



Open
Spaces

Registered Charity

Open Spaces Departmental Events Policy [Part One]

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1. Policy Statement

1.1. The City of London Corporation holds in trust and manages a number of Open Spaces around London and beyond. Many of them have a long history of hosting events. The Open Spaces covered by this policy (see Definitions and Scope) are managed as charitable trusts. The main charitable objectives of these trusts are:

- The preservation of the open space
- The provision of recreation and enjoyment of the public

2. Aims

2.1. This Events Policy has been developed to:

- Provide a framework for making decisions about staging events at the City of London's Open Spaces
- Assist event organisers in understanding the decision-making process when considering an application to hold an event
- Meet the City of London's statutory obligations and charitable objectives to preserve its open spaces and to provide recreation and enjoyment, and to meet the specific requirements of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018
- Facilitate events which are appropriate to the character of the open spaces and are high quality, safe and environmentally sustainable; and facilitate engagement, recreation and enjoyment for local communities and other Open Space users taking account of the views of stakeholders
- Ensure that events held are well planned and have comprehensive and appropriate environmental protection measures in place

3. Definitions and Scope

3.1 Terms of reference

City of London, also referred to as "the City"	The City of London Corporation
Site	"Site" is used to refer to each particular Open Space within the scope of this policy
Location	"Location" refers to specific locations or areas within the Site.
Open Spaces	"Open Spaces" is used to refer collectively to all the Sites within the scope of this policy.

Event	<p>This policy applies to all events proposed to be held on the Open Spaces, except where specifically excluded (see section 'Events covered by this policy')</p> <p>Events controlled by this policy usually include the setting aside of a particular area, the provision of facilities or infrastructure.</p>
Superintendent	<p>The Superintendent is the Senior Officer responsible for the management of each of the Sites. The Superintendent has been delegated authority by the City to authorise 'events and entertainments'. The Officer Event Groups will make recommendations to the Superintendent or Committee for the approval or refusal of events.</p>
Committee	<p>The City of London operates a Committee System of elected Members. Each Open Space has a Committee responsible for its management and the relevant Committee will consider applications for large or unusual events on the Sites it is responsible for (see section 'How we make decisions').</p>
Officer Event Group (OEG)	<p>Event applications will be considered by an Officer Event Group (OEG) at each Site. The OEG includes relevant officers from the Site. The OEG considers event applications and makes recommendations to either the Superintendent or the Committee in accordance with this policy.</p>

3.2 Scope of policy

This policy applies to the 12 Open Space Sites managed by the City of London, located outside of the City of London local authority area known as the Square Mile, which are managed as charitable trusts. These are:

- 1) Ashtead Common
- 2) Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common
- 3) Coulsdon Common
- 4) Epping Forest and Epping Forest Buffer Land
- 5) Farthing Downs
- 6) Hampstead Heath including Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension
- 7) Highgate Wood
- 8) Kenley Common
- 9) Queen's Park
- 10) Riddlesdown
- 11) West Ham Park
- 12) West Wickham and Spring Park

3.3 It is intended that this Departmental Events Policy will be reviewed after 12 months.

4. Legislative context

- 4.1 There is a variety of legislation pertaining in the management of the City's Open Spaces. Many of the Sites have specific founding legislation which sets out the City's powers and duties. The Site-specific policy contained within Part Two reflects the particular legislative context and requirements for each Site.
- 4.2 The City of London promoted the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 within Parliament. This Act makes additional provision for events, subject to a suitable events policy being in place.

