducing overall impact is misleading; it ignores the broader principle that such frequency is inconsistent with the ecological safeguarding and community balance these spaces are meant to uphold. A significantly reduced frequency limit—particularly for sensitive or ecologically designated sites—is essential to preserve the integrity and accessibility of our parks and commons.
<p>Managing noise levels</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No apply strict noise control as per current. Too much wriggle room for Enable and events organisers to get around the regulations and for it to become untenable both to local residents and others park users. Far too much risk of no control of noise levels are really BAD idea. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensible.

	<p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Noise limits need to be appropriate to Tooting Common, which is surrounded by residential housing. Any noise limits need to be determined in consultation with residents at various distances from the arena. There needs to be clear and unambiguous noise levels set which are strictly enforced during the event.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We strongly oppose the removal of the 75db noise limit without the introduction of a clear and enforceable alternative. Noise from large events has a direct and negative impact on the well-being of nearby residents, particularly in densely populated urban areas where parks and commons are surrounded by homes. We are also concerned about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of a measurable standard for acceptable noise levels in the new policy, which creates uncertainty and removes a vital safeguard for residents. The risk of infrastructure removal and event pack-down extending into late evening hours, further compounding noise disruption. The need for noise limits to be linked not only to decibel thresholds but also to event timing and type, with stricter conditions for events near residential boundaries or ecological zones. To protect public health and maintain community trust, any revised events policy must include a clearly defined noise limit, enforceable penalties for breaches, and event-specific conditions based on local context and resident proximity.
<p>Weekend events</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment as long as public access to normally accessible areas maintained. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OK. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We oppose the proposed clarification that would allow areas not normally open to the public to be used for private hire events. While the rationale may be to permit occasional small-scale activities, the wording risks opening the door to a greater number of exclusive, closed-off events in spaces that are fundamentally meant to serve the public. We share the concerns raised by the friends groups including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public parks and commons, particularly open-access spaces like Wandsworth Common, King George’s Park and Tooting Bec Common exist to provide shared benefits for all residents — not to be segmented or reserved for private functions that exclude the wider community. Allowing private hire events risks limiting access to valuable green space,

	<p>undermining the principle that these areas are public assets for inclusive recreation, wellbeing, and community use. • No framework has been proposed to limit the scale, duration, or frequency of such private events, nor to ensure that affected communities are consulted in advance. Any consideration of private hire must be tightly restricted, subject to strong transparency, community consultation, and a presumption against excluding the public from significant portions of shared open space.</p>
<p>Variations to the Events Policy</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO most certainly not gives too much room for interpretation stick by legislation and modify regulations if required. <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OK. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This depends on what constitutes a minor change with specific examples to be able to assess the impact of these. <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly oppose the removal of the requirement for Executive Committee approval to amend event rules. While a more “responsive” approach may appear administratively convenient, it undermines democratic oversight and public accountability—especially on a policy with such significant community and environmental implications. • Material changes to the Events Policy—such as alterations to event size, frequency, location, or permitted activities—must be subject to formal consultation and democratic scrutiny, not left to delegated officer discretion or ad hoc adjustments. • The current proposal risks eroding transparency and community trust, especially if local stakeholders are not informed or involved in decisions that directly affect public space use. • A fast-changing policy without clear procedures invites inconsistency and reduces the ability of local communities, MACs, and Friends groups to plan, engage, or object meaningfully. We believe that retaining Executive Committee oversight ensures that significant changes are properly debated, justified, and subject to public input—a necessary safeguard for responsible park governance.
<p>Community events without a charge</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are concerned about the proposed removal of explicit rules within the policy outlining which community events are exempt from hire fees. While aligning event charges with the Council's broader annual fees and charges process may offer administrative consistency, it risks undermining support for grassroots, volunteer-led community initiatives. We value small, local events—such as children's funfairs, dog shows, and school-led activities—that strengthen community ties and have minimal impact on the environment. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear protections must remain in place to exempt or heavily discount fees for small-scale, not-for-profit community events that benefit local residents. • Removing this clarity from the Events Policy weakens transparency and may deter local groups from planning positive, low-impact events. • Fee exemptions should be guided by principles of accessibility, community benefit, and environmental sensitivity—not simply embedded within a broader charging regime that may lack such nuance. We urge the Council to retain clear, written guarantees within the Events Policy that protect and encourage genuinely community-based, public-interest events.
<p>Scope of the policy</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We welcome the intention to clarify the scope of the Events Policy, but this clarification must be done carefully to avoid overreach or confusion. A clear definition of what constitutes an “event” is essential for effective management, enforcement, and community understanding—but it must not result in the unintended regulation of informal or everyday activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Events Policy should clearly distinguish between formal, organized events that require infrastructure or licencing, and informal community use such as picnics, exercise classes, or spontaneous gatherings, which should not fall within its scope. • Overly broad definitions risk creating unnecessary bureaucracy or restricting low-impact, beneficial community activity. • The policy must also make clear which spaces it covers and under what circumstances—for example, specifying that sensitive ecological zones or areas with limited infrastructure (like Wandsworth Common, King George's Park and Tooting Bec Common) are subject to stricter conditions or

