
From:
Sent: 09 May 2016 21:02
To: Graham Callister;
Cc:
Subject: Re: Re Furious Folly WW1 presentation in Sutton Park, 8-9 July 2016

Dear Graham,

Thank you for your email in the hope of putting to rest my specific concerns with regard to your proposed event in Sutton Park.

I have read your comments however still have concerns with regard to this proposed event.

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

You have referred to security at the event, however you have not made any reference to the surrounding neighbourhood during and after the event.

You have stated that you will request attendees do not bring alcohol into the park and that stewards will be briefed to "request" this does not happen, however you have not confirmed how you will ensure that alcohol will not be bought into or consumed within the park

As the event is planned past 11pm on consecutive nights, you have not advised how you will ensure that local residents are not disturbed by noise and light pollution late into the night. Sound travels extremely well and great distances in open areas. Light can be seen tens of miles away during the night (I would have thought this known to the Hippodrome as you state that you have extensive experience of major outdoor events?)

2. Public Safety

I note your reference to the Race for Life event held in the park. However I cannot draw or perceive any similarities to managing the event. The race for Life is undertaken during daylight with off-site car parking - it is not a public performance in a static area late into the night.

You do not appear to have a knowledge of Sutton Park with regard to access and egress - the park perimeter is easily breached around the majority of it's very large perimeter without motor vehicle. Checks at entrance to the car park will not be a suitable management / crowd control facility.

You have referred to a litter pick process, however I assume that this is only at the event location. What measures will be put in place further around the event to the numerous areas that the general public can access etc

3. The prevention of Public Nuisance

You have responded to my query by advising how safe entry and egress will be managed, You have not advised what measures will be put in place to ensure there are no contravention of parking regulations / problems created for local residents.

I am concerned that you "do not anticipate any noise disturbance to local residents" as "the event is located centrally within the park". Again, I refer to my comments above that sound travels extremely well and great distances in open areas, also Light can be seen tens of miles away during the night.

I am also concerned with your comment that " Further as noted the performance will finish by 10.45pm, with traffic and attenders off-site by 11.15pm via Streetly Gate" You appear to be suggesting that 10.45pm / 11.15pm is not late and therefore that noise and public nuisance is acceptable at this time of night.

4. General

You state that event attenders will be made aware that the event is not licensed - you have not advised how you will ensure that alcohol will not be bought into or consumed within the park.

You advise that Historic England and Natural England have both been informed of the event and have not raised any objection to the staging and presentation of the event in the proposed location. Have they agreed to the event and do they also have any concerns with regard to any other issues?

You have not advised if English Heritage have been advised or if they agree.

I am not convinced that there will be no adverse affect to local and native wildlife with an event such as the one proposed and therefore will reserve the opportunity to communicate with other organisations who are better informed should there be need.

You have not advised any measures that you intend to protect the parkland.

Thank you for confirming that you have not communicated or consulted with local residents.

Your apparent lack of knowledge with regard to Sutton Park and the surrounding area is reflected in the statement that you have "been in touch" with BMet College and Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club - neither of whom are directly adjacent to the parkland.

You refer to "time factors" affecting your capacity to consult local residents. I am concerned and do not have great confidence for your event delivery - your "extensive experience of planning" (that you refer to below) has failed you as surely adequate time should be made for any event planning and delivery.

Once again, is it really sensible or even necessary to undertake this in a National Nature Reserve late into the night? We suggest any activity such as this be located at a public space (or other location) designed and adequately equipped, during reasonable hours (10am to 6pm latest). i.e. Not Sutton Park and not late into the night.

For clarity, we still object to the plans for the event.

Yours sincerely

On 4 May 2016, at 12:08, Graham Callister
<GrahamCallister@bt.com>

Dear

Please forgive the direct approach but I was hoping to allay your specific concerns about the proposed presentation of the *Furious Folly* production on the 8th and 9th July 2016 at Sutton Park (application reference 95441) as part of the national 14-18 NOW WW1 Battle of the Somme commemorative commissions.

I have sought to address each of the points you raise below, however would gladly welcome the opportunity to meet with you further to discuss our plans for the event.

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

There have been no measures advised or published to ensure crime and disorder activities are prevented during and after the planned activities.

There are no details of any security measures that have / will be put in place, who will pay for these, what they will comprise and how they be adequate for hundreds of people attending and for the surrounding neighbourhood

It is inevitable that nuisance and / or damage to the park & local neighbourhood will likely ensue for an event of this magnitude, especially should there be opportunities to consume alcoholic beverages late into the night

Will searches be undertaken for all participants to ensure that alcohol is prevented from being bought into the event ? How will this be undertaken.

If alcohol is to be consumed, how will this be managed.