- 4.3 Section 7 of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act says:

In this section "event" means—

- (a) a ceremony, celebration, entertainment or similar occasion; or*
 - (b) a conference, an exhibition or the making of a film.*
- (2) The Corporation may—*
- (a) temporarily use or permit others to use land (including buildings) forming part of an open space for the purposes of an event;*
 - (b) provide, or arrange for another person to provide, equipment, facilities or services for the purposes of an event;*
 - (c) so far as appears to the Corporation to be necessary in connection with an event, restrict or authorise others to restrict access temporarily to an area of land forming part of the open space; and*
 - (d) charge for permission or provision given or made under paragraph (a) or (b) or charge or authorise others to charge for admission to an area to which access is so restricted.*
- (3) The Corporation must exercise the powers in subsection (2) having regard to a policy concerning the exercise of the powers prepared by the Corporation in consultation with such persons or bodies as it thinks appropriate (which must include any committee or group established by statute for the purpose of consultation about the management of the open space).*
- (4) The policy must, in particular, contain provision—*
- (a) requiring that—*
 - (i) in deciding whether, and on what terms, to permit an event under subsection (2), the Corporation must have regard to the character and local environment of the open space (or the part of the open space in which the event is to take place); and*
 - (ii) such an event (whether individually or taken with other events) does not cause material injury to the amenity of the open space or significant impairment to the public enjoyment of the open space; and*
 - (iii) in relation to land to which the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 applies, any structure erected is not on a part of the land which is unbuilt on; and*
 - (b) limiting the frequency and duration of events in the open space.*

5. Events covered by this policy

- 5.1 This policy applies to all events which are held on the City's Open Spaces where the permission or assistance of the City is required to facilitate it.
- 5.2 As a general guide, this policy does not apply to informal gatherings which take place on our spaces. However, if event organisers are planning an activity which requires additional facilities, infrastructure, may interfere with public use of the site, involve things which would otherwise be a breach of Open Space byelaws (such as the erection of structures), or go beyond the ordinary recreational use of an Open Space then it is likely that an application and decision would need to be taken in accordance with this policy.
- 5.3 There are a number of activities which are excluded from the scope of this policy, because they are dealt with under separate arrangements, specifically:
- Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies
 - Filming and photography
 - Sports activities attracting less than 500 people on dedicated sporting facilities and/or with limited infrastructure requirements, or covered by the sports licensing arrangements e.g. personal training, group exercise classes, fun runs.
- 5.4 Further details of these can be found on www.cityofLondon.gov.uk
- 5.5 If you are in any doubt whether you need to apply before arranging an event, please contact the relevant Site (www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

6. Event Locations

- 6.1 The nature of the City of London's Open Spaces means that each Site has limits in terms of the location, number, size and scale of the events they can accommodate. This is to ensure that the City's duties of preservation are respected, and in particular that there is no material injury to the amenity of the Open Space or significant impairment to the public enjoyment of the Open Space. The locations in which events may be permitted are specified together with the maximum frequency, duration and capacity in the Site-specific policies contained within Part Two of this policy.
- 6.2 Events proposed outside of the specified locations, or which exceed or contribute to a cumulative exceeding of the limits set out in the Site-specific policies, will be likely to be refused.
- 6.3 It is intended that the Site-specific policies will be reviewed by the relevant Committees every three years.

7. Requirements for event organisers

- 7.1 Events must, in the judgement of the Committee or Superintendent approving them:
- Be appropriate to the character and local environment of the Open Space (or part of the Open Space in which the event is to take place)
 - Not cause material damage to the amenity of the Open Space
 - Not significantly impair the public enjoyment of the Open Space
 - Be in accordance with the Site-specific policy
 - Benefit users of the Open Space or the space itself

Environmental protection

- 7.2 Events must not cause material damage to the ecology, landscape, fauna and flora of the Site.
- 7.3 The Site-specific policies contained within Part Two include restrictions on the location, duration, frequency and timing of events in order to protect the environment of the Sites. Before making a recommendation, the Officer Event Group will consider whether the proposals are in accordance within this policy and whether any additional protections are required.

Character of the local environment

- 7.4 Events must be appropriate to the character and environment of the area in which they take place.

Amenity Impact

- 7.5 Events (whether individually or taken with other events) which are held at each Site must not cause material injury to the amenity of the Open Space or significant impairment to the public enjoyment of the Open Space. Before making a recommendation, the Officer Event Group will consider the event proposed in accordance with the Site-specific policy and the cumulative impact of the events programme for the relevant period.