	<p>exclusions. Done properly, clearer definitions will improve transparency and public confidence. However, they must be designed to protect public access and avoid the inappropriate classification of everyday park use as “events.”</p>
<p>Clarifying what counts as an event</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This will depend on how this is enforced across all of Wandsworth green spaces and whether there is Parks and Events Police capacity to undertake this. At present there are birthday parties on the common which don’t cause problems, and this may reduce access to the common for some groups. Plus, if there are last minute attendees to these small events, meaning that they go above the 30 person limit, will the organisers be liable to a fixed penalty notice?” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We recognise the benefit of providing a clearer definition of what constitutes an “event,” and we welcome the attempt to exclude genuinely informal, small-scale gatherings from the formal application process. However, we have concerns about how this new definition will operate in practice. We believe that: • A 30-person threshold may still be too low in some contexts, particularly where there is no infrastructure and the activity is non-commercial. Informal community picnics, exercise sessions, or school outings should not risk being misclassified as regulated events. • Greater clarity is needed on how infrastructure is defined. For example, a single gazebo for shelter during a local charity event should not trigger the same process as a commercial setup. • There must be protections in place to ensure that smaller, community-led events are not deterred or caught in unnecessary bureaucracy due to broad interpretations of the term “infrastructure.” We recommend that the policy explicitly commit to a light-touch, proportionate approach for community events under 50 people with minimal or no infrastructure, to avoid stifling local participation and spontaneous community use of green space.
<p>Encouraging sustainable events</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There needs to be greater clarity in the policy on what is being measured here. Are clear targets going to be set for the event organisers, and if so, how are these targets decided on?” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support the principle of requiring event organisers to be environmentally responsible, but the proposed change must be backed by enforceable standards and meaningful oversight to ensure real impact. • The current draft policy includes vague language around sustainability with no clear obligations, measurement criteria, or enforcement mechanisms. Without these, the commitment is symbolic rather than substantive. • Organisers should be required to conduct environmental impact assessments, use eco-friendly materials, implement robust waste management and recycling plans, and avoid damage to biodiversity and rewilded areas. • There must be specific requirements for habitat protection in ecologically sensitive areas like Wandsworth Common, King George’s Park and Tooting Bec Common, with limits on infrastructure and mandatory recovery plans post-event. To be effective, the policy should outline a framework for assessing environmental impact, introduce penalties for non-compliance, and require bonds or deposits to cover restoration costs. Without such measures, the policy risks paying lip service to sustainability without delivering the protections our parks and commons require.
<p>Limiting sole use of public spaces</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely this is already the case under the law and even Council run events should not be allowed to fully close the park. One thing is of Formula E which the Tory Council promoted and forced on park users. There should be no Council run event that would necessitate the closure of the park <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Answered <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support the proposed restriction preventing non-Council events from fully closing off parks, commons, or open spaces. Public land must remain accessible to the public, even during events. However, we strongly believe this principle should apply to all events, including those organised by the Council itself. • Council-run events should be held to the same standard of public access and accountability as third-party events. Exempting them undermines public trust and risks setting a damaging precedent. • Parks and commons exist first and foremost for public use. No event—regardless of the organiser—should restrict access to the entire

	<p>space or to key routes, amenities, or areas of ecological importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All events should be required to demonstrate how they will maintain meaningful access, clearly communicate any partial restrictions, and minimise disruption. The policy should explicitly commit to preserving public access across all events, without exception, to safeguard the open, democratic nature of our green spaces.
<p>Public consultation on events (Category A, B, C)</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further consultation and engagement with as many local groups as possible a must <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensible, though again some Society members would be likely to oppose the introduction of *any* B or C category event on Wandsworth Common. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Consultation on a forward events programme needs to be comprehensive, not just involving neighbours and those involved with the Common, but also people who might attend events locally For each event, the relevant MAC needs to be involved in reviewing the proposed event plan alongside the council and other authorities. Each event plan should include the following: information: • the type of event, • the business case including how the event will be funded and any income target, • the proposed location • duration including setting up and taking down times, • how the local community will be notified about the event, • planned numbers on each day of the event, • proposed community benefit • how the event will promote inclusion, • planned maximum noise levels, • adequacy of public transport for the event particularly afterwards, • damage limitation measures. Once an event has been approved, the Council must communicate timely information to stakeholders to ensure they have ample time to comment. For larger events there needs to be an adequate complaints process including a dedicated complaints phone line when the event is running.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly support the principle that residents and local groups—including Management Advisory Committees (MACs) and Friends groups—must be properly consulted on all Category B and C events. These are large-scale events with substantial potential for environmental damage, antisocial behaviour, and disruption to community life. • Consultation must take place before events are confirmed or licensed—not simply as part of impact mitigation planning after decisions have already been made. • MACs and Friends groups have deep, place-specific knowledge and are

	<p>essential voices in assessing suitability, risk, and mitigation measures. Their input must be central and binding, not tokenistic. •</p> <p>The requirement for greater consultation on larger events is welcome, but there must also be a minimum guaranteed level of engagement for all events likely to impact residents or the environment—especially in sensitive locations like Wandsworth Common. The policy should be amended to guarantee early, transparent, and meaningful consultation for all major events, with published engagement timelines, response summaries, and clear avenues for residents to raise concerns. Without these safeguards, community trust and the integrity of our green spaces remain at risk.</p>
<p>Social value from commercial events</p> <p>Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.</p>	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds a positive move <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Social Value approach (link) is much broader than just free activities and community partnerships if to be fully utilised. The various measures need to be translated into events and need to have clear criteria and objectives. The positive and lasting benefits need to be fully quantified and independently assessed. There also needs to be differentiation between local benefits (i.e. for the common), neighbourhood benefits (for residents surrounding the common), and borough-wide benefits. Arguably the social value approach needs to be employed in determining which events are relevant to particular green spaces.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We support the proposal to require commercial event organisers to deliver social value—but only if this requirement is clearly defined, genuinely enforced, and tailored to the needs of the local communities most affected. • The concept of social value must not be used to justify otherwise inappropriate or disruptive events. Offering a small number of free tickets or minor community activities should not outweigh serious concerns about noise, ecological damage, or loss of public access. • Social value commitments must be specific, measurable, and locally relevant. Vague promises of “community benefit” risk being meaningless without oversight. • There should be a formal mechanism for residents, MACs, and Friends groups to influence what constitutes acceptable social value in the context of a particular park or common. We recommend the policy explicitly state that delivering social value cannot override other considerations such as environmental sustainability, access, and local consultation. Social

