

A Review of the Marlay Park Concerts 2017



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council issued a Licence on 13th June 2017 for the Longitude Festival that was held on the 14th, 15th and 16th July 2017. The Licence was issued to Festival Republic on behalf of MCD.

The Council implemented a community led plan that is designed to reduce the negative environmental impact of the concerts on residents and the wider community. This plan addresses 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.

There were 40 complaints registered on the Council's CRM system. The representations to the hotline are attached. The residents' letter issued the hotline number and also the mobile numbers of the Council staff working at the event and dedicated and responding to residents' concerns.

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;**
- **Pine Valley**
- **Lissadel**
- **The Eden**
- **Brehon Chair**
- **Llewellyn**
- **Hermitage**
- **Hillview**

There was also engagement with South County Protect Our Parks.

Security

- Security and barrier fencing was agreed with individual residents' associations in advance of the concerts;
- Similar security measures were put in place for 2017 as provided in previous years. External policing and stewarding was provided by An Garda Síochána, licensed security engaged by Festival Republic and stewards from St John's GAA Club. The Council made a contribution to An Garda Síochána to augment security in the external environment;

- Fencing and barriers were in place in the estates outlined below to deter concert goers accessing these estates during and after the event.
- Also traffic management measures were put in place at the entrance to the venue off Grange Road to reduce the impact of any terrorism incidents in this area where crowds tend to gather.

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;
 - Marlay Wood
 - 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 was provided along the Grange Road approach to College Road during the Longitude Festival

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 Síochána describing the concert arrangements;
- A page on 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;

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 College Road Car Park was expanded in 2017 to improve parking access to the park by all park users;
- The level of security provided in 2015 was maintained. Stewarding was provided by St. Johns GAA Club..
- Urination in public spaces is an issue. To address this, toilet blocks were provided in a number of locations and on the Grange Road;
- Drinking in Public Places – This offence was actively enforced by An Garda Siochana and bins were provided in locations to seize alcohol outside the venue;
- A resident's hotline was activated ensuring a timely response to issues raised by residents;
- The Council made a contribution towards the cost of policing the external policing in 2017.

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 Traffic Management Plan was developed in partnership with the National Transport Authority that oversee the bus licensing to the events.

The TMP emphasises the use of public transport as the preferred mode of transport 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 within the venue was put in place to ensure that concert goers were exiting towards their mode of transport.;
- The junctions on the M50, northbound and southbound, were split between bus and vehicular transport to optimise the capacity of these junctions.
- Signage externally was improved and stewards guided concert goers to their preferred transport mode;

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 that were collected by the Council's cleansing staff. Litter management was monitored by the Council's Litter Wardens Service.

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 the HSE. Noise levels were measures throughout the day of each event. The results are as follows:-

Date & Time	Location	dB level
Sound Check 14th July 12:30pm	Heather Drive & Lawn	Laeq 62.2dB
Concert 14th July 2017 7pm	La Touche Court	Laeq 64.6dB
7pm	Pine Valley	Laeq 62.9dB
8pm	Marlay Rise	Laeq 54.6dB
8.15pm	Marlay Lawn	Laeq 53.4dB
8.30pm	Highfield	Laeq 63.3dB
8.45pm	Grange Wood	Laeq 64.9dB
9pm	Heather Drive	Laeq 63.7dB
9.15pm	La Touche Court	Laeq 65.4db
9.15Pm	Pine Valley	Laeq 68.9db
Concert 15 th July 6pm	Marlay Lawn	Laeq 67.5dB
6.45pm	Pine Valley	Laeq 63.9dB
6pm	Heather Drive	Laeq 61.1dB
7.20pm	Grange Court	Laeq 64.4dB
7.45pm	Pine Valley	Laeq 67.8dB
8.05pm	Highfield	Laeq 65.6dB
9.35pm	Woodpark Ballinteer Avenue	Laeq 56.5dB
Concert 16 th July 6.50pm	Grangewood	Laeq 66.7dB
8pm	Heather Grove	Laeq 60.3dB
8.30pm	La Touche Court	Laeq 59.8dB
9.30pm	Pine Valley	Laeq 64db

The prescribed concert finish time was set at 11 pm but Longitude finished at 10.45 pm.

Park access

The stage was positioned in the same location as 2015 and 2016 at the eastern part of the main field to optimise access to the Park and its facilities by park users throughout the concert period. 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.

Ecological Impact

The Council retained Scott Cawley in 2017 to:

- Monitor the impact of the concerts on the wildlife in the Park
- To implement the recommendations of their 2016 report
- To address concerns raised by members of the public and by South Dublin Protect Our Parks.

The recommendations that were implemented include:-

1. Installation of further bat boxes on trees and monitoring thereof – to be monitored twice per year to record usage in Spring and late summer. This network will provide a useful long-term indicator of bat population and will enhance the roosting opportunities.
2. Bat activity monitoring. Pre- and during-event manual transects of bat activity were carried out to determine if bats are using the same areas as before. Floodlighting orientation and lighting in the woodland was monitored and luminaires re-oriented if required.
3. Checks for locations of nesting waterfowl. Breeding bird checks were conducted prior to the installation of the pontoons.
4. Checks were also conducted during the installation of the pontoons. An ecologist was on site to monitor the installation and removal of the pontoons.
5. Checks of all barriers in watercourses to ensure passability for otters.
6. Checks of the main badger setts to ensure no works took place within 50 metres of these s. Checks to verify whether there are any new setts or holts.

The results of Scott Cawley's findings are attached. Paul Scott of Scott Cawley will make a presentation to the Dundrum Area Committee on the 4th December 2017.

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
- Expansion of College Road Car Park
- Marlay Craft Yard
- Trim Trails
- Removal of laurel programme
- Running track
- Walking route improvements
- The College Road carpark

Residents Hotline

A residents 'hotline' was in place on concert days. 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
- Portaloos along the Grange Road
- Website page which pushed information on all concert related issues
- Extensive ecological monitoring and implementation of measures recommended in 2016.