# Roe Green festival licence reignites battle over noise, litter and park use



Plans for a three‑day Gujarati cultural festival at Roe Green Park have rekindled a familiar row over noise, litter and traffic in north London. The event organiser, Red Lotus Events, is seeking a licence for a Rangeelu Gujarat celebration that organisers say could attract as many as 4,000 visitors a day; neighbours have lodged formal objections, citing last year’s disruption and warning that “the noise levels and general disturbance from traffic and crowds … is not acceptable”, a local resident told the Evening Standard. Residents have also highlighted concerns about litter, safety and repeated disruption to green space following a 2023 edition of the event.

The organisers say they intend to address those worries. According to the festival’s own webpage and statements to the Evening Standard, Red Lotus Events presents the festival as a family‑oriented celebration of Gujarati arts and culture, promising workshops, heritage exhibits, open‑air Garba and a largely vegetarian food offering. The company says the 2023 event was delivered professionally and that this year it will limit alcohol sales, position the stage away from nearby homes, monitor sound, provide security and run a robust waste‑management plan while inviting dialogue with residents and stall applicants.

The licence application will be considered under Brent Council’s formal licensing process. The council’s public calendar shows the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub‑Committee is due to hold a virtual hearing on 19 August 2025 to review the application, a procedural step that gives both objectors and the applicant an opportunity to present evidence and for the committee to attach conditions if it grants permission.

This dispute is not unique to Roe Green. Coverage of similar tensions at other west London sites has shown how repeated events can strain relations with neighbours: a BBC report on Gunnersbury Park documented local campaigns arguing that recurring festivals and the associated build‑and‑break activity leave parkland feeling like a “construction site”, cause prolonged noise and litter, and may damage amenities — while managers counter that income from events is necessary to maintain estates. That wider backdrop helps explain why residents at Roe Green say they are sceptical that promises alone will prevent a repeat of last year’s problems.

Industry practice points to a range of practical measures that licensing committees commonly require or endorse to limit community harm. Large promoters and event managers publish resident information explaining the use of external acoustic consultants, agreed volume limits, continuous sound monitoring, curfews and a dedicated resident hotline during build, event and breakdown periods. Local authority guidance on open‑air concerts similarly stresses early noise assessment, careful site design, speaker orientation, restricted hours and a formal Noise Management Plan to minimise disturbance to nearby homes.

Despite those mitigation options, neighbours argue that simple choices such as stage placement and overall site layout could have a disproportionate effect on local disturbance. “I have no reason to doubt the good intentions of the applicants but there must be serious doubts as to their ability to run this event satisfactorily,” one resident told the Evening Standard, reflecting a view that promises must be backed by enforceable, independently monitored conditions rather than goodwill alone. The organisers, meanwhile, continue to emphasise community engagement and accessibility on their event pages.

With the licensing hearing imminent, the Brent committee will need to weigh the cultural and communal benefits organisers claim against the documented impact on local people and parkland. Committees frequently grant licences with detailed conditions — from strict decibel caps and restricted sound‑check times to monitored waste plans and resident hotlines — or refuse applications where risk to the local amenity is judged too high. The council’s process allows objectors to make their case in public; how that balance is struck at Roe Green will determine whether the festival goes ahead this summer and under what terms.

This isn’t merely a local quarrel about one weekend of music, food and dance. It underscores a wider question about who bears the cost of “cultural enrichment” and who controls the impact on neighbourhoods. In a country still grappling with how to balance growth, tradition and everyday life, a Reform UK‑style approach would insist on binding, independently monitored conditions that protect residents, not festive appearances. Rather than relying on goodwill, such a framework would demand transparent sound limits, enforced curfews, and a clear mechanism to curb repeat disruption. It would also push for stronger local accountability in how parks are used and how events are funded, ensuring that communities are not left to absorb the negative spillovers of short‑term gains. If Labour wants to claim to stand up for communities, it should prove it at licensing hearings like this—by backing enforceable safeguards and letting residents see concrete results, not just assurances.