	value must complement—not excuse—the responsible use of public space.
Ticketed events and supporting inclusive access Please tell us your thoughts about the proposed change.	<p>Battersea Park Action Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good idea <p>Battersea Society (Chair, Open Spaces Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good. <p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “For Tooting Common this should include Lambeth residents.” <p>Wandsworth Council Conservative Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Offering discounted or free tickets does not by itself justify holding large, disruptive, or exclusive events in public parks and commons—particularly in ecologically sensitive or residential areas. • The number of tickets offered, the quality of access they provide (e.g., time slots, seating), and how they are allocated must be transparent and meaningful. A token offering will not fulfil the policy’s stated intent. • Events should still be subject to robust scrutiny regarding their overall impact, with access schemes viewed as supplementary benefits, not as mitigating factors for otherwise harmful proposals. We support inclusive access—but it must be part of a broader framework that protects environmental integrity, ensures local consultation, and preserves the open and public character of our green spaces.

Appendix D: Email responses from local organisations/groups

Local organisation/group name	Response
Friends of Tooting Common	<p><u>Wandsworth Council consultation on proposed new events in parks policy: comments by Friends of Tooting Common</u></p> <p>These are comments by Friends of Tooting Common on the consultation by Wandsworth Council on the proposed new events policy, mainly similar to those we have made previously.</p> <p>2. FOTC considers that occasional large events on the Common can be of benefit and interest to a range of Common users and local communities, and be a good use of the Common. However there need to be robust and appropriate safeguards to protect the Common and its biodiversity, and the interests of other Commons users. It should be borne in mind</p>

that a very important function of the Common is to provide a green and peaceful space - open to all, for relaxation and reflection - in the middle of a heavily urbanised area. An excessive number of large events would seriously detract from this. It will also be very important to avoid the very serious problems which have arisen on Clapham Common and Brockwell Park.

3. We welcome the specification of the frequency of events in terms of "number of event days" rather than "number of events", as providing greater clarity and precision.

4. However the frequency of large events proposed, though similar to the existing policy, is too high. Since a Cat C event is to continue to be regarded as 'extraordinary', this is clearly not consistent with four being allowed in six months. Similarly the frequency of Cat B events, at up to six times in six months, is excessive. There could therefore be up to 10 event days of more than 2,500 attendance in a six-month period, which is too many. The figures proposed are also considerably higher than the number of actual such events that have been staged on Tooting Common in recent years. It seems in any case unlikely that there would be the capacity to stage this number of large events over the next few years.

5. Large events also require considerable time for setting up and taking down, during which time the field or area concerned will be wholly or partly unavailable to other Common users. We think that, alongside the limit on the number of days for the event(s) itself, there should be a specified limit on the maximum time that the field or area is not open to other users of the greenspace during set up and take down. We suggest this maximum be 7 days.

6. We note the intention to remove the wording in the existing events policy which gives some general criteria for small community events to not attract a charge, and for this issue instead to be integrated into the fees and charges structure for events in greenspaces. We have concerns about this. We think that it should be possible to hold small community events (eg with no food or alcohol sales and no recorded music) on the Common without charge, and that this important principle should be included explicitly in the events policy.

7. On the control of noise, we note the amended wording requiring noise management plans to conform to best practice, and are content to accept the Council's judgement that this is the better way of ensuring noise management. We would however stress that this is an important topic. Noise levels need to be kept to a reasonable level, to avoid nuisance to other Commons users and to residents of surrounding areas.

8. On time limits, we have reservations about the additional provision.that "in exceptional circumstances this time limit [of 10pm] may be extended (e.g. for London Borough of Culture, New Years Eve or major international sporting events)". If this is to be included the text should emphasise that the provision would indeed only be used in very exceptional circumstances.
9. We welcome the additional provisions in the new policy on sustainability. However on the statement that "all event organisers will be required to make their events as sustainable as possible including waste reduction and recycling.....". we think the policy should also say more specifically that "All event organisers should ensure that litter is cleared from the site completely following the event." While we note the Council's comment that detailed requirements would be covered in the licence rather than this "overarching" policy, we think this is a sufficiently important point to be covered in this policy, which is a statement of intent by the Council as to how large events will be managed.
10. In this connection, we think the new policy should also state explicitly that:
- Any damage to the ground from an event should be made good by the event organiser, at their expense
 - Events will be appropriately policed to minimise any anti-social behaviour
 - Events should be appropriate to the character of the greenspace concerned, respecting its character
- While we note the Council's comment that detailed requirements would be covered in the licence rather than this 'overarching" policy, we think, similar to the previous paragraph, that these are sufficiently important points to be covered in this policy, as a statement of intent by the Council as to how large events will be managed.
11. In general, large events on Tooting Common are likely to generate considerable income. We think that at least a portion of this should be earmarked to finance maintenance and improvement work on the Common, including, for example, the current serious drainage problems. We think a statement to this effect should be included in the policy.
12. We think that the events policy should be reviewed regularly, including a public consultation, and that this should happen more frequently than the 11 year period of the existing policy. We suggest that the policy should say specifically that it will be reviewed, including a public consultation, every five to six years.

