

## SUB-GROUP SUSTAINABLE EVENTS - SOCIAL

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### Noise (Key Principle)

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Noise (Key Principle)</b>
Idea	<p>This key principle includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditions will be placed on organisers to minimise and limit noise.</li> <li>• Noise levels generated from an event or filming need to be agreed in advance and kept at a reasonable level for the area.</li> <li>• Noise should not create an unreasonable impact on any business or residential premises in the vicinity of the event site. The organiser is expected to reduce sound levels if conditions require it.</li> <li>• If the event benefits from an Entertainment Licence, then it must operate in accordance with any sound level limit or conditions attached to the licence</li> <li>• A sound level limit may need to be set and/or continuous noise monitoring put in place, to ensure compliance with Licence conditions and ensure that the event does not cause a statutory nuisance.</li> </ul>
Why the contribution is important	The use of public spaces must be balanced to function for the wide range of people who live, work and visit the city, throughout the year. All ideas and suggestions are good ideas, and they might spark something transformational. Please try to be positive and focus on what will work, what’s good, rather than criticising; if you don’t like something, and we won’t all agree, try to come up with something better that you feel may be accepted, possibly as a compromise, by the wider group.
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 12:38PM

URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/noise-key-principle">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/noise-key-principle</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 2.50, Number of votes: 2
Topics	noise, sound
Number of comments	8
Comment by Holledge 13/12/2020 21:06 Status: Approved	Noise pollution needs to be specifically defined in terms of decibels/location. This principle is too vague to be workable.
Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:20 Status: Approved	Noise limits etc are supposedly already enforced by CEC but are not effective – eg one of the Gardens music events where noise levels were excessive; were turned down after a visit from CEC officials; and then turned back up again by the sound engineer as soon as he had departed. Effective and instant action, including completely closing down an event if necessary, needs to be exercised. Enforcement generally in Edinburgh is too weak, timid and ineffective.
Comment by MTrail 17/01/2021 12:41 Status: Approved	Needs more detail.  Again, there needs to be real time enforcement of this, not just enforcement after the fact.  Acceptable noise levels, at various times of the day/night, need to be considered for each event space separately, as they have unique circumstances such as the closeness of domestic dwellings, varying levels of natural soundproofing around site edges such as trees, banking etc.  The conditions set do not need to match current generic commercial noise regulation, could be far more tailored to individual areas.
Comment by Holledge 17/01/2021 19:27 Status: Approved	See 'Sound levels at music events in public spaces' at <a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/sound-levels-at-music-events-in-public-spaces">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/sound-levels-at-music-events-in-public-spaces</a> . I have attempted to provide some detail with references from the Health and Safety Executive and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.
Comment by tomketley 19/01/2021 15:39 Status: Approved	As an event organiser - full readings of noise levels from start to finish are recorded by both the council's noise team & the event's front of house sound engineer.  The use of higher end speaker equipment such as Martin MLA can significantly reduce bass levels by implementing the software that can set bass drop off points. This could be recommended to other event operators.

	Tom  FLY
Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 17:34 Status: Approved	"Reasonable" / "Unreasonable" are vague and open to subjective interpretation. Clear quantitative standards should be set and made public and enforced.
Comment by SallyVic 20/01/2021 18:35 Status: Approved	<p>Agree that objective quantifiable noise levels need to be set, rather than vague subjective terms like 'reasonable'. Also agree that these need to be monitored and enforced on the spot in real time.</p> <p>The levels may well be different for different locations and types of events, and, most crucially, different times of day/night.</p> <p>There is also an issue with recurring / ongoing noise. Most residents can manage to put up with a bit of noise if they know its a 'one off' . But if it is repeated night after night, or recurs regularly , over a lengthy period of time, it can become unbearable.</p> <p>Its not just amplified music / sound that is distressing for people. Low level noise that is continual, like generators, or high pitched whines, can drive people mad.</p>
Comment by WECC 21/01/2021 01:07 Status: Approved	This is a duplicate idea, see WECC comments elsewhere

