

The Brixton Society

Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

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TEMPORARY USE OF PART OF BROCKWELL PARK FOR BROCKWELL LIVE EVENTS YOUR REF 25/00693/RG3 - OBJECTION

I write on behalf of the Brixton Society. We urge you to reject the application on two grounds.

1. The supposed community benefit offered by the applicants does not provide adequate compensation for the loss of public open space provided by Brockwell Park during the early summer

The applicants claim that their proposals are supported by Lambeth Local Plan Policy ED13 Part E. This relates to alternative temporary uses open of open spaces for performances and says that these may be supported subject to the nature of the proposed activity. The applicants refer to this and claim that the loss of public amenity in the park will be balanced by compensating community benefits. We disagree with this claim as we agree with many other objectors that the benefits claimed do not outweigh the harms.

This application, if approved, would involve fencing off 30% of the Park for five weeks during the early summer, preventing local people from enjoying the park. The area to be fenced off includes grassed areas used by families for picnicking, games and sunbathing, as well as by local youth football teams. The timing of the event in early summer means that damage to the grass will not be made good until the autumn growing season, extending the time when parts of the park will not be accessible to local people. The very considerable loss of public amenity that this would entail must be balanced by an appropriate range of community benefits which can be enjoyed by local people who have lost an existing free benefit.

The proposals do not provide this level of benefits. Brockwell Live will consist of a series of paid-for commercial music events and fails to provide an appropriate range of alternative compensating benefits to park users. In previous years the programme of summer events included the Lambeth Country Show and Brockwell Bounce, a free day of "family friendly" activities. The 2026 Brockwell Live programme does not include any family days or free events and is made up exclusively of commercial music events with ticket prices which are unlikely to be affordable for local residents on low or average incomes (for example, a two day ticket for the Mighty Hoopla event costs £159.60 per adult with no child reduction).

In previous years the Lambeth Country Show benefitted from the infrastructure provided by the Brockwell Live summer programme, with an in kind value of £800k, in effect a compensation for the

loss of amenity. The Lambeth Country Show will not take place in 2026, with the loss of this in kind benefit.

2. Damage caused to the natural environment of the Park, in conflict with Local Plan Policy EN1 which requires that damage to natural vegetation or habitat is made good after events.

Brockwell Park is an area of with a high level of natural bio diversity, including trees, shrubs, wild flowers, bats and birds. Any programme of events in the Park must include proposals to restore the Park to its previous excellent condition.

This was not achieved after the 2024 and 2025 summer event programmes and, on that basis, we consider that this is unlikely to be achieved if the 2026 programme is approved

As has been observed in previous years, the construction of the hard structures required for the Brockwell Live events resulted in compaction damage to grass and the roots of trees and shrubs. Attempts were made in 2024 and 2025 to reseed areas where grass roots had been destroyed. However, this has not fully restored the grassed areas affected – in late December 2025 after wet autumn we observed that the grass cover was thin and patchy with bare areas of soil. The restored grass areas also lacked the range of wild plants and flowers which can be observed in other grass areas in the park and as a result was noticeably less visited by birds and flying insects.

The timing of the event in late spring and early summer, with associated noise and bright light, is likely to cause disturbance to birds and bats during the breeding season, and this disturbance is likely to be cumulative if events are repeated over successive year.

If the 2026 Brockwell Live programme is approved, with no fallow year as at Glastonbury, then it is likely that the damage to the park will be cumulative with further loss of biodiversity across the section of the Park used for summer events.

Yours sincerely

Vivienne Lewis
For the Brixton Society