	<p>13. On ecological sites, we welcome the change of wording in this latest draft from “events shall not be located on any sites of specific ecological importance” to “events shall not be located on <u>or adjacent to</u> any sites of specific ecological importance whereby the footfall, noise or light could cause damage or disturbance to flora or fauna”.</p> <p>Friends of Tooting Common 9 May 2025</p>
Friends of Wandsworth Common	<p>This is a final comment from the Friends of Wandsworth Common.</p> <p>We have already submitted comments to the Environment Committee meeting on this subject (Feb 13) and have joined with the Wandsworth Common MAC in submitting comments on May 7.</p> <p>We have been receiving a good deal of email, social media and verbal feedback from our membership, as well as other users, since the consultation went live, and we held our AGM on May 6, at which this policy was discussed. We will aim to summarise the general topics that constitute the main reasons for objection that we have been given from a considerable number of people.</p> <p>The overwhelming view is of strong opposition to holding large events on Wandsworth Common, for the reasons stated in our joint submission of May 7. Some have given support for certain events, but none support very large events such as in category B & C.</p> <p>There is a strong view that the current and revised Events policy does not allow sufficient differentiation between different greenspaces. We note that there is a separate Events policy for Battersea Park, but to cover all other greenspaces in the same policy, whatever size or type, is utterly inappropriate, unless the document clearly acknowledges the different characteristics of each greenspace and makes provision within it for the handling of each one differently.</p> <p>Two of the three largest greenspaces covered by the Policy are commons, rather than parks, and these are of course covered by different legislation. That of itself argues for separate consideration of them in the Policy.</p> <p>More generally, to have the same options applying to different types and size of greenspace seems to be a major shortcoming in the Policy. This can be addressed by having subsections for each issue or greenspace, or an adapted separate policy for each greenspace.</p> <p>Even more importantly, the policy gives far too little acknowledgement of both the positive mental health attributes of greenspaces, especially commons, as vital places to connect with nature in an urban environment, and to their role as key habitat for</p>

wildlife and flora, providing essential biodiversity in our already strained, overused urban areas and polluted atmosphere. This is a glaring oversight and flies in the face of the Council's own environmental and sustainability strategy, the WESS.

We appreciate that the events policy was originally drawn up in 2014. Since then, awareness has grown hugely of the increasing impact of climate change and biodiversity loss, with the Council itself declaring a climate emergency. This argues for much greater weight to be given to these issues in 2025.

It was truly shocking to discover that a premises license does not allow account of these issues to be taken when granting a license. There are only four reasons to object on - none including any mention of the impact on biodiversity. Both the application for, and the objections process for, such applications needs urgent reassessment and correction! In the same way, this Events Policy must also take account of the parlous current state of our environment and biodiversity, and appropriately address these vital issues within it.

Many of us love a reasonably large event, such as the "proms in the park" in Battersea Park, but we have to balance this with the more profound needs of humans and the other living things that share space on Earth with us, which form the building blocks of our own existence.

Events don't have to be huge in order to provide a sense of community and enjoyment - the positive reasons given for holding Events. For example, we held an open public litter pick/ litter awareness event in 2021 under 'Love Parks' and our first ever dog show last year, both very helpfully supported by Enable.

Both events attracted a few hundred people and were enjoyed and appreciated. Both events, however, were used to inform and educate as well; the former being obvious, the latter about dog health, dog control and the terrible impact of dog flea treatment on the catastrophic effect on aquatic invertebrates. So behind an enjoyable community event of a very modest size, they also addressed how to improve the environment and other users' enjoyment of the green space.

There is plenty of scope to run multiple smallish events in each green space, relevant to that green space and the local population. Huge events attract people from far outside the Borough which surely is not required.

In terms of the size and frequency of events, there is a glaring contradiction in the Policy when it says that Category C events are to be regarded as 'extraordinary' and yet can occur up to four times in six months. Most people would not regard that as an accurate definition of 'extraordinary'. 'Extraordinary' to most of us would be a Royal funeral or Jubilee, winning the World Cup or Wimbledon etc - once in many

	<p>years, not several times a year.</p> <p>Both the Friends of Wandsworth Common and the MAC feel that neither category B nor C events are appropriate for Wandsworth Common.</p> <p>The largest events we can remember on Wandsworth Common (and including since 2014) are the annual Drakes funfair, Zippos Circus, our own litter awareness event in 2021, and, for the first time last year, the FoWC dog show. As you will be aware, both Drakes and Zippos have sometimes created ground damage issues, caused disruption to Common use, and come in for negative comment. Our view is that nothing larger than them should be considered. If that is the Council's intention too, as it seems to have been so far - since 2014 at least, we feel this should be made explicit in the Policy.</p> <p>Finally, we feel that the provision in the Policy simply to consult MACs and Friends groups falls far short of what is needed. It is not appropriate just to consult on damage limitation provisions, once an Event has been agreed by some remote committee. We would like to be consulted a priori about the types of events being considered, in a timely way, to influence the approval, or not, of the event. We are after all representing users, for whom these events are considered to be of benefit. We do appreciate that in the main, MACs and Friends' groups do not generally have huge numbers of young members, but our members are sensitive to environmental issues and therefore represent all those who understand the need to take care of the environment for future generations, rather than just "having a good time" at any expense. Surely this is something we in influential positions now all have to be responsible for.</p> <p>Best regards</p> <p>Julia Bott & Richard Fox Co-chairs Friends of Wandsworth Common</p>
Open Spaces Society	<p>WANDSWORTH COUNCIL EVENTS IN PARKS POLICY CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE OPEN SPACES SOCIETY</p> <p>The Open Spaces Society is concerned at the clear intention of Wandsworth Council to intensify the use of its parks, commons and open spaces for events.</p> <p>UNLAWFUL It is unclear that the Council has considered the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967 which places strict limits on the area of an open space that can be used for events.</p> <p>The idea that the Council or its agent or whoever should as proposed in the proposed policy be allowed to occupy the whole of an open space</p>

completely flouts the 10 per cent limit imposed by the Act (See Section 7). Any such contravention, exceeding the 10 per cent cap, would be entirely unlawful.