## Residential-area public spaces (key principle)

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Residential-area public spaces (key principle)</b>
Idea	<p>The Public Spaces Management plan will distinguish, clearly and unambiguously, between residential and non-residential public space.</p> <p>Residential is defined as those areas, less than one kilometre in a straight line, from the public space location where an event might take place, to the nearest residential housing.</p> <p>Residential-area public spaces will be subject to greater regulation than non-residential, and event organizers will be encouraged to apply to use the latter, in the knowledge that the application process will be simpler and faster.</p> <p>Proposed events in residential-area public spaces should require community consultation, allowing at least one month for responses from community councils, residents associations and other relevant bodies.</p>

Why the contribution is important	In the past there's been no definition of residential-area public spaces, and areas have been declared "non-residential" to facilitate fast tracking of approval for events. Clearly this is a loophole that needs addressing. The definition I am suggesting is based on 1 kilometre — based on the distance that noise can carry — but I'd be open to other suggestions which are clear and unambiguous.
Created by	Holledge
Date	08 Jan 2021 12:30PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6biz1lw/residential-area-public-spaces-key-principle">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6biz1lw/residential-area-public-spaces-key-principle</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 3.00, Number of votes: 5
Topics	
Number of comments	12
Comment by Frankin 11/01/2021 15:10 Status: Approved	There will be very few event spaces that are non-residential. The whole World Heritage Site (city centre), conservation areas and suburbs are all residential. Are there any spaces on the list that are further than one kilometre from residential housing?
Comment by Ian_CEC (Site Admin) 11/01/2021 15:40 Status: Approved	<p>How would you determine what constitutes 'residential housing' ... 'less than one kilometre in a straight line, from the public space location'?</p> <p>Would it be a single flat/house, a collection of flats/houses (if so how many?) or a dispersed grouping?</p> <p>Would you look at population density, such as shown in the 2011 Census Edinburgh – Population distribution and density?</p> <p><a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24263/population-distribution-and-density">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24263/population-distribution-and-density</a></p> <p>See the map on page 10, '2011 resident population within 0.8km radius'. If for e.g. having a resident population of 2500 or greater, within 0.8km radius of the public space location was used, pretty much all public open spaces within the bypass would be included as 'Residential-area Public Space'.</p> <p>Would it be better to detail additional regulations, to control the impact on residential areas, in each public open spaces Area Conditions (see Area Conditions conversation)? At the moment I'm thinking this would be my preferred option. It would allow some area specific flexibility to each areas conditions, and also</p>

	<p>provide the option to review and revise an areas conditions annually. It would probably be more difficult to revise a City wide Guideline/Principle if a community felt it needed changing.</p>
<p>Comment by Holledge 12/01/2021 17:20 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Thank you to Franklin and Ian (above) for helpful comments.</p> <p>The point of having a City wide Guideline/Principle would be to protect residential areas from disruptive events in public spaces. If it gave them that protection then I doubt if the community would want it changed.</p> <p>In the past, places areas such as Ingliston (near the airport) and the Granton-Leith waterfront have been suggested as venues for large and particularly disruptive commercial events — typically pop gigs designed to appeal to specific age groups. I'd hope that these places could be clearly defined as non-residential and so suitable for these events.</p> <p>I don't think population density is particularly relevant. Perhaps the reference should be to a residential street rather than a house? I note that the Human Riights Act (Protocol 1, Article 1) gives people the right to the peaceful use of their own home.</p>
<p>Comment by JDoherty 14/01/2021 13:28 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I believe that making it very difficult for events to happen in residential spaces will be massively detrimental to the cultural/festival landscape of Edinburgh and it will be smaller cultural and community organisations that will pay the price. There should, of course, be community consultation (as there is already when applying for a temporary licence) but the application process should not be made so prohibitively difficult as to prevent artists and organisations from animating public spaces, for the benefit of the public, within walking distance or affordable travel distance of residential areas.</p>
<p>Comment by Holledge 14/01/2021 16:15 Status: Approved</p>	<p>The principle here is that "Residential-area public spaces will be subject to greater regulation than non-residential".</p> <p>This doesn't mean that it becomes, "very difficult for events to happen in residential spaces", only that disruptive events — typically those that involve noise pollution — would probably be curtailed. Non-disruptive events would not be affected.</p> <p>In the past, many community events were held in residential-area public spaces, such as West Princes Street Gardens, with no complaints from residents.</p>
<p>Comment by MJMcD0ugall</p>	<p>Public Green Spaces need to be an asset to the residential community, and they should be encouraged to feel engaged and responsible, including planning permission for events</p>

