



HIGHAMS  
RESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION

## Funfair survey results

### Research objective

Understand the perceived impact on residents during a ten-day funfair held in the park, including their view of the council, HRA and funfair operators' performance.

The survey would determine whether the HRA should:

- seek to prevent similar events from taking place in the future
- have acted more decisively in stopping the event in the first place

### Methodology

An online survey was run for five weeks, from 20 July until 21 August 2022.

- The survey used a Likert scale to judge the respondent's strength of agreement with a number of statements
- The statements represented the topics of concern that had come to light before the funfair

86 responses were received from residents.

- We don't know if more than one person replied per household
- Assuming 350 homes are inhabited on the Estate, this equates to a response rate of around 25%

[View the survey](#)

## Survey findings

Overall, residents would prefer if the funfair or events like it were not held in the park in the future.

There was one universally supported view from survey respondents. 90% agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement:

*LBWF council should inform Highams Estate residents if an event similar to this funfair is to be held in The Highams Park again*

Of those who did respond, around 60% did not visit the funfair.

- Those who did attend went because they had families that they believed would enjoy it or wished to see the funfair for themselves
- Those who did not were mostly on holiday didn't have children or felt a funfair wasn't suitable for them
- Others didn't visit out of principle

Based on the responses received, residents perceived the event:

- To be well organised
- Aimed at families and children
- In the park for too long
- To have reduced the number of visits they made to the park

The event did not seem to have any significant impact on:

- Resident's enjoyment of their homes
- Parking
- Litter
- Noise
- Anti-social behaviour
- The condition of trees, grass or other vegetation

The funfair did have a significant, negative impact on a small number of residents and their feelings were strongly made in the survey.

More broadly, there's a fear that hosting this funfair in The Highams Park sets a precedent for more disruptive events to take place in the future.

## Conclusions

*Should HRA prevent similar events from taking place?*

As the park is council-owned, HRA have limited influence over how the council runs the park. The park has benefited from improved facilities and maintenance in recent years, and remains an important community space for Highams Estate residents and the locale as a whole.

But there is clearly a concern from Highams Estate residents about the nature of future events being planned. Not just the council, but by other community groups.

Therefore the HRA will commit to:

- Constructively engaging with the council's parks team, on behalf of residents who feel most strongly about public events being held in the park
- Monitoring the performance of event organisers and the council to make sure they are fulfilling their obligations towards noise and traffic management
- Encouraging residents to keep us abreast of any issues seen in the park: litter, ASB etc.
- Keeping residents informed as to the events being held in the park

*Should HRA have acted more decisively?*

Along with residents, HRA did not learn of the funfair event until a week before it was held: HRA understands other community groups had been made aware of this event, but we were not privy to this information until the event was given the go-ahead by the council.

HRA are currently restating the importance of our position to those groups and the council as independent representatives of Highams Estate residents: not least by sharing these survey findings.

We want to be the first port-of-call for the council and other community groups as to how the park is run and maintained. This will help HRA to give sufficient warning to residents before such events occur in the park, share feedback from residents to event organisers, and influence the types of and ways that events are held in the future.

Residents are welcome to provide any feedback on this matter by emailing [highamsra@gmail.com](mailto:highamsra@gmail.com)

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