Further nothing is said about the proceeds or profits from the holding of events. This is a major gap in the policy. We have seen recently that a company called Enable who work for Wandsworth Council is to be allowed to use any profits from an event on Tooting Bec Common for its own activities generally, and not just in Wandsworth but further afield.

The Council holds the common in trust on behalf of the public and is therefore not permitted to raise revenue from that or any other open space for its general purposes, and the same should apply even more so to a company working with or for the council. The position has been taken by Haringey Council in relation to revenues from Finsbury Park that all such funds are directed to that park, in accordance with the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The event on Tooting Bec Common is not a one off. It has been described by representatives of the Council to be a pilot for further and larger events.

WEAKENING OF PROTECTION. The proposed changes introduce further weakening of the protection afforded to the borough's open spaces. The upper limit of 10,000 attendees is removed while the extension of the periods during which events can be held into the winter months risks causing increased damage or risk of damage.

It is further stated that where an upper limit is set for an event that signifies the capacity at any one time and not the number of attendees. So that if an event has a limit of 10,000 it can mean far higher numbers attending throughout the course of each day of an event.

The apparent protections afforded to the land are extremely vague and far from adequate. Locally we have seen the devastation of Brockwell Park, Clapham Common and Streatham Common as a result of events being held, set up or derigged during wet weather.

These open spaces are in an adjacent borough but one which on paper has all sorts of protocols and protections designed to protect the ground and biodiversity. And yet we have seen, despite all the promises and assurances, these places repeatedly trashed leading to the progressive degradation of the ground which never fully recovers. In one instance a huge area of Clapham Common had to be closed off and the public excluded for more than six months in an attempt to restore the land to a decent condition. And even after all that the ground is still in a damaged state.

There is nothing in the Wandsworth policy that provides any assurance that similar will not happen in the borough, including for example how

	<p>the Council proposes to determine accurately the state of the ground before and after an event so that any damages can be put right – that is if they are capable of being rectified – at the expense of the event operator.</p> <p>EXTENSION OF EVENTS. The policy lacks any consideration of what areas of an open space can be used for an event, except that such use should not be on or next to a site of “special ecological importance”. The policy should state that events can only be held on a site or sites that have been agreed as being appropriate for events, and are so described in the Management and Maintenance Plan for the open space. The Council or its agent should not be allowed to unilaterally determine where it wants to hold events. Each open space should have established for it where events can be held, as agreed with relevant local stakeholders, users of the open space and local residents.</p> <p>Jeremy Clyne Open Spaces Society Local Correspondent for Lambeth and Wandsworth May 12 2025</p>
Toastrack Residents Association	<p>I am writing on behalf of The Toastrack Residents Association - we represent over 170 households. The vast majority of these households enjoy using the Common, particularly Bellevue Fields, most days of the year. We strongly believe that Bellevue Fields should not be used for any public events (aside small local events, such as the dog show, which have been previously consulted upon with community stakeholders) for the following reasons:</p> <p>1 It is Common land - Wandsworth Common is Common land which should not be fenced off for private/commercial events (John Buckmaster - The Common is for Commoners, not stakeholders). The Wandsworth Common Management plan (produced in ‘close partnership with WBC and Enable’) refers to the Common as ‘a highly valued area of open green space for both people and wildlife... reflected in its designation as a Grade 1 Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation’</p> <p>2 Lack of public support - there is no evidence that local users want more events on our public spaces; and there is no evidence that there was a public consultation when the previous administration introduced the previous policy. The level of local objection to the recent ‘mistaken’ public consultation clearly demonstrated that there is no appetite for larger events. This is not the space for up to 23 p.a. one to three day (excluding ‘set up days’) events (which the Council is proposing may be on consecutive weekends, thereby potentially depriving local users of access on a regular basis) involving alcohol and music with up to 10,000 attendees at any one time. (It is noted that the new Council policy is proposing that entire day attendance may be significantly greater)</p> <p>3 Quiet enjoyment - local users and residents highly value the area for enjoying nature and leisure (walking, sports, bird watching, dog walking,</p>

