# Residents demand action as motorbike racing disrupts Waterloo's nightlife



Residents of Waterloo have voiced growing frustration over late-night motorbike racing near the London Eye, turning the usually vibrant South Bank area into what some describe as an unofficial racetrack. For nearly three months, up to 200 motorcyclists have been gathering three to four nights each week, creating excessive noise and disrupting the peace of the community well into unsocial hours. Local activity, which might be expected to see heightened busyness in such a central London locale, has crossed into territory that residents and officials alike find untenable.

Ibrahim Dogus, the local councillor and former Mayor of Lambeth whose ward encompasses Waterloo and the South Bank, has spoken out strongly against the disturbances. He highlighted that while nighttime activity is to be expected in such a populous part of the city, the scale and intensity of these motorcycle gatherings are causing serious disruption. “The excessive noise at unsocial hours is causing serious disruption for my constituents and must be stopped,” Dogus said, underlining the urgency of enforcement measures to restore safety and quiet to the neighbourhood. In response to the ongoing issue, a public meeting is scheduled for September 24 to bring together residents and authorities to address the problem comprehensively.

Dogus is a well-known figure in the area, not only for his political role but also as a restaurateur with several establishments on the South Bank, including Troia, Westminster Kitchen, and Cucina. His intimate involvement in the local community through both politics and business lends weight to his calls for action. Having served as Mayor of Lambeth in 2019–2020 and represented Bishop’s ward since 2018, Dogus is deeply embedded in efforts to balance the vibrancy of the South Bank with the quality of life for residents.

The issue highlights a broader tension facing many central urban areas: balancing lively nightlife and cultural vibrancy with the rights of residents to enjoy peace and safety. While London’s South Bank is known for its thriving restaurant and entertainment scene—featuring top-rated establishments like The Archduke steakhouse and Black & Blue Waterloo—such disturbances risk alienating residents and undermining the area’s appeal. The motorbike gatherings, escalating in size and noise, present a stark example of how night-time urban activity can sometimes spill over into community detriment.

This local conflict contrasts with other urban areas that have embraced controlled street racing or motorsport events as part of city entertainment. For example, recent discussions around potential London street races suggest a desire in some quarters to harness motor racing’s excitement in a legal and organised format. However, the informal and disruptive nature of the Waterloo motorcyclists’ activity stands in direct contrast to these plans, prompting calls from politicians like Dogus for decisive enforcement action rather than tolerance.

As Waterloo prepares for its public meeting later this month, the challenge for Lambeth’s authorities will be to devise strategies that curtail the illegal racing and noise while preserving the district’s dynamic urban character. Dogus’s stance signals local leadership committed to protecting residents’ rights and ensuring that the South Bank remains not only a bustling cultural hub but also a community where people can live without disproportionate disruption.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.se1.news/ibrahim-dogus-mayor-of-lambeth/), [[4]](https://www.hot-dinners.com/201904258306/Gastroblog/Latest-news/restaurateur-and-british-kebab-awards-founder-ibrahim-dogus-made-mayor-of-lambeth), [[6]](https://www.sme4labour.org/ibrahim-dogus-we-no-longer-see-conservatives-as-the-party-for-smes)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.opentable.nl/landmark/restaurants-near-hayward-gallery)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.autoracing1.com/pl/163943/london-street-race-gathers-steam/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html), [[3]](https://www.se1.news/ibrahim-dogus-mayor-of-lambeth/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/waterloo-motorcyclists-racing-southbank-london-eye-ibrahim-dogus-b1246743.html> - Residents in Waterloo are demanding action over hundreds of motorcyclists turning the streets near the London Eye into a late-night racetrack. The noise and disruption have been ongoing for almost three months, with up to 200 riders gathering three to four nights a week. Local councillor Ibrahim Dogus has called for increased enforcement to restore peace and safety to the community. A public meeting is scheduled for September 24 to address the issue.
3. <https://www.se1.news/ibrahim-dogus-mayor-of-lambeth/> - Cllr Ibrahim Dogus was elected as the Mayor of Lambeth for the 2019–2020 municipal year. He has been serving as a councillor for Bishop's ward, which includes Waterloo and the South Bank, since May 2018. Dogus owns three South Bank restaurants—Troia, Westminster Kitchen, and Cucina—and has been active in local politics and community initiatives.
4. <https://www.hot-dinners.com/201904258306/Gastroblog/Latest-news/restaurateur-and-british-kebab-awards-founder-ibrahim-dogus-made-mayor-of-lambeth> - Ibrahim Dogus, a restaurateur and founder of the British Kebab Awards, was officially sworn in as Mayor of Lambeth in April 2019. Dogus owns three central London restaurants—Troia, Westminster Kitchen, and Cucina—and has been involved in various community and political activities in the area.
5. <https://www.opentable.nl/landmark/restaurants-near-hayward-gallery> - This OpenTable page lists top-rated restaurants near the Hayward Gallery on London's South Bank. The Archduke, a steakhouse located in a Victorian railway arch, is highlighted for its live jazz performances and modern cuisine, including steaks, grilled fish, and rotisserie chicken. Black & Blue – Waterloo, a modern British-American steakhouse, is also featured.
6. <https://www.sme4labour.org/ibrahim-dogus-we-no-longer-see-conservatives-as-the-party-for-smes> - Ibrahim Dogus, a Kurdish refugee who moved to the UK at 13, started working in a Mayfair restaurant a year after his arrival. He later took over Troia Southbank at 23, turning it into a successful business. Dogus has been active in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and has been critical of the Conservative Party's stance on SMEs.
7. <https://www.autoracing1.com/pl/163943/london-street-race-gathers-steam/> - This article discusses the growing interest in a potential London street race, highlighting the support from various stakeholders and the progress in planning. The piece provides insights into the logistics, potential challenges, and the excitement surrounding the event, reflecting the increasing enthusiasm for motorsport events in urban settings.