Community benefit

- 7.6 Events held on the Open Spaces must benefit the local community or other users of the Open Space concerned. In most cases this benefit will be derived through the opportunity to attend the event. On those occasions where an event takes place which has limited or no public access, an additional fee may be levied in order to support maintenance of the Site and the provision of services and facilities for the benefit of the public.

Health & Safety

- 7.7 The wellbeing, health, safety and security of those attending an event, or working or volunteering at an event, are paramount. The event organisers must provide details of their proposals to ensure this.

7.8 Event organisers will need to demonstrate these requirements through their application form and event management plan.

Re-instatement Bond

7.9 Event organisers will need to provide a deposit (see section 10) which will act as a bond to cover the cost of any reinstatement works.

8. Events that are not allowed

8.1 Requests for the following types of events will be refused:

- Political campaigns or rallies
- Events which could be damaging to community relations
- Events associated with extremist organisations or proscribed organisations
- Events which are considered discriminatory or offensive
- Illegal activities
- Events which include animals falling within the schedule of “Kinds of Dangerous Wild Animals” in the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (Modification) (No.2) Order 2007 or its replacement
- Events which could cause damage to the reputation of the City of London Corporation
- Events which could involve operations likely to damage the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

9. How we make decisions

Officer Event Group

9.1 Each Site has an Officer Event Group which considers applications for events in the first instance. The frequency of their meetings is detailed within the Site-specific policies which forms Part Two of this policy. The Officer Event Group will make decisions and recommendations to the Superintendent or Committee (as appropriate) based on the event applications forms, event management plans and their compliance with this policy.

Event application form

9.2 An event application form is provided in Part Two of this policy. All relevant sections of the form must be completed by the event organiser. The information provided will be used by the relevant Officer Event Group to determine what approval process to follow, what the event organisers must do and what charges will be made.

Event management plan

- 9.3 Event organisers must develop and submit an event management plan. This plan together with the application form must demonstrate that each of the requirements within this policy will be met.

Things the Officer Event Group consider

- 9.4 Before making a recommendation, the Officer Event Group will look at the information provided in the application form and the event management plan. They will also consider:
- Whether the event is appropriate to the character and local environment of the Open Space or Site.
 - The potential for and extent of material damage to the amenity of the Open Space
 - Any potential to damage the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
 - The potential for and extent of impairment to the public enjoyment of the Open Space
 - Whether the event complies with this policy and the relevant Site-specific policy
 - Whether the event is suitable for the Site location proposed
 - Whether the event clashes with any other events or activities
 - Whether the time of year is appropriate
 - Whether there is sufficient lead-in time
 - Whether the event would conflict with any restrictive covenants, byelaws or statutory provisions applicable to the Site
 - Whether appropriate arrangements have been made for wellbeing, health & safety, security, public liability insurance, stewarding and the provision of first aid
 - Whether arrangements for local authority licences have been made
 - Capability of the organiser
 - Any environmental impact outside the Site (e.g. noise nuisance)
 - Benefit to the local community or other users of the Site and/or to the charitable objectives of the Site
 - The event organisers performance in previous years.
 - The event organisers experience in running an event of a similar type and scale
 - Whether the event is not permitted in accordance with Section 8 – “Events which are not allowed” of this policy
- 9.5 Feedback will be provided to event organisers if the arrangements proposed are insufficient or require amendment. Events which do not meet the required criteria will be refused. The Superintendent or Committee may require event organisers to comply with particular conditions.

Approval process

- 9.6 Site specific policies will categorise events based on anticipated participant numbers and duration (including set up/set down times) as appropriate for each Site. These are contained in Part Two; Site specific policies.
- 9.7 Superintendents have authority to approve events which have up to 5,000 participants and a maximum duration of 2 days. For events of over 5,000 participants and/or of 3 or more days duration, approval will be sought from the relevant Committee. In addition, there may be exceptional circumstances when an application is received which is in some way contrary to an element of this policy but has a high level of benefit to the community or Site. In such a case, the Superintendent may refer such a decision to the appropriate Committee.
- 9.8 The time required to make determinations vary according to the scale of the event proposed. These are included with the Site-specific policies contained in Part Two. Event organisers must ensure they have allowed sufficient time for the application to be considered.

