

**Dundrum Area Committee Meeting**

**3rd December 2018**

**A Review of the Marlay Park Concerts 2018**



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council issued a Licence on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for the Queen + Adam Lambert concert on 8<sup>th</sup> July, the Bruno Mars concert on 12<sup>th</sup> July and the Longitude Festival that was held on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018. 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 and 2017.

## **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's Chair;**
- **Llewellyn;**
- **Hermitage;**
- **Hillview;**

There was also engagement with Broadford Rovers Football Club.

## **Security**

- Security and barrier fencing was agreed with individual residents' associations in advance of the concerts;
- Similar security measures were put in place for 2018 as provided in previous years. External policing and stewarding was provided by An Garda Síochána, licensed security engaged by Festival Republic and stewards from Ballinteer St Johns GAA Club;
- 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 reinforce security 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;
  - Brehon's 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 on concert days.
  - Increased security was provided on the outer perimeter of the Park to reduce anti-social issues

### **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 describing the concert arrangements and giving the residents' hotline number and the mobile numbers of Council staff working on concert days. A record of the representations made to the hotline number is attached as Appendix A;
- A page on [www.dlrcoco.ie](http://www.dlrcoco.ie) – link to Marlay Concerts;
- 66 concert-related representations from members of the public were logged on the Council's CRM system. These related to:

<b>Subject of rep.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Road Closures	12
Litter	11
Stewarding	11

Noise	10
Anti-social	7
Wide ranging	8
Garda	3
Health & Safety	3
GDPR	1

### **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 2017 was maintained. Stewarding was provided by Ballinteer 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 areas in 2018.

### **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 oversees 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;
- Although neither Festival Republic nor the Council were able to source a public bus provider who was able to provide the post-concert shuttle buses from Taylors Lane to the city centre, Festival Republic hired buses to provide this service.

### **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 measured throughout the day of each event. The HSE's noise report is available on the Council website and is attached as Appendix B.

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 for the 2015 concerts and subsequent years 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 2018 to:

- Monitor the impact of the concerts on the wildlife in the Park
- To implement the recommendations of their 2017 report
- To address concerns raised by members of the public and by South Dublin Protect Our Parks.

The recommendations that were implemented include:-

1. 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.

2. Checks for locations of nesting waterfowl. Breeding bird checks were conducted prior to the installation of the pontoons.
3. Checks were also conducted during the installation of the pontoons. An ecologist was on site to monitor the installation and removal of the pontoons.
4. Checks of all barriers in watercourses to ensure passability for otters.
5. Checks of the main badger setts to ensure no works took place within 50 metres of these. Checks to verify whether there are any new setts or holts.

The results of Scott Cawley's findings are attached as Appendix C. Paul Scott of Scott Cawley will make a presentation to the Dundrum Area Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018.

### **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
- Environmental Monitoring
- Management of open spaces and investment in recreation in the Marlay Park area
- Walled Garden;
- Golf Pavilion;
- All weather pitches
- Laurelmere
- DLR Events such as Movies in Parks, Traditional Music Nights, Samhain and the Ceili Mor
- Marlay Market
- Marlay Craft Courtyard
- Trim Trails
- Walking route improvements
- Marlay Lakes Maintenance Programme
- Marlay Tree Management
- College Road Car Park expansion to support number of activities that are provided by Marlay Park