



Cllr. Oisín

O'CONNOR

GLENCULLEN-SANDYFORD

Marlay Park concert licenses 2026

April 2026

To whom it may concern,

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the application for an event license to run 9 concerts in Marlay Park this summer. I would like to start by saying that I'm fully supportive of the Marlay Park concerts and all of the benefits they bring to the area, in spite of the challenges that comes with them.

Each year for the last 4 years I have tried to work with MCD/Festival Republic and Council management on improving conditions for residents living near Marlay Park. As a resident of Ballinteer, I also see first hand the issues that can and do arise.

This is my first time making a submission on the event license as I feel it's important that certain things are included as conditions of the event license, rather than "favours" I need to ask for during the concert period.

These are the improvements I would like to see:

- 1) Parking management. Each year some estates get parking tags and some don't. The first thing that needs to happen is that every road off Ballinteer Avenue, Brehon Field Road and Harold's Grange Road need to have parking tags given to them and then strictly monitored from 1pm in the afternoon. These roads are all official or unofficial routes to the M50 so naturally get used for parking by

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people. As well as all estates and developments from last year, the new estates and developments I'm specifically asking for are:

- Ballinteer Court
- Ballinteer Park
- Ballintyre (all)
- Grangefield
- Kingston Hall apartments
- Grange Hill
- Silverton
- Marlay View (no need for parking tags but a steward to monitor the entrance needed)

There also needs to be active parking enforcement. A condition of the event license must be that a parking enforcement contractor is hired for each concert who are empowered to issue parking tickets under council bye laws. I know there won't be enough Gardaí to be able to do this so that's why a parking enforcement contractor must be hired.

The Residents Parking Permits should include a note on them advising residents they are for residents and their visitors only, not to pass them onto concert goers.

- 2) Pick up and drop off locations: not enough is done to engage with local car park owners for using their car parks as formal and well signposted pick up and drop off locations. Rather than have lines of traffic right up to Marlay Park gates while the roads are closed, encourage pick ups including taxis to take place a 10/15 minutes walk away from Marlay Park. These should be well publicised and signposted beforehand.

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- 3) Traffic management to prevent post-concert rat running: In the case of some estates such as Woodpark and Mayfield Terrace/Ballinteer Park, they are used as rat runs after concerts so they need to be actively barriered off with properly trained traffic management staff from 10pm until all concert traffic has cleared Ballinteer Avenue. This needs to be properly supervised also as in the last 2 years there have been barriers or traffic management staff but they've gone missing at crucial times of the night leading to chaos in Woodpark with attempted rat running. Gardaí also need to be informed that directing traffic through Woodpark does not help, as those drivers just get stuck at the Heights trying to exit onto Ballinteer Road.
- 4) Stewarding & security in surrounding areas: similar to traffic management there should be stewarding at the entrance to all residential developments, whether public or private. Residents have reported concertgoers urinating, drinking and littering in their developments. Examples include Marlay View, Ballintyre, Grange Hill, Taylor's Hill. These should not be treated differently just because they are private. Stewards should be stationed at the entrances to discourage entry. There also needs to be some kind of foot patrol security presence from Gardaí on major arteries out like Ballinteer Avenue and Brehon Field Road when concertgoers are dispersing. The impression I've been under from walking around 1 hour after concerts finish is that Gardaí are solely concerned with vehicular flow, not the general behaviour of thousands of concertgoers on foot in a residential area. The policing plan needs to be explicit on this.

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- 5) Signage: there should be signage affixed to poles all along Ballinteer Avenue directing vehicle traffic to the M50 and foot traffic to the Luas. This is the main cause of confusion among drivers picking people up after the concerts. It will also help against drivers trying to be smart by rat-running through estates.
- 6) Public transport: there needs to be much better use of public transport for the concerts. There are plenty of private coaches from around the country and that's fine, but the lack of public transport options within Dublin pushes people to drive. Dublin Bus and Go Ahead should be putting on extra S8s, 14s, 16s and 74s. If the concert promoter has to go fund these then so be it. These should be advertised to concert goers, regardless of pushback from the NTA.
- 7) Active travel: for most concert goers living within 5km of Marlay Park the fastest and most reliable way to get to and from the concerts is walking or cycling. These should be more actively encouraged by the concert promoters. There should be clear walking and cycling routes recommended in all event information. There should be large amounts of secure bike parking provided and properly advertised. Deals should be made with bike hire companies to provide extra bikes for people to take short journeys or even to cycle to and from the Luas. It doesn't have to be caught up in a "not everyone can cycle" discussion. If 2% of staff/concert goers cycled that's around 1,000 people fewer in cars and over-crowded public transport. People on bikes also disperse much quicker than people on foot or in cars.

