# Legal win against Lambeth council intensifies Brockwell Park festival row



Brockwell Park in London has become the epicentre of a contentious debate surrounding the increasing number of music festivals scheduled to take place this summer. The campaign group Protect Brockwell Park, spearheaded by Rebecca Shaman, has taken a firm stance against the proliferation of these events, citing concerns over local access and environmental impact. Recently, the group achieved a legal victory against Lambeth Council, challenging the extended duration of festival use of the park, which surpassed the legally permitted 28 days. Despite this ruling, the council has moved forward with approvals for events—including the first of the season, the Wide Awake Festival—set to kick off amidst further public dissent.

Cllr Donatus Anyanwu, Lambeth’s Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, emphasised the council's commitment to balancing cultural enrichment with the preservation of the parks. In a statement, he acknowledged the economic benefits festivals bring to the community, asserting that the funds generated help support local projects. This perspective echoes a broader trend witnessed in urban centres where local governments navigate the dual demands of cultural vibrancy and community welfare.

Though the economic arguments are compelling, community members feel that the costs extend beyond mere finances. According to Jen Hawkins from Protect Brockwell Park, the situation is exacerbated by a perceived lack of transparency and consultation with the local populace. She articulated a poignant view: "We’re not anti-festivals. We’d love to ensure that any future events deliver genuine benefits for local people and that they undergo proper logical assessments." Concern over the implications of this summer’s festival plans has prompted visible expressions of dissent, including the appearance of graffiti urging a boycott of the events.

Beyond social and economic concerns, there are deeper implications for mental and physical well-being rooted in access to green spaces. For many local residents, particularly those without private gardens, Brockwell Park serves as a crucial lifeline to nature and the outdoors. Hawkins lamented, "It’s such a shame that they use our beautiful public space as a cash cow," indicating that the ongoing fencing off of large areas for events is detrimental to community connections with nature.

With festivals like Mighty Hoopla and Field Day also on the horizon, the tension between organisers, local councils, and residents seems set to escalate as the summer unfolds. The legal victory for Protect Brockwell Park has shed light on the broader conversation about urban public spaces and their role in fostering community well-being against a backdrop of commercial interests. As local voices advocate for transparency and sustainable practices, it remains to be seen how Lambeth Council will respond to the ongoing push for a more balanced approach to the future of events in Brockwell Park.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059496/we-live-park-fenced-off-cash-brockwell-brixton)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059496/we-live-park-fenced-off-cash-brockwell-brixton), ,
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059496/we-live-park-fenced-off-cash-brockwell-brixton), ,

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2059496/we-live-park-fenced-off-cash-brockwell-brixton> - Please view link - unable to able to access data