

eventlicensing

From: martina kennedy .
Sent: 01 December 2014 02:23
To: eventlicensing
Subject: Submission regarding event licensing

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MS. NIAMH REDMOND.

Dear Ms Redmond,

Please accept my apologies for late submission, but I was only made aware of this on today.

I would like the following comments to be included in any review of event licensing laws, particularly with regard to the Phoenix Park.

My home is situated [redacted] Blackhorse Avenue and the Cabra Gate to the Phoenix Park. The problems suffered by residents in [redacted] during large scale events in the Phoenix Park are numerous but I will outline some of the main problems.

First and foremost, the OPW have no regard for any resident living in the vicinity of the park as I have heard senior staff actually state that what happens outside the park is not their concern, this was in response to a comment regarding the noise, access problems caused by the OPW offering the Park for large scale events.

As our houses are located so near to the Cabra Gates to the Park people attending these events park on the roads outside the park for two reasons,

1. there is very limited parking within the park, most is located beside the zoo and usually not available or too far from where the event is being staged.
2. people attending these events do not wish to pay for parking.

While I appreciate that the roads are public, these people park with little or no regard to local residents safety, for instance, parking on corners causing difficulties for emergency access, they have been known to park across residents driveways, and then we have the situation late at night after concerts where the road outside my house becomes a car park & taxi rank - blocking the road completely.

They use the lane ways behind our houses as toilets, they have also been known to use our gardens too. The Gardai are reluctant to arrest anyone doing this as it can result in them being placed on the sex offenders list. Point taken but who cleans up after them - we do..

We have been woken up by event organisers using loudhailers at 3.30am - music and drums at 7am on Saturday / Sunday mornings, builders are not allowed start work before this time on the weekends but it is ok for us to be disturbed by noisy events at these times - this is not one off.

The Phoenix Park was left as a gift to the people for their recreational use - not to major corporations making vast sums of money whilst denying access to the people the park was left to.

Now let me get to the subject of the license fee charged by the OPW - frankly, they are incompetent in their negotiations of license fees in regard the the concerts held in the summer months, I researched the type of costs incurred by music promoters for use of venue and discovered that to stage similar events in the point depot/3arena would cost approx 35% of the ticket cost with approx the same percentage of the ticket going to the artist and the remaining percentage going to the promoter who pays his costs, security, lighting, staff from this percentage, however, holding these events in the park they pay a flat fee - from what we have ascertained has ranged from 210 - 315k for the entire event, leaving the promoter with 60/65% of the ticket price - at 40,000 tickets for three events last year - do the math, the promoters will fight to have concerts forever in the park.

When these events are on local residents have difficulty moving around the area, in my case as a disabled driver I basically become trapped in my house as if I leave even at lunchtime the chances of getting parking are slim.

The Bloom event is run over five days, the law states no more than three large scale events per year are to be held in the park - while Bloom is an enjoyable event it severely damages the grass in the surrounding areas, and the OPW seem to regard Bloom as one event not five days of events.

I have the greatest respect for the stand the council took with regard to the concerts in Crome Park, however it needs to be stated that they were willing to offer event licenses for more nights than they should have.

We need clear, concise, event licensing laws that make it mandatory that local residents are consulted and the Phoenix Park reverts back to being a national monument to be enjoyed by all not a money making machine for music promoters, these laws need to include safety, security and noise levels before, during and after the event as part of the general rules but not to the exclusion of residents. We need to have a voice !

I would be willing to take part in any discussion of this submission if that would be helpful, I have photos of the parking during these events if they would be helpful

Kind regards

Martina Kennedy