	<p>sunbathing etc) and not as a venue for events. It provides a haven with 'countryside' feel for many, essential for their health and well being, including mental health</p> <p>4 Concern for the environment and ecology - preservation of the diverse range of flora and fauna (including bats) in the area which would be adversely affected by introducing large numbers of people and their light and noise pollution and litter. Similarly the wide range of species in and around the ponds which require protection</p> <p>5 Lack of local infrastructure - Bellevue Fields is a small area of land proximate to local residents and lacking the necessary infrastructure (eg space to park) to host large scale events. Any such events will necessitate parked vehicles on the Common and on surrounding residential roads (which the Council has no power to prevent). (It is noted that the new Council policy is proposing that events may continue after 10pm if 'agreed through a premises licence or temporary event notice' - unacceptable!)</p> <p>6 Risk of long term damage and crime - previous events such as the Zippos Circus debacle of May 2024 and the effects of large number of young people gathering on the Fields during 2020 Covid lockdowns (albeit unlicensed and unregulated) - rubbish, drug paraphernalia, noise, human excrement - meant that the area could not be fully enjoyed by local people during and for a disproportionate period of time thereafter. (It is noted that the new Council policy is even proposing that grassed areas may be used between 30 September and 1 April which would clearly risk further damage)</p> <p>7 Historic (and continuing?) failure to obtain DEFRA/S38 common land consent - 'A person may not, except with the consent of the appropriate national authority, carry out any restricted works on land to which this section applies.. works which have the effect of preventing or impeding access to or over any land to which this section applies</p> <p>8 Lack of public consultation/Council refusal to hold a public meeting - despite repeated requests to arrange meetings with local residents to discuss the consultation, this 'listening Council' has refused to engage in proper debate with the wider public. After the withdrawal of the premises licence applications earlier in the year, Enable said they would be 'prioritising residents' voices and feedback' but this has not happened. And there have no notices on the Common publicising the consultation until two days ago - and even then so hastily printed that the notices contain typos...</p> <p>What happened to the 2022 manifesto statement 'Parks are for people, not corporate events'?</p> <p>Bellevue Fields is unsuitable for the large scale events envisaged which</p>
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	<p>take place, and are more suited for, in Battersea Park and on Clapham Common which have a long history of hosting such. This Common land should not be fenced off for private/commercial events pursuant to a policy introduced by a previous administration without public consultation. That policy should now be revisited and revoked</p> <p>Susan Howard, Chair, Toastrack Residents Association</p>
<p>Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</p>	<p><u>Additional response from the Tooting Commons Management Advisory Committee</u></p> <p><u>In addition to our online survey</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p><u>1. Clear assessment of benefits and risks</u></p> <p>Events need to be assessed against a public benefit principle, whereby access to these spaces by commercial events should start from the principle of no loss of access or enjoyment. The use of public green spaces for commercial events should not be seen as a right and it needs to be recognised that using a public asset for a private commercial benefit is a privilege. There needs to be clear and demonstrable evidence of the benefits of events as well as assessment of risks.</p> <p><u>2. Greater transparency about income generated and using it for the benefit of green spaces</u></p> <p>One difficulty is how to judge the economics of holding events. There is an argument that income from large-scale events may help support smaller, more community focussed events, but this needs further evidence. Surplus revenue from events should be spent on green spaces and dedicated amenities through a Park Investment Levy. (E.g. for Clapham Common, 21% of the total hire fees for each event are allocated for reinvestment in the Common.) In this context, we draw attention to the statement by Haringey Council that the Council spends all income generated from events held in Finsbury Park on Finsbury Park, which the Council states is in line with the Open Spaces Act 1906. The cost of any significant damage arising from events needs to be factored into an environmental impact fee to be charged to organisers of events if required.</p> <p><u>3. Ensuring more user engagement in determining safety management plans</u></p> <p>Residents' rights, needs and safety must form a fundamental part of the events policy as well as the dedicated safety management plans for individual events. MACs and Friends groups need to play a full part in determining these safety plans at a formative stage. One key issue will also be how the events plan will be checked and enforced by the council.</p> <p><u>4. Post-event consultation and evaluation for larger events</u></p> <p>For larger events, a formal evaluation exercise should be conducted after each event, including obtaining the views of local residents and users of</p>

	<p>the Common impacted by the event, as well as views of those who attended the event.</p> <p>Tim Whitaker Vice Chair TCMAC 6th May 2025</p>
Wandsworth Common Local Conservative Action Team	<p>Our local parks and commons are a hugely important part of our local community for all to enjoy.</p> <p>Wandsworth Common is the reason many of us enjoy living here. It's a peaceful escape from noise into nature. It's concerning that, instead of protecting the Common, the new events policy leans towards using it for large commercial events and concerts. The withdrawn licensing application for 23 events with alcohol and loud music, at both the northern and southern ends of the Common, was widely opposed by our residents.</p> <p>The Events in Park policy appears to be a second attempt to commercialise Wandsworth Common. It removes important protections for our parks and commons.</p> <p>We oppose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter Usage of Grass Areas: Allowing events on grass areas during winter (30th September to 1st April) significantly increases the risk of long-term damage to our parks and commons. The grass and soil conditions in winter are particularly susceptible to severe damage, leading to reduced amenity value for residents and higher restoration costs. 2. Removal of Sports Pitch Protection: Scrapping protections that ensure sports pitches remain operational compromises community sports and recreational opportunities. Sports pitches are essential local amenities, promoting community health and well-being. Their maintenance should be prioritized. 3. Lifting of the 10pm Event Time Limit: Removing the existing 10pm cut-off will cause unnecessary noise and disturbance late into the night, severely impacting the quality of life for nearby residents. Retaining the 10pm limit strikes a fair balance between events and community interests. 4. Permitting Back-to-Back Weekend Events: Allowing consecutive weekend events on the same ground denies residents consistent and reliable access to their local parks and commons. This policy change risks turning valued community spaces into semi-permanent event venues, diminishing their intended public benefit. It also further risks damaging the ground, giving grass insufficient time to recover. 5. Exclusion of Set-Up and Take-Down Periods from Event Days: Excluding preparation and removal days from the count of event days effectively lengthens periods during which parks are

	<p>inaccessible to the public. Transparency is essential, and all event-related days should be explicitly counted to avoid misleading the public.</p> <p>6. Removal of the 75db Noise Limit: Removing noise restrictions without proposing an alternative measure increases the risk of disruptive and excessive noise pollution. A clear and enforceable noise limit protects the health and well-being of local residents and ensures events do not negatively impact residential areas.</p> <p>We support small community events, which have always been run on the Common. What is proposed goes far beyond those traditional events, threatening residents' access to and enjoyment of our open spaces.</p> <p>This case has been made in some detail by both the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee(MAC) and the Friends of Wandsworth Common (FOWC). We support their submission.</p> <p>Likewise, we agree with the Toastrack Resident's Association (TRA) that the Council should provide the opportunity for all key stakeholders to have their say through a public meeting for local residents and park users. This would allow them an opportunity to give their views, raise concerns and get answers to their questions.</p> <p>We must protect what is special about Wandsworth Common.</p> <p>Cllr. Angela Graham Cllr. Peter Graham Tom Mytton & Cllr. Rosemary Birchall</p> <p>Wandsworth Common local Conservative Action Team</p>
Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee & Friends of Wandsworth Common	<p><u>The Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (WC MAC) and Friends of Wandsworth Common (FoWC) response to the Draft 'Events in Parks Policy' of Wandsworth Council</u></p> <p>We are grateful to have the opportunity of being able to respond in detail to the draft Events in Parks Policy being proposed by Wandsworth Borough Council</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (WC MAC) and Friends of Wandsworth Common (FoWC) support the use of Wandsworth Common ("the Common") for events in principle, as long as they are of a suitable type, nature, size and frequency for the Common, but do not consider that Category B or C events should be permitted on the Common under the Council's revised policy.</p>

