# Susan Hall urges ticketing and review after Notting Hill Carnival 'narrowly avoided' mass crush



Susan Hall, the London Assembly Conservative who chairs the Police and Crime Committee, has renewed a call for radical changes to how Notting Hill Carnival is run, saying the long‑standing two‑day street festival should be considered for ticketing to reduce the risk of a fatal crowd crush. According to her report, the event in recent years has “narrowly avoided a mass crush on the scale of the Hillsborough disaster”, a warning carried through the committee’s work and reflected in a wider review of public order policing.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094493/top-tory-warns-notting-hill-carnival-crush), [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-publications/review-notting-hill-carnival-crowd-numbers-mass-casualty-event-occurs)

The Met has for some time warned that density at certain pinch points creates a credible risk of a “mass casualty event”, and the London Assembly has called on the Mayor to commission an independent review of crowd numbers and stewarding arrangements. The Assembly’s April 22, 2025 press release urged specific action on steward numbers, stewarding guidance and the identification and mitigation of the most dangerous chokepoints on carnival routes.
- Paragraph 2 – [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-publications/review-notting-hill-carnival-crowd-numbers-mass-casualty-event-occurs), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094493/top-tory-warns-notting-hill-carnival-crush)

Policing statistics from the 2024 carnival underpin those concerns. The Metropolitan Police’s operational update records dozens of violent incidents across the two days: eight stabbings, multiple serious assaults and weapons recoveries, a large operational policing deployment and several dozen officers injured. The Met’s public statement recorded hundreds of arrests, while the BBC’s contemporaneous reporting cited 334 arrests and around 50 officers reported injured. The most serious criminal outcome was the stabbing of 32‑year‑old Cher Maximen on 25 August 2024; she was taken to hospital in a critical condition and died on 31 August, prompting a specialist murder investigation and a subsequent charging.
- Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07e55159kro), [[3]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/death-of-woman-stabbed-at-notting-hill-carnival-487489)

Frontline officers have been outspoken about the toll of policing the carnival. The Metropolitan Police Federation compiled a 24‑page dossier drawing on survey responses and testimony from officers who work the event; it reported that a very high proportion of respondents said they felt unsafe and described frequent assaults and harassment. The federation’s deputy general secretary, Simon Hill, said the exercise was intended to provide “concrete evidence” of officers’ experiences after years of anecdotal concern. Federation material also reproduces officers’ calls for changes to reduce risk to both staff and members of the public.
- Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://metfed.org.uk/news/metropolitan-police-officers-have-their-say-on-notting-hill-carnival-safety), [[2]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332)

Those pressing for change face an immediate, and vocal, counter‑argument: carnival organisers and many in the local community insist the event is community‑led and culturally important, and that formal restrictions such as ticketing would fundamentally alter its character. A City Hall Conservative group has put ticketing and tighter governance back on the table as a practical solution to crowd control and to reduce policing costs; organisers replied by inviting critics to observe their Event Liaison Team during carnival operations and stressing the long history of community organisation behind the event. A Mayor of London spokesperson told national press that the carnival “ultimately belongs to the community” and that the Mayor continues to work with partners to protect both safety and cultural importance.
- Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-ticketed-hillsborough-conservatives-mayor-b2806125.html), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094493/top-tory-warns-notting-hill-carnival-crush)

There are clear trade‑offs. Ticketing would allow organisers and police to cap numbers, introduce allocated access points, and strengthen stewarding and medical provision — but it would also bring logistical complexity, potential exclusion of long‑standing community participants and a significant shift away from the free, open street ethos that many argue defines Notting Hill. The Assembly’s review suggests a middle path of targeted, evidence‑based changes first: better mapping of pinch points, increased steward numbers, clearer steward training and greater transparency about police deployments and resource abstraction, alongside stronger enforcement against weapon carriage and violent offending.
- Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-ticketed-hillsborough-conservatives-mayor-b2806125.html), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094493/top-tory-warns-notting-hill-carnival-crush), [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-publications/review-notting-hill-carnival-crowd-numbers-mass-casualty-event-occurs)