As the event is planned past 11pm on consecutive nights, how will organisers ensure that all local residents are not disturbed by noise and light pollution late into the night

- We are in close consultation and have met with Birmingham North Police Force (Licensing Officer Deano Walker) who have been informed of our plans with regard to staging the event;
- We will be providing security and stewarding at the event at an appropriate scale to ensure both the safety of event attenders but also secure and safe car parking provision;
- The whole event costs, including security and stewarding costs, will be paid for solely by Birmingham Hippodrome;
- Birmingham Hippodrome has extensive experience of planning the delivery of major outdoor events;
- The event will be wholly ticketed, available through our box office, therefore all attenders will be required to show their ticket at Streetly Gate entrance only in order to access the event site (lower and upper arena fields only);
- We have not requested an alcohol license and will be requesting that all attenders do not bring alcohol given the sombre nature of the event;
- Security and stewards will also be briefed to request that attenders refrain from taking alcohol into the park and event due to it being an Alcohol restricted zone.
- The performance is taking place in the Upper Arena field in the middle of Sutton park and as such, noise and light pollution will not affect neighbours;
- The instances of live/recorded music and pyrotechnics do not occur throughout the performance;
- The event is scheduled to run from 10pm to 10.45pm, and we envisage all event attenders to be off site by 11.15pm exiting Streetly Gate.

2. Public Safety

What regulations have been put in place to determine and manage the maximum number of attendees?

How will large amounts of litter be managed and removed prior to the general public's park attendance each following morning? Will this create further hazards, noise and light pollution late into the night if machinery is to be used for this task?

- Sutton Park Rangers have assisted us in selecting the location for this event and have advised us of how they manage events with similar capacities, such as the Race for Life that takes place with around 2,500 people;
- As noted this will be a ticketed event limited to a maximum capacity of 2,000 per evening;
- Only ticket holders will be informed of how to access the event;
- Only ticket holders will be allowed into the car parking and performance areas, with tickets checked at the entrance by security and stewards;
- Event staff and stewards will conduct a litter pick by hand post-event both evenings and in the morning prior to the general public's attendance;
- Additional rubbish bins will be provided for in the car parking area;
- With the exception of some tea & coffee facilities, no traders will be on site, this will help to minimise litter.

3. The prevention of Public Nuisance

There are no details of any public conveniences or how these are going to be managed within the parkland area

How will parking be managed for the attendees, what measures will be put in place to ensure there are no contravention of parking regulations / problems created for local residents?

How will sound levels be managed such to ensure that neighbours (and there are a hundreds) in the immediate area will not be disturbed late in to the night?

How will safe entrance and egress be managed through the existing Sutton Park facilities?

- Portaloos will be provided close to the proposed car parking area within the lower arena field and be taken off-site on Sunday 10th July post-event;
- A full traffic management and car parking plan will be submitted to the Safety Advisory Group and City Parks Service in advance of the event to ensure safe entry and egress to the event;
- Parking will be provided on the lower arena field solely for event attendees;
- The event is located centrally within the park, therefore we do not anticipate any noise disturbance to local residents;
- Further as noted the performance will finish by 10.45pm, will traffic and attenders off-site by 11.15pm via Streetly Gate.

4. General

Will the event be licensed for alcohol / if so how will this be managed to ensure items 1 to 3 are not adversely affected.

We do not believe that the key partners to the Heritage Partnership Agreement such as "English Heritage" and "Natural England" have been advised or that they have agreed to the plans for this activity

We do not understand how the applicant plans to / or how they can protect Sutton Parks native wildlife inhabitants - Sutton Park is a National Nature Reserve

What measures have been planned to protect the Parkland - areas of Sutton Park are scheduled ancient monument.

To our knowledge, there have been no direct communication / consultation with local residents via the applicant.

The application notice refers to a postcode at Boldmere Gate entrance, yet the application copy that I have been provided refers to an ordinance survey map reference near to the Jamboree Stone - Streetly gate Entrance. The notice displayed is therefore confusing and incorrect.

- As noted the event will not be licensed for alcohol and we will ensure event attenders are aware of this in advance of their visit;
- Historic England and Natural England have both been informed of the event and have not raised any objection to the staging and presentation of the event in the proposed location;
- Natural England and the City Parks Service do not foresee any adverse impact on the Parks native wildlife, and the proposed location for the event is outside of the designated Ancient Scheduled Monument;
- Due to time factors local residents have not been directly consulted, however we have been in touch with local partner organisations Sutton Coldfield Community Trust, Sutton Coldfield BID, BMET College and Sutton Coldfield Cricket Club;
- The incorrect postcode displayed on the application notice was an error on behalf of Birmingham City Council Licensing.

Finally

We understand that the organiser wishes to stage this event as part of a 100th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Somme.

Whilst we commend the organisers intention and wish to express our understanding, is it really sensible or even necessary to undertake this in a National Nature Reserve late into the night?

We suggest any activity such as this be located at a public space (or other location) designed and adequately equipped, during reasonable hours (10am to 6pm latest). i.e. Not Sutton Park and not late into the night.

- Sutton Park offers an unrivalled public location for *Furious Folly*, a production conceived as an outdoor night-time production;
- By locating the production in Sutton Park, *Furious Folly* offers a more immersive and authentic theatre experience, connecting the audience with both the heritage of the site (as the training location for the City Battalions or 'Birmingham Pals' before their departure for the Somme in 1916) and that of no-man's land and the lives of combatants on the Western Front;
- Further, the siting of the event in Sutton Park for these factors was crucial to securing the support from 14-18 NOW and the presentation of the work in Birmingham as part of this seasons national programme.

I sincerely hope that I have addressed your concerns about the event, however would of course welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person to discuss our plans for the event further if there are any other issues we can assist with.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Graham

Graham Callister

Director of Creative Programmes

Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham B5 4TB