In the end, the decision at Roe Green will reflect not only a festival’s promise but also the governing tone set by the capital’s leaders. The council’s choice—whether to grant a licence with stringent, independently verifiable conditions or to permit a model that repeats last year’s mistakes—will signal how seriously residents’ quality of life is being taken as London continues to navigate the balance between cultural vitality and everyday life.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/north-london-park-indian-festival-b1243423.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/north-london-park-indian-festival-b1243423.html> - An Evening Standard report describes plans by Red Lotus Events to stage a three‑day Rangeelu Gujarat festival in Roe Green Park, north London, with up to 4,000 visitors each day. Neighbours lodged formal objections citing excessive noise, litter, traffic disruption and safety concerns after a 2023 edition. Organisers say the event was delivered professionally and will limit alcohol, monitor sound, position the stage away from homes, provide security and robust waste management. Brent Council’s Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub‑Committee was due to review the licence application. The piece records resident quotations and balances organisers’ responses and outlines next procedural steps.
3. <https://www.redlotusevents.com/rangeelugujarat> - Red Lotus Events’ Rangeelu Gujarat webpage advertises a three‑day cultural festival at Roe Green Park, detailing dates, times, family activities, food stalls and live performances. The page promotes workshops, heritage exhibits, open‑air Garba, children’s activities and volunteer opportunities, and lists contact details and ticketing information. It emphasises community engagement, accessibility, vegetarian offerings and a commitment to respectful programming. Practical FAQs address parking, accessibility and photography. The organisers present the event as a celebration of Gujarati arts and culture and invite local participation, stall applications and dialogue with residents about site plans and noise management. They say previous events were praised.
4. <https://democracy.brent.gov.uk/mgCalendarAgendaView.aspx?C=-1&CID=0&D=14&DD=2025&M=8&MR=0&OT=> - The Brent Council public calendar lists meetings of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub‑Committee, including a virtual hearing scheduled for 19 August 2025. The page sets out dates, times and locations for licensing meetings and provides links to agendas and public reports where available. It demonstrates the council’s formal governance process for considering licences for public events, enabling residents and applicants to follow hearing schedules and access documentation. The calendar therefore supports reporting that a licence application for an event in Roe Green Park would be reviewed by the licensing sub‑committee on a specified date. It is publicly accessible online.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4ng6n50ervo> - A BBC News piece reports residents’ objections to multiple summer events at Gunnersbury Park, arguing festivals cause prolonged disruption, noise, litter and restricted access. Campaigners said repeated build and break activity turns parkland into a 'construction site' and damages soil and amenities, while managers defended events as necessary income to maintain the estate. The article quotes local spokespeople, provides figures for event days and income, and notes reductions in reported noise complaints following mitigation. This coverage illustrates the wider context of tensions between park event organisers and nearby residents over noise, access and environmental impacts. It mirrors Roe Green concerns.
6. <https://www.festivalrepublic.com/gunnersbury-park-residents-information/> - Festival Republic’s resident information for events explains their sound management procedures, including use of external acoustic consultants, agreed volume limits, continuous monitoring and a resident hotline during build, event and breakdown periods. The guidance details sound check timings, curfews and how complaints are handled, and stresses the use of decibel limits approved by local authorities. It also outlines mitigation such as pointing speakers away from homes, limiting bass and restricting sound checks to agreed times. This practical approach mirrors organisers’ promises in the Standard article to monitor levels, set strict decibel limits and respond swiftly to concerns and support residents.
7. <https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200075/pollution/7692/noise_control_for_open_air_concerts_and_events> - Manchester City Council’s guidance on noise control for open‑air concerts advises organisers to consider noise at the earliest planning stage, using site design, speaker orientation, agreed hours and monitoring to minimise community impact. The page offers practical guidance and a downloadable document explaining noise assessment, mitigation options and responsibilities, and highlights the need for a Noise Management Plan. It emphasises minimising disturbance to nearby homes and public spaces through careful layout, restricted hours and liaison with residents. This supports residents’ argument that alternate site selection or stage placement within a park can reduce noise and general disturbance when properly implemented.