

**Dundrum Area Committee Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**A Review of the Marlay Park Concerts 2016**



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council issued a Licence on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 for 2 single stage concerts to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July and the Longitude Festival to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The Licence was issued to Festival Republic on behalf of MCD.

Following Marlay 2014, it was agreed that a community led plan would be developed with residents to reduce the negative environmental impact of the concerts on residents and the wider community. This plan addressed issues around communications, security, anti-social behaviour, traffic management issues, road closures, litter management, noise levels and parks access. The same plan was put in place in 2016.

## **Communications**

The Council with Festival Republic consulted with the following Residents Associations:-

- **Broadford;**
- **The Cottages, Grange Road;**
- **Marley Grange;**
- **Grangewood;**
- **Taylor's Hill Apartments;**
- **Marlay Wood;**
- **Grangefield**
- **Pine Valley**
- **Lissadel**
- **The Eden**
- **Brehon Chair**
- **Heather Close**

There was also on-going engagement with South County Protect Our Parks.

## **Security**

- Security and barrier fencing was agreed with individual residents' associations in advance of the concerts;
- The same security levels were put in place for 2016 which has increased levels significantly in 2015. External security and stewarding increased significantly across all of the concert days, and the offsite provision increased by over 50% on 2014;
- External policing and stewarding was provided by a combination of An Garda Síochána, licensed security and stewards from St John's GAA. The Council made a contribution to An Garda Síochána to augment security externally;
- Fencing and barriers were in place in the estates outlined below to deter concert goers accessing these estates during and after the event.

Fencing and security provided at:-

- The Priory and Hermitage Estate;

- Eden Estate;
  - Marlay Grange;
  - Marlay Court,
  - Llewellyn Estate;
  - Grange Wood;
  - Marlay Grove House;
  - Broadford Estate;
  - Grangefield Estate;
  - La Touche Court;
  - Pine Valley;
  - Grange Cottages;
  - Taylors Hill Apartments;
  - Grange Cottages;
  - Brehons Chair;
- Parking permits were issued to prevent non-residents from using housing estates for parking.
  - A mobile security response team was also put in place to augment security as and when required to respond to anti-social issues in a timely manner.
  - Increased security will be provided along the Grange Road approach to College Road during the Longitude Festival

**There were ten security related issues recorded on CRM.**

### **Communications with Residents**

There was a number of communication mechanisms put in place:-

- Consultation with residents and resident associations;
- Letter issued by the Council, Festival Republic and An Garda Siochana;
- A page on [www.dlrcoco.ie](http://www.dlrcoco.ie) – link to Marlay Concerts
- There was a residents Hotline set up for concert days. This first response allowed Council/Festival Republic to respond to requests in a timely manner;

**There were no complaints with regard to communications recorded on the Council's CRM.**

### **Anti-social behavioural issues and policing of events outside the venue**

The following measures were introduced to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour outside the concert venue..

- Bus parking was confined to Marlay Park keeping concert goers within the Park reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour.
- The level of security provided in 2015 was maintained. Stewarding was provided by St. Johns GAA Club because of the value of local knowledge.
- Urination in public spaces is a frequent complaint – Blocks of toilets were provided on the Grange Road to help address this issue.

- Drinking in Public Places – Enforcement in this area was strengthened.
- A resident's hotline was in place ensuring a timely response to issues.
- The Council made a contribution towards external policing in 2016.

**There were thirteen representations regarding alcohol consumption and one reporting an accident.**

### **Traffic management issues**

A comprehensive Traffic Management Plan was in place for the concerts and Longitude. The priority was to ensure that concert goers could access and exit the concert venue as quickly and safely as possible while still maintaining traffic flows for regular road users.

The TMP emphasises the use of public transport as the preferred mode of travel to the venue.

The Plan delivered the following:-

- Shuttle bus service to the Luas at the end of the concerts;
- Bus parking was confined within Marlay Park;
- The return shuttle bus service from the City Centre was managed by Marathon Coaches;
- Improved signage was delivered to ensure concert goers were exiting towards the right entrance depending on their mode of transport;
- The junctions on the M50, northbound and southbound, was split between bus and car based traffic to ensure that all junction capacity is maximised;
- Signage will be improved and the local stewards will be used to guide people effectively to their preferred transport mode;
- Road closures from estates were put in place to expedite movement of concert goers from the venue.

