

## **Alice in Winterland Stakeholder engagement meeting**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Introductions from Marcus Golden Tours/ Things to do

Marcus introduced the event and discussed that the Alice in Winterland event was backed and funded by Golden Tours, a London based hop on hop off tour operator.

### **Overview of the event**

An interactive lantern experience to be based in the North Section of Southwark park. There will be around 200 lanterns some of which will be up to 7m high, entertainment programme, food and drinks stalls.

### **Event Details**

The event will run between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> January

Build will be 7<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> November

Get Out 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> January

Capacity will be 2000 at any one time. Event ingress will be staggered in increments of 500 people at any one time and tickets bought in timed entry slots.

We also discussed the fireworks displays on new Years Eve. Potential for two family friendly fireworks displays. Marcus stated the fireworks will be “Bangless”

### **Ticket costs**

Marcus discussed tickets will between £10-£25 per ticket and there will be a number of different categories within the ticketing. Marcus also discussed there would be discounted tickets for local residents and local community groups.

Barry asked the question how local is local?

*Action - Further decisions need to be discussed regarding this issue but it thought residents of SE16 or Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.*

Barry, Valerie and Jerry all raised concerns that ticket costs should be affordable for local residents and requested that there be discounted tickets earlier in the week slots. Also that residents should be able to get discounted tickets using their utility bills as proof of postcode.

*Action – Marcus to investigate how the ticketing website could do this.*

### **Community Engagement**

We will be reaching out to local schools and community groups to get them involved. This could be through schools workshops or visits and participation in the bandstand programme. There will be discounted tickets available for parents of those performing.

Also opportunity to get local actors to act as guides. Valerie talked about her actors agency.

There will also be local traders invited to trade at the event. Gerry asked why they weren't at the meeting. Paul and Charlie confirmed they hadn't been invited.

Barry raised the point that food should be kept reasonable priced to attract the local people and that high bar/ food prices would put people off.

### **Event management**

Mandy talked through event management planning for the event. This included schedules of work, EMP production, H & S, ecology study, trader management, park and environmental protection & noise management.

Gerry has concerns over the state the park has been left in after previous events and stated he would like the park to be left in a better state than prior to the event. i.e. reinstating a large puddle which is currently in the park.

Gerry also stated that he thought it seemed like a cash cow – he can see that the event will make lots of money given the numbers on site and also the ticket prices so asked the question why the money doesn't come back to the park users? He called for 100% transparency from the council. He also said conversations needed to be had to benefit the park.

For example there is a project idea to create an area for dogs. The local residents have lots of ideas and inspiration but not the funds to do it.

Valerie mentioned at previous events when security had been rude and not given access to parts of the park during events.

Marcus stated they would like to have a long-term future of the event in the park and that he would work with residents to ensure all parties felt happy with the plans.

Both Gerry and Barry agreed that they had seen the park change for the worse over the years and go from a friendly place for kids to an unfriendly park with few facilities.

Valerie stated they have had many bad experiences with events in the past and the state the park had been left in.

Barry stated he was not personally against the event as long as the local people and kids could afford to come and that food was not priced out at ridiculous prices.

Gerry stated he hopes the event is a success and comes back year after year however organisers should think about legacy for the park.

Valerie suggested many people don't have access to the internet and that tickets should be available to buy locally.

Marcus stated he will have a stand on British land selling tickets

*Action - look into selling tickets at local shops, library and on site box office.*

## **4D walkthrough**

Everyone was shown the 4D walkthrough of the event footprint.

### **AOB**

Barry stated there was controversy amongst local running group as they thought the event would stop them running around the park. We told the group that there would be clear paths around the park all day and also through the centre section of the event so that people can use the surrounding areas as normal.

Barry stated he thinks the event is a good idea but also said it shouldn't be overpriced.

Nil stated that our food tender will ask for food trader menus and costs in advance.

Valerie suggested that there should be 1 hour when local people could get into the event for free. Perhaps at of peak times.

*Action – Marcus to liaise with Barry on food trader costs*

Paul stated he was expecting Things to do to hold 1-2more stakeholder engagement meetings which would also include a site walk to view everything.

Barry suggested that the organisers should go to Rotherhithe forum on July 17<sup>th</sup> as it would be a good opportunity to engage with local residents and councillors.

*Action Marcus to attend meeting*

Paul also stated that the event will need a premises license so that when the license is put in residents can expect to see blue signs around the park detailing events plans. This will be a chance to comment on the event formally.

*Action – Apply for premises license soon*

Valerie suggested a cake baking day where local groups could sell cakes to raise money for charity. All thought this was a great idea. Marcus has a list of charity organisations from Paul to contact.

Barry said there were lots of small groups crying out for funding.

It was suggested we may need a leaf management plan as the plane leaves would not have fallen off the trees and will be gathering in piles around the park.

Residents seemed generally happy for the event to go ahead and that further plans should be shared at a later date.

All left to watch the football!