Omojomolo, Alex

From:

12 June 2010 21:37

Sent:

To:

Regen, Licensing

Cc:

Subject: Thames Festival licence applications

Dear Sir / Madam,

k, we would As local residents and also the board representing the residents of object to the Thames Festival licence applications as they stand.

We are particular concerned about the blanket application until 22:00 on both Saturday and Sunday evenings for a whole range of activities both indoors and outdoors. If Thames festival organisers had specific programmes in mind, they might perhaps consider involving and speaking to the relevant local residents to see if any particular concerns can be mitigated, and any compromise found.

Live music, dancing and films performed outdoors would mean serious noise pollution for local residents at Benbow House, 20 New Globe Walk and along Bankside e.g. at Provost's Lodging during their day of rest. Local residents had suffered from loud amplification / amplifier speakers used before at unacceptable sound levels and continously for many hours, and query if they are really necessary for live music and the enjoyment of the audience.

The organisers should be sensitive to this section of the river given the high residential density as compared with other sections with more officers. Sunday evening is also particularly inappropriate for events such as this, as local residents do live here and are entitled to rest especially after a noisy Saturday, before work on monday. Weekend evening (i.e. Saturday) is perhaps more understandable. We would propose restrictions on the type of activities (especially outdoors) and shorter operating hours (especially on Sunday) for the residential sections of the Thames. These events could potentially be arranged in front of offices along the Thames, minimising the impact on local residents.

As well as the actual festival, please be mindful that there will be set up and deliveries required before and after. Bankside section of the thames has already reached saturation point, with severe congestion and noise pollution with delivery trucks and traffic.

Finally we hope that the police, fire services, traffic section have all been consulted on public safety as we understand that there were serious safety issues in previous year given the sheer number of people who attended.

To reiterate, we object to the blanket applications as they currently stand, allowing the organisers the freedom to arrange films, music and dance outdoors, potentially with amplification, for 10 continuous hours on both Saturday and Sunday with no consideration for the quiet weekend rest of local residents. We find the current applications unacceptable and would push for appropriate restrictions to be placed in the licences.

Yours sincerely,



Omojomolo, Alex

PARTYB

From:

Sent:

06 June 2010 17:46

To:

Regen, Licensing

Cc:

Subject: Thames festival

6 June 2010 Dear Sir/Madam,

As a local resident at following license applications, for the following reasons:

1. That the expected number of people is termed 'not applicable'. The number of people has been rising over the last years and create an increasing hazard in terms of public safety. Last years Thames festival a visitor was trapped in such a crush of people under Blackfriars Bridge that they were unable to move for 6 minutes. Their comment made was that if anyone had shouted 'bomb' people could only have been trampled in the ensuing panic. The same applied under Southwark Bridge, despite the efforts of stewards to create one way systems on and off the bridge for access to the food on the bridge.

2. The area included in these applications, together with the OXO tower, is the only residential section of the river front included in the Thames Festival. I object to the use of this area for such noisy activiteies. Please could you move these to a business section of the river front that will be less used at weekends.

3. That the application includes 6 applications for music, plus two for film and plays which could be noisy. This creates serious noise pollution for a minimum of 10 hours per day, with additional problems with preparation and setup. I include a copy of the email sent to the Tate Community Garden Steering Group after the last Thames Festival.

Yours sincerely

Dear Steering Group

I am unable to come to the next meting because my husband, Colin, has had major heart surgery and I am taking him away to convalesce. The Garden has been a great benefit these last weeks for us - and walking practice! Please could I bring two things up for discussion. They are related.

1. For the Thames Festival weekend Tate agreed or planned that there was a fire fest on the north-side, brought by some French artists. It was very good. With it, I suppose inevitably were two band stands. Round one I counted 15 amplifier speakers - I didn't count the other. Not counting the set up and practice times, these played for 9 hours on both Saturday and Sunday, I was told the sound was 'within the guidelines'. The noise was indescribably awful and extremely loud. This is inside our house let alone in the garden.

2. Three weeks ago I rang the City of London Police Community Officer, Rosamunde Sweet, to asked what might be done about the busking on the Millennium Foot Bridge adjacent to the Tate.[Given Colin was due out of hospital soon for convalescence] She asked me to ring her number when the busking was occurring and they would send someone to them. I rang on Monday at 12md when the drummer arrives. They asked him to move. I rang again 1/2 hour later when he was back, and he was removed, and repeated the same 1/2 hour after that. I rang in the same rhythm on tuesday and wednesday. On thursday I asked to speak to Rosamunde again , which I eventually did last week. So far the result is that under Section 12.... the bridge is not a public highway of the City of London so they cannot prosecute. I could write to the environment officer. I should not go to the busker myself as he can be very aggressive.

Busking when one walks past is quite fun, when you live with it 5 to 8 plus hours a day or go the the garden for some peace, it is not quite the same. Planning 9 hours of very loud music of a particular variety, is also questionable in its community effect.

Music is wonderful, healing, and should be encouraged. If it is well played people will come and listen. Only those who play badly or intrusively demand that people have to listen to them, whether they like it or not, and need amplification. As there is presently discussion in the council about trading and busking sites along the north-side, I think this is a suitable time to ask the Steering Group to consider whether they might want to respond, either proactively, by asking Tate to take some part in this problem [the Tate security does not get involved], or retro -actively after sites have already been approved. The end of the bridge is a particular problem, sound is reflected off the Tate and it is in line with the gardens. Its status seems ambiguous, it was given to the City by the trustees when finished, so Southwark Council and Better Bankside are actually not allowed to police it. The City clearly finds its status a nuisance for their police when buskers are so recidivist.

Thank you for considering this. I hope I can be with you next time.