**There were eight representations recorded on the Council's CRM system regarding road closures**

### **Litter Management**

Festival Republic provided a dedicated off site litter picking team. This was augmented by the Council's own resources. Residents, who wanted to collect litter in their own area, were issued with bags and these bags were collected by the Council's cleansing staff. Litter management was monitored by the Council's Litter Wardens Service.

**There was three litter complaints recorded on CRM**

### **Noise Levels**

The music level did not exceed 72db (a) LAeq over a period of fifteen minutes. This was monitored by Festival Republic's sound engineer and Environmental Health Officer for Noise Pollution.

The prescribed concert finish time was set at 11 pm but in general concerts and Longitude finished at 10.45 pm.

**There were 22 representations received about noise levels recorded on CRM**

### **Park access**

The stage was positioned in the same location as 2015 at the eastern part of the main field to optimise access to the Park and its facilities by park users. There were some restrictions on walking routes on concert days but in general park walking routes remained open. The Park was open on concert days up to 6pm.

**There were no representations made with regard to the parks access**

### **Ecological Impact**

A number of submissions were received from the campaign group South Dublin Protect our Parks. These submissions described the groups' concerns about the negative impact that the concerts might have on wildlife, bats and their habitats and on nesting water birds.

To address the issues raised, the Council retained Scott Cawley and the scope of his work included the following:-

1. Installation of bat boxes on trees – to be monitored twice per year to record usage in Spring and late summer. This network will be expanded in the future to provide a useful long-term indicator of bat population.
2. Surveys of structures to identify roosts- This includes the Parks Dept buildings and all stone walls and bridges etc. Clearly if roosts are present within the potential zone of influence of light spill etc from the Concerts then these need to be protected. Our work to date has not found any roosts in this potential zone of influence.
3. Long-term bat activity monitoring- three bat detectors are installed collecting data from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> July on bat activity in three areas 1) area within zone of influence of both concert weekends 2) area within zone of influence of 8/9 July only and 3) area well away from either concert but in similar habitats. We will be able to pick up changes over time pre –during and post-concerts as well as looking for any changes in activity over the hours of the concerts themselves.
4. Fixed walked transects through the Park to record bat activity; Three transects are to be walked using standard methodology to collect data on bat usage (using bat detectors) in certain areas. These will be carried out pre-installation of lighting and equipment and then repeated on the concert nights and then post-concerts. This should allow us to detect any changes in the distribution of bat activity across the Park.
5. Checks for locations of nesting waterfowl.

6. Pre-installation (pontoon) checks for nestling fledging
7. Meeting with DLRCC/licensee re lighting controls in woodland and concert installation logistics (due to take place on Monday- Aidan to confirm).
8. Infra-red video footage of bat behaviour at pontoon.
9. Mapping of potential tree roosts to inform Park staff of precautions during felling ( we have already communicated to you on this matter).

The results of his findings are attached. Paul Scott of Scott Cawley will make a presentation to the Dumdum Area Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

### **Revenue generated**

Revenue generated from the Concerts is invested in the following programmes:

- Playgrounds in Marlay Park
- Increased security by An Garda Siochana external to Marlay Park
- Publicity issued to residents and parking permits
- Management of open spaces and investment in recreation in the Marlay Park area
- Walled Garden;
- Golf Course;
- Extension to Bolands Café;
- Golf Pavilion;
- All weather pitches
- Tamplins Cottage
- DLR Events such as Movies in Parks, Classical Concerts, Samhain and other events
- Marlay Market
- Marlay Craft Yard
- Trim Trails
- Removal of laurel programme
- Running track
- Walking route improvements

### **Residents Hotline**

A residents 'hotline' was in place on concert days and for the Longitude Festival. This was useful in ensuring issues were dealt with in a timely manner. A record of these representations is attached. I

**There were a number of measures that worked well this year.** These included:-

- Increased Garda presence

- Improved enforcement of anti-social behaviour such as public urination and alcohol consumption
- Portal loos along the Grange Road
- Website page which pushed information on all concert related issues
- Extensive ecological monitoring and implementation of measures recommended in 2015.