

Crystal Palace Festival

Overview of Community Consultation

December 2012

The consultation evening brought together a wide range of local people who looked to review previous festivals, list all the stakeholders of the festival and identify the aims, objectives and priorities for the festival going forwards.

In this report you will find a summary for each area that the meeting fed back on and then a list of all of the comments made by the attendees. These comments are exactly as written. The summaries try to pull out the main themes and points but please do read on and take a look at all of the feedback comments.

Review of previous festivals

There were lots of positive comments!

Many specific points were raised that need to be picked up by this year's team, when in place.

Other common threads were to:

- Increase diversity, e.g. more for teenagers, more diversity of music, seating for older people.
- Review the date: some strong calls to stay in June, several calls to move it later again.
- Improve specific aspects: from communication with groups to marketing to more toilets!
- Review timings.
- Call to strengthen the festival outside the park and re-address the balance between park and triangle.

Here is the full list of comments from the meeting:

More needed for teenagers and 20 somethings – my teenage daughter didn't find it interesting.

2 years ago CTUN were invited to take part and enjoyed this. Have heard nothing more since and can't recollect seeing event advertised.

We enjoyed seeing the shops along Westow St take part. This created a great sense of community...and fun.

Good Westow Park festivals now let's put the Crystal Palace into future Crystal Palace festivals.

I had a great time but the festival felt a bit disjointed. People did not necessarily know that there were other events taking place. How about closing off part of the Triangle for a "carnival" (Wishful thinking, I wonder?) of floats etc created by local people which everyone is invited to go to for an hour? But it was a super day.

Lack of direction after park finished. All venues should co-operate after 6. People should know what is available after. Maybe take over McKenzie gym for gigs?

Didn't see anything taking place in the Triangle rather than hidden away in the park. Local businesses who provide sponsorship – what were their thoughts?

Great live music but lack of electronic music of which there is a massive local scene (bass/dubstep originated in Norwood!)

More of a drive to get event reviewed in the media.

Update website a lot sooner. Was only done a month before the event in 2012.

Crystal Palace Transition Town really enjoyed our presence – opportunity to raise awareness, great to be in an area with other community groups. Our community garden got great feedback from tours – it's a little tucked away, need to draw people up the hill.

Festival finished too early.

Confirm all bands and entertainment a lot earlier so promotion can start sooner.

Social media was overloaded.

Wasn't here in 2012 but previous year's had a great atmosphere at Westow Park and a good mix of thing but perhaps lack of local food stalls. Sunshine helped!

By the way, well done so far!

Great festival in the park but a big lack of things around the Triangle especially on Wed/Thurs/Fri. Felt date in 2011 (Aug) much better than 2012 (June).

Agree with above comment – Agree ie the June date too early?! Suggest early to end of July, just after schools break up – avoiding school fetes ie. Don't clash with Sydenham festival.

Dog poo

Seating for older people

Performance events in and out of the park need more explanatory listings ie the name of an event in the programme did not let people know enough of what was on offer.

Later finish time in the park, earlier start time in the Triangle.

There was a feeling that the venues were secondary yet they literally made the festival. The focus was on the park and it became 'them' vs 'us'.

Events not held in the park need to be promoted probably more strongly than "in the park" events ie evening events in pubs etc need highlighting.

Start setting up PA on main stage much earlier please!

Apparent miscommunication over Antenna Studios' role at 2012 OG festival.

Wider variety of music – classical or jazz.

More toilets please!

Stakeholders

The stakeholders of the Crystal Palace Festival range from the community as a whole, to all the local community groups, businesses and organisations with a link to Crystal Palace, including transport organisations; plus local government, schools and other statutory bodies and funding bodies. The full list should serve to help the new organising committee.

Stakeholders make up the list of not only who the festival is for, but who can help make it a sustainable success.

Here is the list of suggested stakeholders from the meeting:

Friends of:

- Grange Park
- Beulah Heights
- Westow Park
- Crystal Palace Park
- Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
- Chatsworth (13th duke is a CP museum patron)

Awarding bodies

The 5 boroughs!

