



Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

Event application for Zippo's Circus

Location	East Heath
Event days:	20 th October to 28 th October 2019
Set-up days	2
Actual event days	6
Clear-up days	1
Total days required:	9

Context

The Officer Event Group (OEG) meets once a month to discuss event applications. This Group is made up by the Leisure, Events and Communications Manager, The Operational Services Manager and the Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager. The OEG review all applications for the year 2019 to ensure applications meet the specific requirements of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 and specifically to manage event applications for Open Spaces Departmental Events Policy Part One and the Site-Specific Policy Part Two. The OEG met on 6 February 2019 to review the Circus Event Application. Below are the OEG assessment and recommendation for Members consideration.

Requirements

A. Does the event align with the Heath Vision and Strategic Outcomes?

The proposed Circus Event contributes to the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy: Outcome B "The Heath enriches lives". Zippos Circus is an event that appeals to a wide range of Heath users. OEG also outlined that many circus spectators might be first time visitors, and this may encourage them to discover more of the Heath and learn about the natural world.

Outcome C "The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors" - Zippos Circus is an inclusive and safe space that brings people together to view a traditional circus show with the backdrop of the Heath, allowing non-Heath users to access to the Heath.

B. Is the event application high quality including an event plan which sets out minimum standards for achieving a successful, safe and well-executed event?

Zippos Circus have submitted their comprehensive Operations Manual which includes risk assessments and method statements. The City of London Corporation commissioned Human Applications to undertake a review of information provided by Zippos Circus in 2018. The review looked at assessment control and mitigation of risks associated with animal rights protestors including both passive and assertive methods. Two days were spent on site gathering data from City of London employees, Zippos Circus employees to

assess the suitability of the health, safety, security and welfare arrangements.

The general impression taken from the interviews was that Zippos Circus is a well-liked, responsible organisation who places a great deal of emphasis on executing the highest standards to help maintain a traditional circus show. This was further confirmed by the efforts that Zippos Circus took to satisfy the initial requirements laid down by the City. This included:

1. Ensure the Operations Manual include employee (and artistes) safe practice for dealing with protesters and activists.
2. Ensure that all reasonably foreseeable and significant risks are identified and are subject to a full risk assessment.
3. Ensure that all relevant controls measures are described within the risk assessment.
4. Develop a policy for managing violence and aggression that captures any actions to be taken the trigger points for escalation and roles and responsibilities.
5. Review the extent of the boundary in which Zippos Circus will maintain responsibility and control to include line of sight to the horse exercise paddock.
6. Revise the site plan to account for emergency egress through the secure fenced accommodation area.
7. Ensure that any relevant changes to the current emergency processes are captured in the Operations Manual.
8. Review the current methods of communication and identify where formalisation is appropriate.
9. Consider using the notice board to display key H&S communications.
10. Establish a formal relationship with the Metropolitan Police independently of City of London.
11. Ensure all relevant documentation is reviewed prior to issuing an event licence.

The City of London will continue to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these recommendations.

The risks assessments have been developed using the HSE's 5 steps to risk assessment. It is our view that all the reasonably foreseeable and significant risks associated with dealing with animal rights protestors and activists have now been identified.

C. Is the event appropriate for the proposed location and does it comply with the Open Spaces Departmental Events Policy Parts One and Two?

The event locations are grouped into three broad zones and are considered by the OEG on an assessment of the suitability of the requested destination, including the local character of the location, the potential impacts on the site and on the experience of Hampstead Heath visitors and neighbours. Zippos Circus create a hard-standing tent viewing area and therefore are located within Zone A on East Heath Fairground Site.

D. Is the event sustainable and based on a strong business case?

Zippos Circus has been operating continuously for 30 years, it has proved economically sustainable and a good income generator for the Heath. It has a touring season from March until October every year visiting around thirty Local Authority Parks and Open Spaces the majority of which have been welcoming Zippos Circus annually for decades. For the past ten years in addition to the touring season Zippos has been the chosen provider/producer of circus and allied entertainment for the high-profile Winter Wonderland event in Hyde Park from late November to early January. Through providing completely new, quality, affordable circus productions every year aimed at family audiences as well continual investment in infrastructure and by keeping abreast of all up to date marketing opportunities, Zippos Circus has become an industry leader and a household name. The Circus is confident that through both capital investment and working practices, they have minimised any negative impact from specific environmental issues the three main issues include noise pollution, waste disposal and environmental impact. They undertake periodic reviews of their operating arrangements and their Operations Manual and Event Management Plan are updated accordingly.

E. Does the event offer quality and memorable experiences for visitors and participants that connect people with Hampstead Heath and the local community?

The local community has been a great supporter of the Circus and last year saw record numbers for the first night of the week's performances. In addition, the Superintendent received approximately 30 emails from circus visitors who expressed their enjoyment and appreciation.

F. Does the event identify and deliver added value for social inclusion?

Zippos Circus plays to mixed audiences attracting visitors from the local community. Zippos continues to offer complimentary tickets for children with disabilities.

G. Does the event promote the Heath Vision values of shared stewardship and collective responsibility?

Zippos Circus works hand in hand with Hampstead Heath Management Team to deliver an event that enriches the Heath, is welcoming and accessible. They also have a track record of responsible management towards the care and maintenance of the Heath.

Additional Information

Zippos Creative Director has confirmed that horses will not form part of the 2019 programme.