

Stakeholder Consultation

Major-scale* commercial event application

*Defined as: 8,000+ attendees per single event day, or 4,000 attendees per day across two event days, or any event which is expected to have a significant impact on the location it would take place in.

Event: **GALA and On The Rye Festival 2026**

Application reference: **SWKEVE000935**

Introduction:

Dear Peckham Rye Park Stakeholder,

We are writing to you because we have identified you as someone who may have an interest in Peckham Rye Park, or events that take place in the park. If you don't want to hear from us in future, please email: events@southwark.gov.uk or call **020 7525 3422** and we will remove your contact details from our events stakeholder register.

The Council has received an application from Assembled GALA Ltd, to hold a major-scale event in Peckham Rye Park in May 2026. In accordance with the council's [Outdoor Events Policy](#), we are consulting with park stakeholders to gather feedback about the application and event proposals.

All responses to the consultation will be recorded and a 'consultation findings' report will be published once feedback has been reviewed. The review process involves a number of council teams, and we aim to publish the report as soon as possible after the consultation closes and by no later than **31 January 2026**.

While individual responses may be referenced in the report, anything that might personally identify a respondent will be removed or redacted.

We aim to circulate details of the consultation broadly to hear the views and opinions of as many people as possible, so please pass on this information to anyone you think might be interested in taking part. To further raise awareness, we will also:

- Send letters to 4,803 properties around the park via Royal Mail
- Post public notices around the park and Common
- Leave a copy of the consultation documents at the Parks Office for viewing when the office is staffed
- Post this information on the council’s consultation web page:

www.southwark.gov.uk/GALA2026

Consultation period:

- Opens: **Tuesday 4 November 2025**
- Closes: **Tuesday 2 December 2025**

Supporting documents:

- APPENDIX A – SITE PLAN weekend 1
- APPENDIX B – SITE PLAN weekend 2
- APPENDIX C – PRODUCTION SCHEDULE (outline)
- APPENDIX D – NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025

Event information:

Event management	
Applicant	Assembled GALA Ltd
Event production	Assembled GALA Ltd <u>Method Events</u>
Background	The GALA festival (GALA) has been running since 2016 and has been held on Peckham Rye Park since 2018. Assembled GALA Ltd deliver another event in the borough - RALLY Festival – RALLY premiered in 2023 in Southwark Park. Assembled GALA’s in house team has a background in event production and management of

	<p>outdoor music events, club nights and festivals. The team has grown in recent years, but most members of the inhouse team have worked together on the last three editions of GALA in Peckham Rye Park and are familiar with all aspects of producing and operating the event.</p>
<p>Event programming</p>	
<p>Description</p>	<p>Programme weekend 1:</p> <p>GALA Friday 22 – Sunday 24 May</p> <p>GALA is a three-day independent music, culture and arts festival which showcases the best food, drink and music from Southeast London and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The music programming encompasses a mix of house, disco, techno, electronic, jazz and soul. The 2025 event included talent such as Floating Points, Caribou, Ben UFO and Avalon Emerson.</p> <p>The three days of GALA will follow exactly the same format as in previous years. Festival style, utilising multiple stages across the whole site, offering a mix of music genres and artists</p> <p>Site capacity: up to 9,999</p> <p>On the Rye Festival Bank Holiday Monday 25 May</p> <p>On The Rye Festival is a free entry, community-led celebration of music, culture and community. The one-day event is organised by On The Rye Festival CIC, a not-for-profit organisation.</p>

The event brings together live music, DJs, dance, workshops, and family activities. The music programme celebrates the sounds of soul, reggae, R&B, garage and jazz, with the 2025 line-up featuring headline artists Janet Kay MBE and Charlie Dark alongside collectives such as Kinetika Bloco, Toasty Tots, and Tomorrow's Warriors. Families are at the heart of On The Rye. Children's activities include arts & crafts, steel drums, chess, face painting, bouncy castles and creative workshops. In 2025, more than 2,300 children participated, supported by local nurseries and family hubs providing a welcoming environment for toddlers and infants.

There is a diverse food and drinks offering, with many local food vendors trading on-site, selected for their strong connections to the community. In 2025, these included Ron's Coffee, Double Trouble, and Soul Fuel. Alongside the main food traders, there were ten local market stalls selling artisan goods and produce.

The 2025 debut exceeded all expectations, drawing 15,431 attendees throughout the day (c. 7,200 at peak on site) and demonstrating an extraordinary demand for free, cultural events in Peckham. This success has provided strong foundations for the 2026 edition with growing community participation.

Site capacity:
Up to 9,999

Programme weekend 2:

Afrobeats Festival:
Friday 29 May

The Friday will host an Afrobeats festival hosting a mix of live acts and DJ sets.