Local authority approvals

- 9.9 A licence (or Temporary Event Notice) from the local authority may be needed for some events. Further information is available from <https://www.gov.uk/licence-finder>
- 9.10 Applying for this licence and any other consents that may be required is the responsibility of the event organiser. Event organisers will need to familiarise themselves with the local authority licensing process, timescale and charges as part of their event planning. Failure to be granted any necessary licence or consent will result in the event being refused permission by the City of London.

Insurance

- 9.11 The City of London requires as a minimum £2 million public liability insurance, evidence of which must be provided by the event organiser, prior to the event. The level of cover may increase up to £10million, subject to the nature, scale, complexity and risk of the event.

10. Charges for Events

- 10.1 The holding of events gives rise to costs for the charitable funds from which the City manages the Open Space. These costs arise from administration, staff support, works which are required to facilitate the event and any required remediation works. Event organisers will generally be expected to meet the full costs associated with their event, although this requirement may be relaxed for events that are considered to provide strong benefits for the Site or its users and which are held on a non-profit basis.

- 10.2 For events involving an element of profit, or which are considered to provide limited benefit for the Site or its users, a hire fee may be charged in addition to cost recovery, in order to ensure wider benefit for the Site.
- 10.3 The Officer Event Group will estimate the costs associated with an event and will propose the charge to be made, subject to the approval of the Superintendent or Committee as appropriate.

Application fee

- 10.4 A non-refundable application fee will be charged for all event applications. This fee is charged to cover the costs of determining event applications.

Refundable damage deposit

- 10.5 A damage deposit may be required, in advance, for each event. The type and size of the event and consideration of any potential remediation works will be relevant to the deposit required. The deposit will be held as a bond and used to fund any remediation works required and any additional costs incurred by the City of London for which the event organiser did not pay a charge.
- 10.6 The costs of any remediation works will be deducted from the deposit before it is returned. Should the deposit not be sufficient to pay for the remediation works or additional costs incurred by the City, the event organisers will remain liable for additional costs.

Hire costs

- 10.7 Costs associated with holding events are set out more fully within the Site-specific policies. Costs for staff time are based on full cost recovery.
- 10.8 Days associated with set up and set down will be charged for, in order to offset the loss of amenity for that period.
- 10.9 A holding deposit is included within the hire costs to secure a Site location on a specific day. Late cancellation may forfeit this deposit.

Cancellation

- 10.10 Where an event is cancelled by the organisers within the agreed cancellation period, the event holding deposit minus any costs incurred by the City will be refunded. No refunds will be given for any cancellations after the agreed cancellation period, and the City of London will be entitled to recover any additional costs incurred.
- 10.11 The City of London has the right to cancel an event, on its own authority or the advice of the Police or another appropriate authority. Examples of the reasons why the City may cancel an event in advance or during the event include:
- An emergency situation has arisen

- The event organiser has not complied with their event management plan
- The event does not have the required licences or insurances
- The charges including the deposit have not been paid / payment cleared in advance of the event
- The event is unsafe
- The weather is or is forecast to be very poor or extreme and will impact on the Site conditions
- The ground conditions are poor or unsuitable

10.12 In cases where an event is cancelled on the advice of the police, any other appropriate authority or for any of the reasons mentioned above, the City will not be liable for any fees, costs or damages incurred.

10.13 Cancellation periods are set out for different types of events within the Site-specific policies.

11. Event organiser's performance

11.1 Officers will monitor and review the performance of the event organiser throughout the event planning stages and delivery. Notes will be made where an event organiser has performed poorly so that this can be considered should future event applications be received.

12. PART TWO – Site Specific Policies

12.1 Please see separate document. This includes the events application form. It applies to Site specific policies:

- 1) Ashtead Common
- 2) Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common
- 3) Coulsdon Common
- 4) Epping Forest and Epping Forest Buffer land
- 5) Farthing Downs
- 6) Hampstead Heath including Golders Hill Park and the Heath Extension
- 7) Highgate Wood
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