<p>16/01/2021 17:47 Status: Approved</p>	
<p>Comment by CliffHague 18/01/2021 17:26 Status: Approved</p>	<p>"Residential housing" is a tautology. Might it be possible to devise criteria that take account of the scale of the event and its proximity to housing, as well as defining a few sites for major events?</p>
<p>Comment by bstanton 19/01/2021 14:16 Status: Approved</p>	<p>A recognition that certain sites are pre-designated for live events should be established. Stakeholders in the immediate area will be involved in the agreed management of the event but would not be able to object to the event in principle, as the sites use has already been established.</p>
<p>Comment by CarolNimmo 19/01/2021 19:14 Status: Approved</p>	<p>It is likely that 'noisy' events are liable to be major events. Major events should follow the protocol of successful community engagement. This would involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community engagement in advance of application, and outcomes</li> <li>• notification to be published of planned major events (weekly /monthly list)</li> <li>• statutory community council stakeholder status</li> </ul> <p>(along with the heritage bodies associated with NTBCC and its area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• council committee decision making</li> <li>• right to hearing/delegation</li> </ul> <p>A 'tick list' for such events should not be regarded as enough.</p>
<p>Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 22:58 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I am hesitant to agree as it is hard to not see a lot of spaces in Edinburgh that hold events that are not also very close to residential areas. I fear that this might, on some level, make it more difficult for events to happen in residential spaces when they are planned by smaller organisations/charities. And this in turn would have a detrimental effect to the cultural landscape of Edinburgh. I agree on consulting local communities in advance on an event, to ensure they understand what benefits the event brings to their area as well as Edinburgh/Scotland as a whole. But we should also be careful not to make things so prohibitively difficult as to prevent artists and organisations from using public spaces for the benefit of the public, especially as this is sometimes within walking distance or affordable travel distance of residential areas which benefits those with financial difficulties.</p>
<p>Comment by Holledge 20/01/2021 20:38 Status: Approved</p>	<p>There are some wonderful potential sites for events, not just in the western areas of the city — which is logistically convenient for those coming from other towns, cities and villages in the Central Belt — but also on the Leith-Granton waterfront. Many other cities have utilised waterfront sites because they offer such attractive settings.</p>

	The reaction to suggesting new venues is invariably, "Where will the money come from?" — Well, the answer to that is to stop giving subsidies to event organizers that can never generate any returns, and instead invest in better facilities. That's what the other leading cultural centres are doing: Salzburg, Copenhagen, Oslo, Paris, wherever . . .
Comment by WECC 20/01/2021 23:41 Status: Approved	Edinburgh's great strength is its mixed built environment so this proposal is unworkable and indeed is the opposite of the current overuse namely no use for entertainment and the city would be poorer for it. There is a need to spread events more widely both impacts and benefits and invest in new venues but simply saying no in the city centre is not a solution