For now, the immediate ask from the Assembly and policing representatives is procedural: commission an independent, time‑bound review of crowd density and stewarding practices and publish an action plan before the next bank‑holiday carnival. The Assembly set out its recommendations in April 2025 and called on City Hall to act; the federation and the Met say the priority must be protecting officers and the public from preventable harm. Whichever route is chosen, organisers, City Hall and the police will need to bridge deeply held differences about community ownership and public safety if a lasting solution is to be found.
- Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-publications/review-notting-hill-carnival-crowd-numbers-mass-casualty-event-occurs), [[5]](https://metfed.org.uk/news/metropolitan-police-officers-have-their-say-on-notting-hill-carnival-safety)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094493/top-tory-warns-notting-hill-carnival-crush> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-update-on-incidents-and-arrests-487332> - This Metropolitan Police news release provides a factual breakdown of incidents and arrests at the Notting Hill Carnival in August 2024. It confirms 61 assaults on officers over the two day event, details the number and types of serious assaults and stabbings, and lists a total of 349 arrests with a category-by-category table. The release describes injuries to officers and members of the public, weapon-related offences including possession of firearms, and notes the operational policing presence deployed to manage the crowds. It aims to inform the public about policing outcomes and provide transparency about law enforcement activity at the carnival.
3. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/death-of-woman-stabbed-at-notting-hill-carnival-487489> - The Metropolitan Police news statement reports the death of a 32-year-old woman, Cher Maximen, who was stabbed during the Notting Hill Carnival on 25 August. Officers administered emergency first aid before paramedics arrived and she was taken to hospital in critical condition, later dying on 31 August. The statement records the subsequent investigation being led by the Met’s Specialist Crime Command, the arrest of Shakiel Thibou, and the charging process including court appearances. It emphasises the seriousness with which detectives treated the incident, provides dates and investigatory updates, and seeks to inform the public about progress in the criminal proceedings.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07e55159kro> - The BBC report summarises Metropolitan Police figures from the Notting Hill Carnival in August 2024, noting eight stabbings and 334 arrests across the two-day event. It records that three people were stabbed on Sunday, including a young mother who remained in a critical condition, and five on Monday with two critically injured. The article states that around 50 officers were reported injured and cites police concerns about very dense crowds and a minority committing criminal acts. It describes measures taken to reduce crime including enhanced stop-and-search powers and removal of face coverings, while noting the celebratory nature of most attendees.
5. <https://metfed.org.uk/news/metropolitan-police-officers-have-their-say-on-notting-hill-carnival-safety> - This Metropolitan Police Federation webpage announces a 24-page dossier compiling officers’ views on policing Notting Hill Carnival, based on survey responses, quotations and crime statistics. It highlights officers’ fears, reporting that 89% feel unsafe and around 29% had been assaulted while policing the event, and reproduces candid frontline testimony describing assaults, sexual offences and abuse. Deputy General Secretary Simon Hill explains the rationale for surveying members and the federation’s intention to share findings with Scotland Yard and City Hall. The page also summarises recent incident totals from the carnival and outlines the federation’s concerns about officer welfare and public safety.
6. <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-london-assembly-does/london-assembly-publications/review-notting-hill-carnival-crowd-numbers-mass-casualty-event-occurs> - The London Assembly press release of 22 April 2025 reports findings from the Police and Crime Committee’s investigation into public order policing, highlighting Notting Hill Carnival as a significant concern. It states the Met has consistently warned of a possible 'mass casualty event' due to crowd density and insufficient stewarding, and urges the Mayor to commission a review of crowd density and safety. The release summarises key recommendations including reviewing pinch points, steward numbers and stewarding guidance, and calls for increased funding and transparency around police abstraction. Susan Hall, chair of the committee, is quoted urging action to prevent tragedy.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/notting-hill-carnival-ticketed-hillsborough-conservatives-mayor-b2806125.html> - The Independent reports on a City Hall Conservative group proposal suggesting Notting Hill Carnival should be ticketed or more formally governed to reduce crowd risk, citing Susan Hall’s report. It quotes a Mayor of London spokesperson emphasising that the carnival 'ultimately belongs to the community' and noting the Mayor works with partners to ensure safety and cultural importance. The article records organisers inviting Ms Hall to visit the Event Liaison Team headquarters during carnival to observe operations. It outlines concerns about rising crime, policing costs and the need for funding changes, while including responses from organisers defending their community-led status.