	<p>Wandsworth Common is a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (Grade I). It is a Common, not a park, and does not, therefore, exist primarily as an entertainment venue, but rather as land for the enjoyment of users, in urban areas, in lieu of the countryside.</p> <p>The physical and mental health benefits of green spaces are well documented, and the provision of such should be of the highest priority for the health and well-being of the borough's residents, as well as an important habitat for a large variety of everincreasingly threatened flora and fauna.</p> <p>Holding events of the size of Category B or C, with the associated set-up and takedown, would, we believe, be disproportionately damaging to the unique environment of the Common. Unlike Battersea Park, the Common has no infrastructure to support large-scale events</p> <p>Further, to safeguard the nature of the Common and the users of the Common, we feel strongly that the WC MAC and FoWC should be consulted on all proposed events before they are confirmed, and not just to give input into the environmental and social impact of proposed events</p>
Wandsworth Council Conservative Group	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the proposed Open Spaces Events Policy. Having attempted to amend the policy at the Environment Committee and challenge the changes to the policy at Full Council, the Wandsworth Conservatives Council Group now strongly oppose the changes proposed by the Administration for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter Usage of Grass Areas: Allowing events on grass areas during winter (30th September to 1st April) significantly increases the risk of long-term damage to our parks and commons. The grass and soil conditions in winter are particularly susceptible to severe damage, leading to reduced amenity value for residents and higher restoration costs. 2. Removal of Sports Pitch Protection: Scrapping protections that ensure sports pitches remain operational compromises community sports and recreational opportunities. Sports pitches are essential local amenities, promoting community health and well-being. Their maintenance should be prioritized. 3. Lifting of the 10pm Event Time Limit: Removing the existing 10pm cut-off will cause unnecessary noise and disturbance late into the night, severely impacting the quality of life for nearby residents. Retaining the 10pm limit strikes a fair balance between events and community interests. 4. Permitting Back-to-Back Weekend Events: Allowing consecutive weekend events on the same ground denies residents consistent and reliable access to their local parks and commons. This policy change risks turning valued community spaces into semi-permanent event venues, diminishing their intended public

	<p>benefit. It also further risks damaging the ground, giving grass insufficient time to recover.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Exclusion of Set-Up and Take-Down Periods from Event Days: Excluding preparation and removal days from the count of event days effectively lengthens periods during which parks are inaccessible to the public. Transparency is essential, and all event-related days should be explicitly counted to avoid misleading the public. 6. Removal of the 75db Noise Limit: Removing noise restrictions without proposing an alternative measure increases the risk of disruptive and excessive noise pollution. A clear and enforceable noise limit protects the health and well-being of local residents and ensures events do not negatively impact residential areas. <p>Additionally, we strongly oppose the application of a Battersea Park-style event policy across other parks and commons of the Borough. Battersea Park is rightly managed under a separate policy due to its unique characteristics and infrastructure. The rest of the Borough's open spaces should not be subjected to the same intensive use.</p> <p>We support the detailed points made by the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (WC MAC) and Friends of Wandsworth Common (FoWC). Specifically, we agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wandsworth Common, as a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation, is not suitable for Category B or C events due to the disproportionate ecological damage they would cause, especially considering the absence of infrastructure to support such events. • The Management Advisory Committees (MACs) and Friends groups should be fully consulted prior to event confirmation, not just on mitigation measures after licensing consultations. • The potential social impacts, including increased antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse, and inadequate security and public transport provisions, are significant concerns that have not been adequately addressed by the proposed policy. • All designated event sites should undergo pre-event inspections, have clear cancellation policies if unsuitable conditions are detected, and require event organizers to provide a bond against potential damage. <p>We urge the Administration to reconsider these proposals and maintain the sensible protections from the 2014 policy. Parks, commons, and open spaces must be safeguarded as community assets, balancing the benefits of events with essential protections for residents' quality of life and environmental preservation. We also note that the friends of the parks groups and the MACs also oppose these changes to the policy.</p>
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Wandsworth Liberal Democrats	<p>Dear Events Consultation Team,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the Wandsworth Liberal Democrats to formally respond to the public consultation on the Council's draft Events in Parks Policy. While we welcome the opportunity for residents to share their views, we are disappointed by the lack of transparency and meaningful engagement that has accompanied this process.</p> <p>Over the past two weeks, we have engaged with residents across the borough and launched a petition calling for the Council to pause and explain this policy before proceeding further. In that short time, nearly 150 residents have signed, many of them expressing frustration at the lack of information and consultation. Their names and postcodes are included below as part of this submission.</p> <p>You can view the petition online here: https://www.wandsworthlibdems.uk/campaigns/events-policy</p> <p>Summary of Concerns</p> <p>While we support the principle of a clear, modern framework for events in Wandsworth's parks and open spaces, the current draft raises serious concerns:</p> <p>1. Lack of transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No clear list of which parks are affected, nor park-specific examples. • No published financial or economic impact assessment to support proposals for increased commercialisation. • No explanation of how noise, environmental disruption, or late-night events will be meaningfully regulated. <p>2. No real public engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no in-person public meetings or drop-ins where residents can ask questions or speak directly to officers. • The consultation has relied entirely on a static online survey and an FAQ document that was updated late in the process. • Many residents, particularly older or less digitally confident individuals, have been left without a meaningful route to participate. <p>3. Ambiguity in key policy areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not clearly defined what constitutes an "event" — the proposed threshold of 30 people is highly ambiguous and may unintentionally capture casual community gatherings. • Sound limits are referenced in terms of best practice, but no concrete standards or enforcement processes are set out.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy gives delegated authority to officers for decisions such as allowing events beyond 10pm, without setting out the criteria or public accountability mechanisms. <p>4. Wider context of concern</p> <p>This consultation comes just days after the Mayor of London announced plans to relax protections on Green Belt land — a shift in Labour Party thinking that is mirrored in Wandsworth’s increasing view of public land as a revenue stream rather than a shared civic space. This trend deserves public scrutiny.</p> <p>Our Proposal</p> <p>We urge the Council to pause the current policy process and commit to the following reasonable steps before any adoption or decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish full supporting documentation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A list of affected parks and expected impact by location ○ A financial and environmental impact assessment ○ Clarified definitions and criteria for event categories and regulation 2. Hold at least one public meeting in each major area of the borough (e.g. Putney, Tooting, Battersea, Roehampton) where residents can ask questions, hear from officers, and engage in open discussion. 3. Extend the consultation period to allow genuine, inclusive public participation based on the above. <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Residents want their parks to be well used — but also well protected, shared fairly, and managed transparently. On a matter like this, the Council should not be seen to be imposing policy without full disclosure and democratic engagement.</p> <p>We urge Wandsworth Council to treat this as an opportunity to rebuild public trust and model the best in local government practice — not the minimum required to tick the box of consultation.</p> <p>Please find attached the list of petition signatories with their postcodes. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further and look forward to a response confirming next steps.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Francis Chubb Chair, Wandsworth Liberal Democrats chair@wandsworthlibdems.uk</p>
Wandsworth Society	Wandsworth Society