Politicians – MPs, MEPs, councillors, local activists

Crystal Palace Foundation

Crystal Palace Community Association

Crystal Palace Football Club (Ian Holloway – manager)

Crystal Palace Bowls Club – Anerley Hill (Founded 1909 by W G Grace)

Schools – private, senior, primary, crèches, unis, colleges

All publicans and traders

Transport – buses, pedestrians, taxis, trains, Overground

Crystal Palace National Sports Centre

South London Harriers (home athletic club at CPNSC)

Old people's homes

Rotary club

Saga louts

Great Exhibitions Ltd

Royal Commission for 1851 (Imperial College)

Dallas 'Crystal Palace'

Salvation Army

Estate agents

Sports' communities/people

Local musicians

Capel Manor in CP park (horticultural education)

Community groups – Crystal Palace Transition Town

Local residents – young families, teenagers, adults, elderly/retired, the inbetweenies (SOT group)

Local businesses – independents, bars, restaurants, shops, estate agents, studios

Chamber of Commerce

Local authorities – councillors and officers

Police

Museum

Local publications/websites

Performers – dance groups, musicians, poets, storytellers, local chefs/bakers

The whole community – Central Hill estate residents (so often left out or not involved in things)

13 local churches

Youth groups, brownies, girl guides etc

Media – local and regional

Local charities

As the lower area is easily wheelchair accessible – luncheon clubs etc

Aims and objectives

The consultation asked people to write down what they felt should be the aims and objectives for the festival in 2013. There was a fair amount of overlap with the comments written down when we asked everyone for their priorities for the event. However, in this section, key points that found common ground were:

- bringing the whole community together
- having fun
- the promotion of Crystal Palace, its people and all it has to offer.

Please read the full list for some other great points.

To give people a wide range of experiences

CP is an “easier to reach” place – let’s put ourselves more firmly on the map

To dance

Raise enough money to make it work

(Lightly) educate about environmental groups

Excite people’s imaginations

To make the festival “unique” in some way so that it attracts people to CP every year and so that people come even when there is no festival. And make it special for locals to remember it and support fundraising throughout the year!!

Have fun! Celebrate diversity and local talent

Pick a sunny day!

Community cohesion

Sustainability

To promote showcase CP businesses, artists and musicians (*comments* – Defo! and Hear hear)

To keep people coming back to CP after the festival

To hold an event for the whole community

To bring different parts of the community together

Meet all interest groups, community feedback etc

To have fun! (*echoed by 5 others*)

To be affordable (food etc)

Promote CP to new people. Encourage them to visit area more often or consider moving to or near CP. Encourage growth of the area’s local businesses.

A great day out – simples!

Not just to be a middle class Guardian readers' festival!! – please (*Comments* – I don't feel like it is and Hear hear)

From dubstep to opera – and everything inbetween

To nurture a growing number of volunteers over the coming years

To recognise faces as we go about the area through working and supporting events together

To be slightly strange, bizarre, fantastical, magical (*Comment* – I agree!)

To create a sense of belonging (x2)

To not be corporate, to not promote gentrification of the area

To engage locals for more than the weekend – lasting impact and ongoing activities

Encourage more people to 'discover' CP, to benefit everyone particularly local businesses

Opportunity for those in the local community to meet each other – not to be strangers in their own neighbourhood

To involve all traders to the same extent. To promote business within the Triangle to those who may only come to Palace every now and then. To open people's eyes to the developing CP.

To put CP on the map

To bring community groups, traders, volunteers together and build a stronger, better connected community

Priorities

There was much crossover with the section on Aims and Objectives, but in this section, the words 'showcasing', 'promoting' and 'supporting' Crystal Palace and what it has to offer – both the place and the people - were often mentioned as was the importance of bringing the community together and appealing to the widest possible range of people. Beyond the clear common ground, there was a range of brilliant points made for the new organising committee to try to live up to!