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- 8) Litter management: there needs to be more bins and spread further around the perimeter around the park, especially on the walking routes from the Luas to Marlay Park.
- 9) Toilets: the toilets that have been sited next to the infants entrance of Our Lady's Girls School in previous years are not a suitable location for them. In reality these are not properly cleaned the morning after by the time children are going in the school entrance. Please find somewhere more suitable for the public toilets.
- 10) Noise: if a noise limit is set, it should be kept to and there should be maximum transparency of noise level data. The noise does seem to be going up every year according to many residents and I don't think it's monitored properly or transparently. There should be a requirement to publish live noise monitor results on the website including the noise data from the previous day's concert. Sharing one figure informally when asked is not a good enough way to address residents' concerns with the noise levels. Noise from sound checks during the day is not mentioned but is just as disruptive for residents of the area, especially with more working from home. If there is a limit to sound check noise, it's at particular time of day and it is properly managed that would be a good compromise. But it must be explicit in the plan, not left ambiguous.
- 11) Park closure/part closures: I appreciate efforts taken in recent years to close less of the park than was the case in the past, but there's still an impact on locals who rely on the park. This isn't mentioned in the event management plan. More should be done to keep more of the park open for people during concert season.

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Consideration should also be given to extending the morning opening hours so people can possibly use the park in the early mornings when their evening use is severely restricted.

Consideration should also be given to how the park is usable by women in particular with the paths that remain open being the less overlooked ones that feel less safe.

- 12) Impact on traders: there needs to be more done to work together with the craftspeople and traders in Marlay Park Courtyard to minimise the impact on them on concert days and days between concerts. Greater efforts should be taken to ensure the public are aware that the courtyard is still open for trade during the concerts.
- 13) Residents associations as sole engagement model: this has become a feature in recent years and while I have no issue with the concert promoters increasing engagement via residents associations, not everyone is represented by a residents association and not every residents association can be expected to gather feedback from across all residents in their area. There should be a requirement to formally liaise with the residents' elected representatives - the 14 councillors the people of Dundrum and Glencullen-Sandyford have elected to represent them and the equivalent representatives on the South Dublin County Council side. I don't mind the extra work to represent my constituents properly and fairly. Rather than telling residents "we will only deal with issues raised by residents associations", there are other ways of giving everyone a voice.

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- 14) Wildlife: there is very little if any mention of the impact of the concerts on wildlife in the park. This is not a city centre park, it's part of biodiversity corridors that run from Marlay Park up to the Wicklow Mountains. More needs to be done to mitigate the impact on bats and other wildlife in the park. Noise and lighting should take this into account. How do the concert promoters and DLR Parks know that the impact on wildlife is being managed properly?
- 15) Increase to 9 concerts: with the increase to 9 concerts there's little to show how the plans have changed from when there were 5 or 6 concerts. More needs to be done to mitigate these impacts.
- 16) Restoring the park after the concerts: much more needs to be done to restore the park to its original state post-concerts. In previous years the cricket field has not been properly restored and rubbish has been left around the park. Bear in mind wind can blow rubbish around so the clean up operation needs to go beyond just where the concerts take place.
- 17) Exams: there are State exams in Ballinteer Community School on 19th, 22nd and 23rd June. I would ask there be no sound checks while exams are taking place on these dates. Please place a condition that the event organisers need to liaise with Ballinteer Community School on this.
- 18) Communication with residents: The residents phone hotline is very welcome. There should be an email address also and the phonenumber should be open from the first date the concert set up starts to the day they end. The hotline should remain open until 1am the night of the concerts.

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I am available to discuss any of the above at any time in advance of and during the concerts with MCD/Festival Republic so that I can best represent the issues faced by my constituents during the concerts.

Oisín O'Connor

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Oisín O'Connor,
Glencullen-Sandyford

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