## Sound levels at music events in public spaces

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Sound levels at music events in public spaces</b>
Idea	<p>Sound levels should be monitored at music events in public spaces in <b>three different contexts</b> — on the stage (for musicians and stage staff), in the auditorium (for the audience), and when necessary in surrounding residential areas (for residents).</p> <p><b>For musicians and stage staff</b>, who may be subject to high levels of sound in their daily life, there are specific health and safety regulations. Normally this level will be 87dB.</p> <p><b>Audiences</b> should also be protected from excessive levels, particularly by not allowing people too close to loud speakers, playing amplified music. Normally the audience will not be allowed within three metres of a speaker.</p> <p><b>Local residents</b> should be protected from noise pollution. Normally this level should not be 15 dB or more above the background street noise, so if the ambient noise is 80 dB, the maximum allowable level would be 95dB.</p> <p>Permitted sound levels should be specified in City of Edinburgh Council contracts. If these levels are exceeded by event engineers, then council monitors should immediately cut off electrical supply to sound amplifiers, and ask the music event organisers to start again at lower sound levels.</p> <p><b>References:</b>  <i>The event safety guide (second edition, 1999): A guide to health, safety and welfare at music and similar events (Health and Safety Executive) ISBN 978 0 7176 2453 9</i>  <i>Guidance on the control of environmental music noise and its impact on communities close to the events: Noise Council code of practice on environmental noise at concerts 1995 Chartered Institute of Environmental Health ISBN 0 900103 51 5</i></p>
Why the contribution is important	Precise and proper regulations are needed to remove this perennial problem. For example, noise pollution at over-capacity events in West Princes Street Gardens have frequently disturbed nearby residents. The events were monitored, but sound levels were not enforced. This emerged from 'Freedom of Information' requests which put the notes of the monitors into the public domain. It also emerged that sound levels were only monitored from behind the audience, not backstage, so there was no protection for those on stage or backstage.
Created by	Holledge

Date	13 Jan 2021 08:19PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1w/sound-levels-at-music-events-in-public-spaces">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1w/sound-levels-at-music-events-in-public-spaces</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 4.80, Number of votes: 5
Topics	noise, sound
Number of comments	9
Comment by Graham 15/01/2021 16:27 Status: Approved	The balancing act between public areas used for profit events and the needs of residents is tricky. Edinburgh, as a city centre is a major tourist destination and with its astonishing backdrop, very popular for events organisers . The ideal is to encourage reasonable and considered usage, not overuse of public spaces, and events should not be back to back. Events organiser wish lists should not compromise the rights of residents, but ideas such as this can protect everyone.
Comment by Holledge 17/01/2021 19:39 Status: Approved	Edinburgh has few venues considering its much vaunted status as a festival city. That is why so many events take place in inappropriate venues — often involving noise pollution.  The City of Edinburgh Council should be investing in different kinds of venues for different events, instead of giving subsidies to event organisers for short-term, or often no, benefit.
Comment by CliffHague 18/01/2021 17:11 Status: Approved	Regulation to be effective requires monitoring and enforcement. The costs of that should be met by the event organisers.
Comment by bstanton 19/01/2021 13:48 Status: Approved	Permitted sound levels for all sites should be publicised by the CEC or at the very least provide this information to prospective event organisers when applying for the use of a specific site. Then the event organisers will establish from the off set if there event can work in the sound parameters set for a specific site.  If during an event sound levels are exceeded, CEC representatives should monitor the levels over a period of minutes, prior to disconnecting electrical supply, as suggested, as the level may only be a spike due to audience applause, cheering etc.
Comment by AndrewAnderson 19/01/2021 16:58 Status: Approved	The proposed maximum for local residents is too high. Why should they have to put up with even more noise than musicians and sound staff at the event itself?
Comment by CarolNimmo 19/01/2021 18:26 Status: Approved	While Edinburgh does indeed make a magnificent back drop - it is questionable if the backdrop is why people attend events. it is more likely for concerts, film events etc that the audience would go anywhere to see them.  So lets have more venues for Edinburgh, Granton and Ingliston come to mind



<p>Comment by Holledge 19/01/2021 20:20 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Andrew Anderson: "The proposed maximum for local residents is too high." This was based on Princes Street where I measured ambient noise at 80 dB. This is fairly high. Many places will have lower levels of ambient noise. The +15 dB criteria is a standard recommendation. Lower levels of sound would probably not count a noise pollution. I would hope we would use the EU standards, which I believe have recently been strengthened.</p>
<p>Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 23:23 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Edinburgh needs to invest in more appropriate venues for things such as concerts and such, as this has been a downward spiral for many years now that we keep losing more and more venues.</p> <p>It is a tough balance, and for events that will have excessive noise, local residents should have the chance to be notified and discussions held where possible on what compromises can be found (i.e. Noise will be made up till 10pm, then it has to be quiet, etc.)</p>
<p>Comment by WECC 20/01/2021 23:27 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Noise is a constant complaint by residents and is affected by more than level BS4142 is the standard I've always referred to and it covers the whole range of issues which affect how irritating a noise is. The exact levels should be published for a location ahead of time, included in a licence, monitored live and enforced. Organisers who flout the limit should be prosecuted and or future licences affected.</p> <p>Good suggestion on monitoring for audiences and performers protection.</p>

