

**From:** Charlotte Gilsean <[Charlotte@bost.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte@bost.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** Regen, Licensing <[Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Response to objections - licence to hold Bankside Open Spaces Festival

Dear Licensing Team

I am writing in response to the four objection letters received regarding the Bankside Open Spaces Festival to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.

### **Anniversary of the London Bridge Attack**

The event is designed to bring the community together. We were planning to cancel our first event of this kind as it was just after the Borough Market attacks but the community expressed the need and desire to bring the community back together, so the first event was launched.

Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST) has consulted with key stakeholders within the community regarding the date including the Dean of Southwark Cathedral, the CEO of Borough Market, Ward Councillors - Adele Morris, David Noakes and Victor Chamberlain, Better Bankside, United St Saviours Charity and the London Venue Group. Borough Market are keen to be involved in the event and have no concerns about the date. They are fully supportive of the memorial service at the Cathedral and the event happening on the same day. Traders from Borough Market have been invited to have a stall at the event and they have been offered a stall to enable them to get responses to their survey supporting their Strategic Plan around working in the community. The Dean of Southwark Cathedral believes the Bankside Open Spaces Festival and the Memorial Service and events can co-exist throughout the day. There is an event happening at the Mosque at 1pm and at the Cathedral at 2pm along with a Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving at St Pauls Cathedral in the morning.

Feedback from previous events included:

- 82% agreed the event brought the community together/made the community more connected or integrated, felt it showcased what's great about the local area and helped to get people out and about/into open spaces
- 85% agreed the event contributed to this being a fun place to live/work/visit
- 85% felt the event had changed their mood for the better

*"Fantastic way to bring the community together. Excellent."*

### **2020 event attendee**

#### **The Protection of Children from Harm, unnecessary number of licensed alcohol selling vendors**

The Bankside Open Spaces Festival is designed as a family event with free sports activities and a whole host of other events for young people to actively participate. Local vendors have been invited as the licensed alcohol vendors at the event. The festival bars will be managed by an experienced bar provider and be the Designated Premises Supervisor for the sale of alcohol, holding the required personal licence and will follow the Challenge 25 Scheme. We have a security firm in place with robust plans, including a clear dispersal policy to ensure the event ends smoothly with no negative impact on the local community. Our activities on the streets and in the parks will all end by 9pm at the latest, with many activities ending earlier to reduce the disturbance to our neighbours and to ensure a staggered end to the festival. This will help filter visitors away as the event winds down.

**The prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, potential for a terrorist attack.**

BOST have secured a security team from CSS Security Solutions to work with us on the event. This includes 22 x sia security officers, we will add to this if necessary. Our security team from CSS Security Solutions works closely with our event team and volunteers on the day, if we feel we don't have enough volunteers to safely support the security team we will increase security personnel. We have worked with CSS since we first ran the event in 2017.

Every year our security team studies and mitigates the risk of an attack, we have a hostile vehicle management plan, an evacuation and fire exit plan, a crowd egress plan and the overall security plan. All security staff, event staff and volunteers are briefed on these. We will have an event manager, a security manager and a site manager in place on the day to ensure oversight of the festival and to coordinate responses to any potential issues.

Our Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Plan states:

On each of the traffic management order locations closures we will have chicane positioned pedestrian control barriers in a row of three with 2 metres between each row spanning the width of the road. These barriers will be controlled by static permanent SIA security

**Date of application**

The date has been corrected and posters revised and placed within the local area

**Estimated numbers attending**

The estimated numbers have been provided by the security team from our previous events. The festival is a local event and will be advertised in local papers, local schools and households. We do not spend money on advertising the event to the wider, non local audience.

**Engagement with the local community**

We have had impressive support from the local community regarding our previous events and at our last festival:

- 100% thought that the organisation of the event was either excellent or good with 93% thinking the running of it was excellent.
- 66% thought the event atmosphere and quality of programme were excellent, with the remainder thinking it was good.
- 94% of respondents said they thought the programme was great

Comments included many calls for more events including:

*"The kids stuff is brilliant, the walking football was outstanding. I liked seeing the choir really enjoying themselves and getting out and doing music. It was great."*

*"Glad we came. Made me feel part of the community now. Wished there's more to do and more selections for activity/food stalls :-)"*

*"This is the friendliest event I've been to for ages"*

*"Would like events like this more often. Want to meet community as working parents. Have met new people today."*

*"Thank you for providing such a wonderful open space for us to enjoy"*

*"The event is collaborative, fun and brings a sense of cohesion. The community were very happy to be pleased to be involved whether as a participant or from the audience or an organisation. Well done to all those who worked to make this event happen."*

*"It was such a great event, and lovely to meet people in the community I live in that I never met before. Some people have felt isolated for a long time and having event like this lifted the community spirit."*

*"The festival was amazing. It brought the community together both young and old and was great to see lots of support for local businesses. Hope there can be more of this event in the future."*

*"The variety and the quality wasn't all about polished well practiced professionals delivering what ever they do. It was about local people including people that have moved to the area and have become integral to the community, showcasing exactly what the local area is made up of and how brilliant it is."*

### **The Great Get Together Event**

During the pandemic our parks and green spaces were a sanctuary for our community – offering a safe space to exercise and latterly to meet up with friends and family. In 2021, as restrictions eased we were keen to celebrate how vital open spaces had been and to bring our community together again safely. We kept the spirit of the Great Get Together but changed the name to reflect our work and the spaces that make Bankside so special. We have made the decision to continue the event as the Bankside Open Spaces Festival following on from the success of our 2020 event and the community's reaction to it.

### **Platinum Jubilee**

We are working in partnership with a whole host of organisations with community groups having a stall, performing or running an activity on the day. These include Blackfriars Settlement, Southwark Fostering Service, Community Southwark, The Old Operating Theatre, Borough Belles Women's Institute, UDM Samba, stages programmed by Danny Decourtelle (previously of super Glad music at The Gladstone pub SE1), Better Bankside and many more. We are talking to previous contributors and ensuring people are aware of the event are able to share feedback with us.

We have received in kind support from local graphic designers Above+Beyond to help communicate the event to our community.

The festival is always a collaborative and open event with free activities for all ages, we look forward to working with our community on this upbeat and inclusive festival again in 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind regards

Charlotte Gilsenan

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