



# Committee Report

Date	28 November 2018
Classification	General Release
Title or report	<b>Notting Hill Carnival 2018 Summary</b>
Report of	<b>Director of Public Protection and Licensing</b>
Decision maker	<b>For information Only</b>
Financial summary	None

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the City Council in relation to Notting Hill Carnival 2018.
- 1.2 A range of council departments and services worked collaboratively to facilitate this year's event. These included; licensing, environmental health, city promotions, events and filming, city inspectors, highways, contingency planning, communications and parking. The council's cleansing contractor Veolia oversaw the cleansing operation for the event.
- 1.3 Notting Hill Carnival once again benefitted from a multi-agency planning approach, with the council working alongside RBKC, GLA, the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, Transport for London and the event organisers to facilitate the event.
- 1.4 In line with previous years, operational planning took place via multi-agency Operational Safety Planning group meetings with strategic direction provided by the Strategic Partners Group. The council plays an integral part within both groups.
- 1.5 A new event organiser - Notting Hill Carnival Limited (NHCL) - assumed responsibility for the 2018 Carnival, taking over from the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprise Trust who had been running the event for a number of years. This change of organiser provided an opportunity for all agencies to review previous activities and for a range of changes to be implemented with the support of the event organiser.

1.6 From a Westminster perspective, the key changes implemented at this year's event were;

- The reconfiguration of the Judging Zone and its management to assist with the movement of crowd flows and parade vehicles on Westbourne Park Road which had historically caused issues, in particular for Westbourne Park tube station;
- Increased engagement with Sound Systems and Street Traders to improve working practices and to increase assurance around their respective operations;
- A significant increase in the number of toilets provided by the council within the event footprint;
- Extension of the post event garden cleansing service to allow residents an opportunity to sign up post event for the first time;
- Increased presence at public meetings in the run up to and after the event;
- A coordinated email address was set up to manage all incoming communication with the Council which aided significant improvements in responding to resident questions;
- Improved engagement with ward councillors with a pre-event briefing and post event debrief opportunity.

## **2. Sound Systems and Street Trading**

2.1 In line with previous years, a total of six Sound Systems operated within the Westminster footprint at this year's Carnival.

2.2 Four Sound Systems operated under premises licences, one more than in 2017, with the other two operating under Temporary Event Notices.

2.3 A Sound System guidance document was produced in conjunction with the event organisers and RBKC to better support them in their preparations and delivery of the event.

2.4 All sound systems were monitored over the course of the weekend to assess crowd numbers and behaviours, noise management and overall compliance.

2.5 Street trading pitches were reviewed based on feedback from 2017 and then re-numbered and marked to ensure accuracy. Additional Sound System trading pitches were added in Shrewsbury Road and St Luke's Road to better support the dynamics of the event. The number of street trading pitches was largely consistent with recent years (34 pitches occupied out of 43 available).

2.6 The Council's licensing, environmental health and city promotions, events and filming teams all attended pre-event meetings with both Sound Systems and Street Traders. The purpose of the meetings was to provide support and guidance to the operators

and to encourage a more robust approach towards their event documentation and operational planning. The feedback from these sessions was hugely positive and this is something that will be implemented again as part of the planning process for next year's event.

### **3. Pre-event activity**

- 3.1 Officers attended and contributed to a variety of planning meetings throughout the year. These included the multi-agency Operational Safety Planning Group Meetings (OSPG), Crowd and Visitor Management Group (CVMG) and internal service meetings, all of which were chaired by City Promotions, Events and Filming team.
- 3.2 Ongoing liaison directly with Sound Systems to review their event plans to ensure they have measures included to support the management of their licence and also to refine their site plans based on debrief reports and crowd management insights.
- 3.3 In addition to the review of street trading pitches increased guidance and support was provided – including EHO led training sessions.
- 3.4 87 private building sites visited to ensure removal of any structures or objects that represented a risk. Additional liaison took place with construction sites to ensure sites were closed down over the weekend to comply with the works moratorium.
- 3.5 Local licensed premises were visited to ensure they were familiar with their licensing conditions and prepared for Carnival. This was a task was facilitated by both City Inspectors and Westminster Police Licensing Team.
- 3.6. Pre-event checks carried out re: parking suspensions, gully's, tree canopies, trading pitches and toilet installations.
- 3.7. Significant and ongoing involvement in the issuing of premises licenses and temporary event notices.
- 3.8. Co-production and distribution of the resident booklet throughout the area (in partnership with RBKC).
- 3.9. Senior officers ensured that all council employees were given full safety and welfare briefings prior to deployment on the ground.