## Use of space for different users (Guideline)

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Use of space for different users (Guideline)</b>
Idea	<p>No exclusive use, or single type of event, will dominate any one space. Uses of public space must reflect the interests of a wide range of user groups, and reflect the city's ever-changing context. The Council supports a range of types of events in public spaces; each of these is required to be well planned, well managed, deliver agreed outcomes and mitigate impacts on a wide range of different users.</p> <p>The Council's consideration of proposed temporary events / activities must assess the needs of those who regularly access or interact with a public space (including residents and businesses) as well as providing opportunities for diverse attractions for the city's population.</p> <p>The temporary use of public spaces for the provision of a bar only, or primarily bar focused facility is not considered to balance the needs of a wide range of different users of a public space and will not be supported.</p>
Why the contribution is important	The use of space must balance the needs of different users.
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 12:46PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/use-of-space-for-different-users-guideline">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/use-of-space-for-different-users-guideline</a>

Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 3.00, Number of votes: 4
Topics	
Number of comments	6
Comment by edinburghcocktailweek 23/11/2020 09:06 Status: Approved	Current PSM policy restricts the use of The Mound for events and festivals to during Christmas and the Fringe. Green spaces, residents and businesses would benefit from Council making more hard-surface sites, such as The Mound, available to use throughout the year. This policy change would encourage more events and festivals to use hard-surface space, reducing the impact on green spaces and the time these spaces are closed to the public.
Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:13 Status: Approved	Agreed, but the comments about “primarily bar focused activity” doesn’t seem to square with the Council permitting the structures on top of Princes Mall. Needs to be buy-in from all other parts of the Council. Complete prohibition of use of soft landscaping / green space for structures.
Comment by Jenni4 15/01/2021 13:21 Status: Approved	Agree with the headline. Like my comments against other threads tho I do wonder if this should be about more than just not "bar only", or if it should be more about balancing use over the course of a year. What about using commercial events as a way to support not-for-private profit events? For example in the topic about toilets someone raised a point that community organisers might find it hard to fund appropriate toilet provision.
Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 17:11 Status: Approved	It may be pedantic, but some exclusive uses probably do need to dominate particular spaces: e.g. a children's playground should not be used for any other purpose, a bowling green is a bowling green, the rose garden at Saughton Park is a rose garden. Who decides what balancing the needs of different users means? There also needs to be recognition that pop-up food and drink outlets displace spend that would otherwise go to local all-year-round businesses, and undermine a basis of the local economy. As the owner of the public space, CEC can stop that happening if it wants to. It doesnot need a Guideline to do it, it can simply say "no pop-ups allowed."
Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 23:15 Status: Approved	<p>When balancing the needs of different users in a space for an event, there may be some discussions around the logistical considerations required by a permanent facility to the organiser. There should be more efforts made by permanent stakeholders to seek compromises and temporarily alter their operations during temporary event taking place in their space, rather than permanent stakeholders not changing at all in practice but placing further restrictions upon the event organiser (which may be a community or charity organised event). The idea here is to compromise between the event organiser and any necessary permanent stakeholder so that neither is walking away feeling the relationship is not in their benefit. We want to engage people to collaborate to ensure the culture of Edinburgh is shared with many, while local organisations are not suffering for it.</p> <p>For example, on Calton Hill there are limited access points, so for The Lookout which is based on the hill may wish to notify customers booking for the day of an event that vehicle access cannot be permitted up Carriage Drive rather than expecting one of the events that takes place there to allow cars to continue to come up amongst a crowd of hundreds/thousands. We need to compromise to</p>

	<p>ensure events can still happen and that these are done with the public safety first in mind.</p> <p>In the case where that stakeholder wishes to 'operate as normal', costs associated with that need should be absorbed by the permanent stakeholder if the event is a charity / community event, otherwise commercial organisers need to look at subsidising that lost income for the permanent stakeholder or working with them to allow them to operate as acceptable to the stakeholder.</p>
<p>Comment by WECC 21/01/2021 00:45 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Excluding particular uses such as bars should not be a blanket statement however the first two paragraphs are well put and inclusive. Bar locations such as Princes mall should always include toilet provision.</p>