Consultation Response: Events Policy for Borough's Parks, Commons and Open Spaces
May 2025

It is not without interest that the two images on the webpage introduction to the Events in Parks Policy Consultation are both views that demonstrate the value of the borough's parks and commons as green, natural spaces.

We support the objectives for events in open spaces set out in the revised draft policy (Paper 25-53 item 9, numbered for reference):

- i. Minimise, mitigate, and manage the impact on the environment and wildlife in our parks, commons and open spaces and surrounding areas.
- ii. Ensure events in parks, commons and open spaces contribute to making Wandsworth a fairer, more compassionate, and more sustainable place.
- iii. Establish a diverse and varied events programme across the borough.
- iv. Encourage events that have strong community benefit and engagement and increase accessibility.
- v. Ensure good practice and legal compliance in all aspects of event management.
- vi. Ensure that the number of events permitted is sustainable.
- vii. Ensure that event design, location and management minimise the disruption to users and the local area, with public safety being a priority.
- viii. Ensure meaningful engagement and communication with key stakeholders.
- ix. Maximise opportunities to generate income to invest in culture, arts, and events.

We have not canvassed our membership on the consultation but are confident they would strongly support:

- the underlying principle of item one to protect the natural environment of open spaces, and
- the concern in item seven to minimise the disruption arising from events to users and the local area.

and strongly object

- to item nine, on the basis that open spaces should not be considered as resources to be exploited for income, they should be considered first and foremost as green, open spaces.

We agree that public events can generate significant public benefits, but we believe the overarching benefit of the public open spaces in our area of interest, King George's Park and Wandsworth Common, is that they are natural environments for quiet enjoyment, very much contributing to Wandsworth being a compassionate, sustainable place.

	<p>We believe the Events Policy should limit the size and frequency of events separately for each open space in the borough : as the level and number of events appropriate for each area will be determined by their distinct potentials and limitations.</p> <p>We consider that Category B or C events are inappropriate for Wandsworth Common and request that the Events Policy should specifically prohibit such events on the common. We believe that Category C events would be inappropriate for King George’s Park and should be prohibited in the Events Policy and that Category B events should be limited to no more than two events in any six-month period.</p> <p>We support the response to the consultation submitted by the Wandsworth Common MAC and the Friends of Wandsworth Common, and trust they will be consulted as key stakeholders, as per item eight, on applications for events.</p> <p>12 May 2025</p>
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Appendix E: Results Tables

In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?		
Response	Number of respondents to this question	Percentage of respondents to this question
I live in the local area	820	98.4%
I'm responding on behalf of a local group or organisation	4	0.5%
I work/study in the local area	4	0.5%
I commute through the local area	3	0.4%
I have a business in the local area	1	0.1%
None of the above / other	1	0.1%

How do you usually use local parks and open spaces?		
Response	Number of respondents to this question	Percentage of all survey respondents
Walking	809	97%
Spending time enjoying nature	740	89%
Relaxing/socialising	657	79%
Playing sports or doing physical exercise	473	57%
Dog walking	360	43%
Attending events	79	9%
None of the above	2	0.2%
Other reason:	75	9%

NB Respondents were able to select more than one option, so percentages add up to more than 100

What kind of events would you be interested in attending in our parks, open spaces and commons?		
Response	Number of respondents to this question	Percentage of all survey respondents
Organised runs, walks and other physical activity events	296	36%
Markets, for example vintage, food or seasonal markets, including at Christmas	232	28%
Community events	230	28%
Theatre performances, including open air or in a tent	203	24%
Food festivals	202	24%
Outdoor cinema	195	23%

Outdoor sports screening during major events like the World Cup, Olympic Games, or Wimbledon	149	18%
Concerts	116	14%
Funfairs	56	7%
Circus	52	6%
Dance events, including salsa, swing, or silent disco	41	5%
Other, please specify:	131	16%

NB Respondents were able to select more than one option, so percentages add up to more than 100