### **4. Roles over the event weekend**

- 4.1 Ongoing presence within the event control room with direct radio links to officers on the ground. This enabled City Events, Filming and Promotions Officers to directly task the City Inspectors via our radio network and receive feedback from them.

- 4.2 Additionally, Westminster operated a command and control vehicle within the footprint of NHC.
- 4.3 City Inspectors supported the set up of licensed traders each day, facilitating access and checking accreditation before inspecting their set up with support from EHO's. Proactive compliance visits were carried out across all licensed street traders over the Carnival weekend. This included facilitating access to the event footprint, checking accreditation and then inspections at the start of each day to ensure pitches were safe to trade.
- 4.4 Officers on the ground proactively monitored the compliance of licensed street traders and sound systems, dealing with noise complaints and other issues as required – including any illegal street trading.
- 4.5 There was a total of 8 seizures of unlicensed street trading items over the weekend. The seizures included items such as beer, horns, whistles and flags.
- 4.6 In total 21 noise complaints were dealt with by the City Inspectors.
- 4.7 Additional toilets were installed and monitored prior to the start of NHC. This was a specific request on account of the increased number and differs type of toilet being used.
- 4.8 City Inspectors remained on site to monitor the clean-up, working closely with Veolia to ensure all areas were cleaned as required and to the necessary standard.
- 4.9 In addition to the Veolia street cleansing operation, a graffiti team was deployed post event to the event area.

## **5 Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)**

- 5.1 Close working relationships were in place throughout the planning and the event at Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. With additional stewards being deployed, where possible MPS aim was to reduce their crowd management duties and focus more on core policing of crime and disorder.
- 5.2 MPS in 2018 installed 2 knife arches as part of their tactic to disrupt violent crime, one of which was located in Westminster.
- 5.3 Section 60 Stop and Search was implemented by MPS on both days of the event.
- 5.4 MPS Gold advised post event that the changes implemented by the event organisers were well received and that significant improvements had been made.

## 6 Key statistics

- 30 Council staff directly deployed each day in addition to on call teams
- Over 750 hours worked over the weekend
- 1307 parking bays impacted
- 10 TENS issued across the weekend
- 8 seizures
- 200 tonnes of waste removed by Veolia
- 3,553 Section 60 stop and searches carried out over the 2 days
  - 1,165 offences recorded by MPS (correct as of 13<sup>th</sup> September),
    - 1,092 of these were recorded over the weekend
    - 707 offences recorded in 2017.

## 7. Ward Councillor Engagement

- 7.1 A pre-event briefing was held by Officers for Ward Councillors where an event overview with key changes was presented along with opportunity to answer questions.
- 7.2 Information was shared pre-event in written form in terms of contacts for during the event if required.
- 7.3 A post event debrief was also held to enable Ward Councillors to raise any issues from their constituents.

## 6. Carnival 2019

Following a series of debrief, plans are already underway for Carnival 2019. Key updates include;

- RBKC have confirmed the recipient of a 3 year grant award will be Carnival Village Trust (trading as Notting Hill Carnival Limited) to support the event management of the Carnival. The overall value of the funding is £300k (£100k p.a)
- The recipient of this funding will assume the status of the event organiser of the Notting Hill Carnival
- Planning will now begin in earnest with the first OSPG taking place in December
- The council contributed £50k funding towards the event management of Carnival in 2018. To provide the organisers with greater certainty, the council is also seeking to confirm a funding of £50k pa for the next three years
- RBKC and WCC are seeking to jointly procure a contractor to oversee toilet provision at the event.

**If you have any queries about this report please contact:  
Katherine Eaton x2633**