### Access throughout the year (Guideline)

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Access throughout the year (Guideline)</b>
Idea	<p>It's important that people can have opportunities to experience or take part in social and cultural activities across the year. Temporary events, or activities bring seasonal animation to a space and add interest and opportunity for social interaction, in the city.</p> <p>Use of public spaces should encourage people outside throughout the year and provide opportunities to respond to and experience key festivals.</p>
Why the contribution is important	The use of public space should encourage all people to access the city, throughout the year.
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 12:51PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/access-throughout-the-year-guideline">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/access-throughout-the-year-guideline</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 2.50, Number of votes: 2
Topics	
Number of comments	5
Comment by Holledge 10/12/2020 17:20 Status: Approved	Many people want to enjoy parks and greenspaces _without_ social and cultural activities. I think this guideline needs to be rewritten to reflect that.
Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:05 Status: Approved	Agree with above. Guideline is written wrong way round -- quiet enjoyment of spaces should be the norm, with only limited incursions of events etc.

<p>Comment by MTrail 17/01/2021 12:54 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Thought must be given to how events etc affect different greenspaces in different ways at different times of the year.</p> <p>it may be appropriate to hold an event etc on Leith Links in the cold winter when the ground is hard, but not in the wet autumn for example, as that would cause greater ground damage.</p>
<p>Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 16:35 Status: Approved</p>	<p>The proposed Guideline is the wrong way round. It should assert that all types of open space are assets for citizens of all ages to enjoy all the year round and in different ways - actively or passively. They are part of our right to the city, but also an important environmental and biodiversity asset. Therefore, while some events will be allowed in them under carefully specified and controlled conditions, the general presumption will be that there is unrestricted access for all, and that no event is allowed which will put a space out of use to the general public for more than a few days.</p>
<p>Comment by WECC 21/01/2021 00:27 Status: Approved</p>	<p>There should be a presumption that public spaces mean different things to different people - events, exercise, biodiversity are all valid and need to be balanced. What for one is an imposition for another is a benefit, the PSMP needs to create a way to balance them and accept that not all uses are perfect all the time but that the use has been arrived at in a transparent and equitable way. This also means not just residents but others such as businesses, visitors, disabled, children. Accepting restrictions as well as the benefits are part of the balance the PSMP needs to create.</p>

## Rest periods from events and activities (Guideline)

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Rest periods from events and activities (Guideline)</b>
Idea	<p>There must be periods of time when each public space is free from temporary events and activities, to support the 'normal' day to day use of a sustainable, living city.</p> <p>The length of time a space should be kept free from temporary events and activities that impact 'normal' day to day use will vary, but will reflect the social, physical, historic, and economic context of the space, as well as the impact of previous events and activities.</p> <p>Temporary events should not transform a space beyond a single season or festival period. Sometimes, there is a request to extend a temporary event. Only one extension can be supported. The duration of the extension should be for less than the original agreed length of the event.</p>
Why the contribution is important	Each space must have periods of 'rest' when it is free from temporary events or activities.
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 12:48PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/duration-of-events-and-activities-guideline">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/duration-of-events-and-activities-guideline</a>

Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 2.00, Number of votes: 5
Topics	
Number of comments	5
Comment by Holledge 10/12/2020 17:34 Status: Approved	This is so weak a guideline — and one that has been so gratuitously abused in the past — that I think it would be ineffective. It should be rewritten from the presumption that public spaces should be used in their normal way unless there are special circumstances that justify a special event or occasion in that space.
Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:10 Status: Approved	A key issue here is that there should be no use of Princes Street Gardens during the Festival. It is essential to have somewhere set aside for locals and tourists as an oasis of calm to balance the frenetic pace of the Festival and Fringe. Generally events in all parks / spaces, including the set up and dismantling, should have a limit of say 3 weeks maximum and be separated from the next event in the same space by at least 2 months. The present pandemic has highlighted the role of open space in maintaining good mental health.
Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 16:54 Status: Approved	Again, I would ask, how well has this Guideline worked in protecting our public spaces? If it has failed in some ways, why was that, and what changes do we need to make? It seems to me to be written the wrong way round. It should not be a Guideline for event organisers to work around but rather a clear statement from the landowner, CEC, of what is permitted and not permitted. Rather than a "rest" period, which implies that events will be the norm, interspersed with a few breaks, it should state clearly that events are temporary exceptions to the normal functions of the parks and will only be permitted within specified, limited periods.
Comment by CarolNimmo 19/01/2021 19:34 Status: Approved	I agree, this needs to flip - our parks and green spaces may, sometimes, and when appropriate, be used for events.
Comment by WECC 21/01/2021 00:37 Status: Approved	<p>What is normal? The presumption is that this is just about parks but it must be extended to all public spaces. For pavements normal has come to mean seating, for Princes street gardens normal includes major events on a regular annual basis, for farmers markets normal is once a week.</p> <p>Rest periods should be clear whether daily for certain hours, weekly such as weekday or weekend only</p> <p>number of days in a year or linked to seasons or lease obligations. Each needs to reflect the event, area and stakeholder views.</p>

## Community Events

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Community Events</b>
Idea	There are a broad range of community events across the city ranging from Gala days, sports competitions to street parties and play closures of roads. Clear policies and guidelines should be put in place to help make these events possible. There

	should be formal support from the CEC events office to organizers which recognises they are not for profit events that the resources are limited and personnel are volunteers. The establishment of formal training schemes may be worthwhile for volunteers and CEC should look to centrally provide some facilities such as event liability insurance.
Why the contribution is important	Community events are a glue which holds society together providing resilience and therefore form the bedrock of what a PSMP should address before all else.
Created by	WECC
Date	21 Jan 2021 02:40AM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/community-events">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/community-events</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 0.00, Number of votes: 0
Topics	
Number of comments	0

## Public Art installations

	<b>Sub-Group: Sustainable events - social</b>
Title	<b>Public Art installations</b>
Idea	Edinburgh is lucky to have a broad range of permanent public art and there have been significant temporary installations. The PSMP should explicitly include provisions for public art, its protection during events, maintenance, insurance and requirements for temporary installations across the broadest possible range including memorials, statuary, graffiti and the like. Interpretive information to reflect changing social values reflected in Black Lives Matter should be added as part of the PSMP
Why the contribution is important	Public art is part of the furniture which make a cityscape and its cultural values.
Created by	WECC
Date	21 Jan 2021 03:15AM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/public-art-installations">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/public-art-installations</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 4.00, Number of votes: 1
Topics	
Number of comments	0

## Also see the Challenge ‘Additional stakeholder organisation engagement’

<https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l>

## Contribution from Edinburgh’s Festivals

### FESTIVALS EDINBURGH OVERALL KEY MESSAGES

- The fragile situation the city faces emerging from the Covid-19 crisis must be fully reflected in the Public Spaces guidelines in order to realise the best balance of benefits for city residents
- Success means achieving a balance of cultural, social, economic and environmental sustainability.
- Local residents make up the biggest single segment of audiences for our world-renowned festivals with 1.8 million attendances a year
- Their love for our signature homegrown events over 70+ years has made world-class festivals an integral part of Edinburgh’s intangible heritage along with our architecture and natural environment.
- We want to work with partners across the city to nurture the extraordinary layout, fabric and environment of Edinburgh as part of the identity of the city and its festivals critical to future success.
- The Plan must focus on achieving a balance between the wide range of needs and preferences of different residents to enjoy their public spaces through everyday use and experiences beyond the everyday; and the need to realise social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for the whole city.

### SUSTAINABLE EVENTS – SOCIAL

This PSMP guideline reflects the situation that had developed during peak season prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, when rapid growth in city population, day and international visitors was leading to city centre pinch points at peak times where concentrated people flows need to be better managed.