Here is the full list of comments from the meeting:

Showcasing CP

Showcasing local talent

Quality musicians

Showcase CP to people looking to buy new houses

To involve all local trade to the same level

To promote CP businesses and artists/musicians

To showcase local talent and business

To promote everything Crystal Palace

Promote the parks, encourage people to get out more instead of staying indoors

Brand awareness

Build up the historical significance of Crystal Palace

Highlight CP history

International significance of "Crystal Palace"

To be interactive

Regional media exposure

To have one umbrella for a series of events

Give each of the 5 boroughs an allocated day ie 10 – 14 June

Support from the three main boroughs – Lambeth, Bromley and Croydon

Borough involvement

To engage new footfall to the area

Sponsorship

Buzz in the Triangle

No estate agent involvement

No outside corporate/sponsorship branding

To bring encouragement to people who live and work in the area

To be local and fair

To develop sense of belonging, sharing and that all ages/cultures matter

To encourage a more cohesive community

To include as many local people as possible

To bring CP together as a community

That it becomes a cohesive event for the whole community

Involve the young people of the community especially teenagers and the unemployed youth

Local and for all

More widely advertise any events and target groups – scouts, guides, library, advertise in local shops, pubs? Post office and other group organisations

To include every part of the community

That it appeals to a wide range of people

Something for most people

Be aware of schools, homes, churches who can all play their part

Local businesses working together benefiting their growth

Festival could do something eg launch a project which the young can carry on with through the year??

To promote local issues such as (poss) library closure, Transition Town etc

Build good contacts and understanding

Supporting local community groups like – Crystal Palace Transition Town, Save the Library, local resident groups

Scale isn't everything – I like it at the size it is

That it feels like a good place to go – and doesn't need to grow and grow

To encourage new social groups

To maintain people's interest in the area after the festival (mailing lists etc)

To be more than just a good weekend!

Ideas

The Ideas section of the consultation was set aside from the main event with the point made that many ideas will not make it to become a reality without someone to take it forward. Hopefully those who attended and others who can help organise the event can come forward to take roles and help make these ideas happen! Please come forward now if you can volunteer to join the organising team and make the festival in 2013 simply brilliant!

List of ideas from the meeting:

Have Festival Makers like the Games Makers during the Olympics – to spread the word and tell others what's going on. Must be included in volunteers.

Late night shopping tours of different types – CPTT might do one!

Floats

Unsigned bands/musicians – showcase opportunity

Extend the festival to involve the whole Triangle eg pub/bar crawl like Camden Crawl

Preview/promotional video trailers and local radio shots

Auction of Crystal Palace ephemera

Crystal Palace model village created by Joe of Plumbase

King/Queen/Prince/Princess of Crystal Palace competition

Have a fancy dress theme

Victorian costume parade for adults and kids competition

Hold a large banquet

A theme to get the whole festival together

Run a competition in primary/secondary schools/scouts with finalists at festival

Crowdfunding

Move to use CP Bowl

Have a psycho-geography tour or moving photography map/exhibition

Bike race/running race (may take more than one year to organise)

'Palace has talent' show

Invite local colleges and universities to design sets/stages etc

Kids' treasure hunt

Art trail of installations

Lindyhop – vintage dress display

Showcase for local interest groups/clubs displays

1st weekend CP park, floats etc/parade around the Triangle, 2nd weekend Westow Park

Please expand the festival from 4 days into a 9 day wonder, Friday 7 June to Sat 15 June 2013 helped by John Greatrex

2015 build up – London Garden Festival could be located in CP park, Easter to Autumn

Start the Crystal Palace festival in Hyde Park, Friday 7 June 2013, it has historical significance – John Greatrex to organise

The Great Exhibition Musical – Joseph and his amazing Crystal Palace, Virgo Fidelis Prep School, Monday 10 June – Tuesday 11 June, producer John Greatrex

Final Saturday to take place in Crystal Palace Park to highlight that this is Crystal Palace.