

About the resident forum and who can join.

The resident forum was created in 2012 and has a membership of 12 people. Invitations were sent to households in Bingley in the areas surrounding Myrtle Park and beyond extending to as far as Gilstead. The festival management asked for any residents who were interested in joining the forum to submit expressions of interest. The aim of the forum is for festival management to work alongside residents and collectively assess issues/concerns and apply mitigating measures to control them. Forum members were selected based on a mixed demographic and geographic area in order to provide a balanced representation of residents in Bingley. New forum members have been recruited when existing members have left. A letter is sent to residents in the immediate area, asking for expressions of interest where the former forum member resided. This is to maintain a balanced geographical representation. The selection of new forum members is decided by existing forum members.

Noise from the construction vehicles in the streets of Bingley, leading up to and during the festival.

The build of the event infrastructure starts approximately 2 weeks in advance of the event. Most of that infrastructure is brought in on large vehicles. In order to minimise disturbance to residents in the Beech Street/Sycamore Avenue areas, contractors are instructed to follow the designated access route to the park (Oak Avenue and Beech Street). We appreciate that contractors do not always cascade this instruction to their haulage companies and occasionally satnav will direct drivers to the park via the nearest route. To assist this, the route will also be signposted and will include advice on maximum speed limits and to turn off any idling engines. Signs displaying maximum speed limit are installed on the route in.

Deliveries at unsociable hours.

Festival management do not request deliveries to take place at unsociable hours and the majority of deliveries do take place between 8am and 5pm. However, we recognise that some deliveries are made at unsociable hours as deliveries through the daytime are not always possible. This is due to transport logistics and driving hours associated with the haulage companies. We hope any unsociable hours deliveries are kept to a minimum and we apologise in advance for any disruption this causes.

Rubbish thrown in gardens, on the streets and the roads around the park.

A cleansing plan is in place not just for the park but also the town centre and the streets surrounding Myrtle Park for the three days of the festival. Festival attendees are not permitted entry into the festival with beer bottles or cans.

The park is left in a state of disrepair after the event.

A consequence of wet weather and an accumulation of massed crowds is that there will be some impact to the surface of the park. In 2016 it rained for 10 hours which caused some superficial damage more so in the high density areas that receive the biggest footfall. The festival work closely with the Park's department who are paid by the festival to undertake any reinstatement works. The park is then handed back to the Park's department who determine the level of works necessary to bring the grass back to suitable standard. If the weather is kind, as in 2015, there is very little damage to the surface. As with any large event, there is an expectation that litter will be generated. Litter clearance is carried out by the Council's Cleansing Dept. and paid for by the festival. For the safety of those attending and for park users after the festival there is a ban on glass being brought into the festival. Searches are undertaken by security staff at the entrance gates to prevent glass from being brought into the festival site.

Noise levels from the festival.

Noise is a consequence due to the nature of the event. Sound levels throughout the duration of the event are set by the Council's Department of Environmental Protection Noise Control department in consultation with an independent noise consultant, whose sole function is to measure and log noise during the event. Noise Measurements are taken at the front of house towers where the sound engineers are located and also at the nearest noise sensitive premises. The independent noise consultant will liaise with sound engineers and advise and warn them if they are approaching maximum permitted levels. In the unlikely event that noise levels are exceeded, the noise consultant will instruct sound engineers to reduce the volume to the agreed levels.

The location of the festival.

Myrtle Park has hosted music events since 1991. It also hosts other large events such as Bingley Show and has formerly hosted the Rotary Club bonfire. The reason why Myrtle Park is used to host the festival is because it is located central to the Bradford district and is easily accessible via major road and rail networks. Myrtle Park is also one of the largest expanses of open spaces available to the authority to accommodate large numbers.

Make the event free of charge.

Unfortunately due to Government spending cuts it is not feasible to offer a free event or night. The Local authority do balance this by offering other 'free' events across the district.

I attend the festival but can't leave via the Beech Street exit. Why not?

Issues were raised via the resident survey four years ago from residents in the Beech Street Area that some festival goers were involved in anti-social behaviour causing distress and a disturbance to residents. In response to the issues Festival management together with the Resident Forum took measures to mitigate the anti-social behaviour by restricting egress to festival goers who reside in the immediate area between Beech Street and Bradford Road and Park Avenue and Oak Avenue.

Why aren't there free or discounted tickets to residents?

Unfortunately due to Government spending cuts it is not feasible to offer free tickets. The Local authority does balance this by offering other 'free' events across the district.

Parking on Oak Avenue without a permit and parking outside resident's homes.

The festival team work closely with the Highways department to provide a comprehensive traffic management plan. This includes implementing temporary traffic regulation orders and parking restrictions. 'Resident Parking Only' signs are located on street ends off Bradford Road leading onto Beech Street to advise motorists of the parking restrictions. Parking Service officers also patrol the area during the event to enforce parking restrictions. Parking permit areas are not determined by the festival. Any enquiries relating to extending permit areas should be addressed with the Highways Department.

Festival set up time is too early which has an impact on local residents and dog walkers.

For an event of this size it is necessary to start bringing in event infrastructure approximately 2 weeks in advance of the event. This will commence with the installation of the portable roadway. Essential contractor Health and Safety work practices need to be implemented, particularly surrounding roadway installation and stage areas during construction and this requires specific areas to be completely fenced off. It is necessary to prevent access where there is risk to public safety. Where practical, footpaths enabling continued access to park users will remain open.

Support for local businesses.

A business forum meeting was arranged 4 years ago and local businesses were invited via the Aire Valley Chamber of Trade. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss queries and any issues caused by the festival and also to discuss the opportunities available. Unfortunately none of the invited businesses felt it necessary to attend the meeting. A business survey is circulated to businesses in Bingley Town Centre where feedback, is taken on board.