The range of challenges and opportunities has grown and changed as the city emerges from the immediate pandemic and looks to adaptation and renewal. **The Public Spaces Management Plan of 2021 will urgently need to prioritise supporting the revival of city centre vitality and a return to employment growth, as well as targeting the ongoing aim of spreading the benefits of additional footfall across a wider area.**

This context needs to be clearly reflected across the principles and guidelines.

Despite the immediate challenges for live festivals and events at all scales, they have a vital longer-term role in helping places to thrive by creating focal points and opportunities to come together for individuals, families, friends, communities and visitors. However, even beyond the period where additional public health distancing requirements are in place, audience behaviour may be different and smaller outdoor events may be more common for a time.

Some of the spaces covered in the **Area Conditions** section have limits set on the number of days of event usage across a 12-month period, based on previous patterns of demand and intensity, and it will continue to be vital to ensure a balance of uses of public space according to the needs and preferences of different groups. The new challenge may become how to support enough activities that boost residents’ quality of life and bring footfall to an area. **For the coming period, the PSMP should ensure that there is room for**

**flexibility in decisions about extending the number of days of usage for smaller parts of public spaces, to enable individual events to take place at a lower intensity around the year where appropriate.**

The PSMP already mentions the need to take into account the economics of staging events and delivering community benefit in working with event organisers to identify viable opportunities. It will be **even more important to consider these economics in future as event organisation is much more fragile after the damage of what will be more than a year without significant live operations.** Events are only viable for any organiser where there is sufficient footfall, and so wider city planning may be able to build on the work of the Fringe Society with researchers and partners analysing data on ticket buyers and transport to inform approaches to spreading activity across the city.

**For the festivals as charitable organisations, larger-scale performances, city centre events and ticket-buying audiences are also integral to their community benefit and this must be taken into account.** They generate the income that provides the foundations for supporting community and learning programmes, attracting private and public supporters to enable citywide programmes that engaged over 90% of schools and 130 community groups in 2019.

For the objective of dispersal of events, there needs to be further consideration of what will make spaces fit for purpose and easy to use for organisers of all scales. **Consideration should be given to developing specific event areas where practical infrastructure - mains power, hard standing and good travel and transport provision - is already in place or can be developed.** A desire for dispersal requires resource, financial and otherwise, to make spaces suitable for event use, and there needs to be prior consultation to better understand what is required for users and organisers.

In some comments on the consultation to date, it has been suggested that revenue from events in specific areas should be ring-fenced for improvement of those areas. While this may well be a good principle in many cases, there also **needs to be flexibility for CEC to use revenue to take a citywide approach to develop new opportunities** – otherwise the income from the most popular locations could not be used to develop other sites or to support enabling infrastructure such as transport provision as part of a wider dispersal strategy.

On a related point, there are several comments on the consultation about the potential for commercial events to contribute to public good improvements. While the Festivals Edinburgh member festivals are all set up for not-for-profit benefits, so this point is relevant to a different segment of the events landscape, everyone interested in the development of the Festival City needs to keep in mind that **there can be a tension between expecting CEC to generate additional income and complaints that some events are over-commercialised.** The more that commercial events are asked to return additional fees to the Council for wider purposes, the more their need to monetise commercial opportunities such as hospitality, paid attractions and increased ticket prices. All events in public spaces should be supporting the public good, whether in cash or through contributing to the city's success and quality of life, and there needs to be balanced consideration of how that can best be achieved.

Looking at the desired outcome from a wider perspective – that any commercial enterprises (not just events) benefiting from the city's amenities should make a contribution to the quality of the public realm – it could help with this conundrum to look more broadly than the events sector and **consider how businesses across the city who benefit from the high quality of life offered by Edinburgh's lively culture, festivals and events scene can contribute to its upkeep and development.**

A standing festival city planning group can contribute to vital **city planning for key aspects of city management that need to be in place to provide a high quality experience for residents and visitors alike** to enjoy major city festivals and events, such as:



- Pedestrianisation, security measures and high quality permanent traffic management measures that don't detract from the quality of the experience for people using city spaces
- Well trained street managers ensuring regulations are in place and being enacted
- Work with local businesses on access and delivery times
- Eco-, family-friendly and accessible facilities – including recycling, water, picnic stations, advice and resources for people with limited mobility.