	<p>More information about this programme will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p> <p>Site capacity: Up to 8,000</p> <p>Mahrajan Festival: Saturday 30 May</p> <p>Mahrajan is the first-of-its-kind global festival celebrating the full spectrum of Arab music - from legends to rising stars. The London show in 2026 would be the world's flagship festival.</p> <p>More information about this programme will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p> <p>Site capacity: Up to 8,000</p> <p>Festival or Concert show TBC: Sunday 31 May</p> <p>More information about this programme will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p> <p>Site capacity: Up to 8,000</p>	
<p>Dates</p>	<p>Build Live events</p>	<p>Monday 11 May 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GALA: Friday 22 – Sunday 24 May • On the Rye Festival: Monday 25 May • Afrobeats Festival: Friday 29 May • Mahrajan Festival: Saturday 30 May • Festival/Concert TBC: Sunday 31 May

	Break	Monday 1 - Saturday 6 June 2026
Opening times	Build Weekend 1 Friday 2 – 10:30pm Saturday 12– 10:30pm Sunday 12 – 10:30pm Monday 1–9pm Weekend 2 Friday 2-10:30pm Saturday 12-10:30pm Sunday 12-10pm or 4-10pm Break	Between 8am – 8pm
Venue capacity	Weekend 1 Friday up to 9,999 Saturday up to 9,999 Sunday up to 9,999 Monday up to 9,999 Weekend 2 Friday up to 8,000 Saturday up to 8,000 Sunday up to 8,000	
Venue location	Peckham Rye Park	
Site map	Please see the GALA 2026 and 2 nd Weekend site plans (APPENDICES A and B) which are included for reference.	
Event Licensing		
Premises Licence	A Premises Licence is required by law and authorises 'regulated entertainment' (such as a performance of dance and the playing of recorded and live music) and the sale or supply of alcohol. A licence will stipulate conditions	

which the premises licence holder must adhere to, to preserve the four licensing objectives:

- Protection of children
- Preventing public nuisance
- Ensuring public safety
- Preventing crime and disorder

The council's Licensing team (or committee) will determine what conditions to place on a licence.

Licence holders must comply with:

Southwark's Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026. View [here](#).

The 'Licensing Act 2003'. View [here](#).

The GALA team were granted Premises Licence **880227** in May 2023. This licence was used to cover the GALA events in 2023, 2024 and 2025. This licence allows the programming of up to 6 event days to take place in a 10 (consecutive) day period.

Because the GALA team are proposing a programme of 7 live event days for their 2026 event, they will be applying for a new Premises Licence. They are expected to apply w/c 3 November and details about the application and how to take part in the consultation will be published on the council's [Licensing Register](#). The consultation is a 28-day public notice period during which members of the public and responsible authorities, like the Police and Fire Services, can raise objections to the application if they choose to.

The GALA team must also publicise details of the application in a local newspaper advert and on Blue

	<p>Notices which they will place around Peckham Rye Park, once they have submitted the application.</p> <p>If you have any questions about the premises licence application process, please contact:</p> <p>Licensing.Regen@southwark.gov.uk</p>
<p>Event Licence</p>	<p>An Event Licence is not statutory but is legally binding and permits the use of the space where the event takes place.</p> <p>The council’s Events team will determine what conditions to place on a licence following consultation with internal and external stakeholders. Internal stakeholders include council members, officers and teams from other council departments. External stakeholders include local residents, Friends of groups, other park/site users, local businesses, community organisations and responsible authorities.</p> <p>Licence holders must comply with the council’s Outdoor Events Policy and the terms and conditions stipulated in a Licence Agreement.</p> <p>An Event Licence is not issued unless a Premises Licence, or any other licence or consent required from the council, is granted.</p> <p>An Event Licence is not issued unless all event safety plans have been reviewed and agreed by Southwark’s Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG includes representatives from council departments, responsible authorities, such as Police, Fire and Ambulance services and key agencies such as Transport for London and Public Health.</p> <p>An Event Licence needs to be applied for annually.</p>

Event operations	
Vehicle access	<p>GALA’s event production vehicles accessed the event site from the double vehicle gates located on Homestall Road in 2025 and this would be the chosen option to access the site again in 2026. Trackway would be laid from the gates, opposite Harris Academy Girls school, to the South-East corner of the event site - please see ‘GALA 2026 site plans’ (APPENDICES A and B) which are included with this document. Heras fencing would run along both sides of the trackway for public safety. There would be multiple crossing points along the trackway route, so that people could cross when they need to – these crossing points would be stewarded and members of the public would always be given right of way over event vehicles. This access option has been reviewed by the council’s Parks and Events teams and considered to have worked well in 2025.</p>
Noise	<p>The event operators are required to provide a Noise Management Plan (NMP), which must be reviewed and agreed by Southwark’s Environmental Protection Team.</p> <p>The noise management plan for GALA 2025 has been provided for reference (Appendix D).</p> <p>The 2025 post-event noise monitoring report, provided to the council by noise consultant Joynes Nash, confirmed that noise generated by the event did not exceed the level set by the council at any point. The results of noise monitoring carried out by the council’s Environmental Protection Team during the event also concluded that the event stayed within noise limits set by the council.</p> <p>More information about noise management will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p>

<p>Safety and security</p>	<p>The event operators are required to provide an Event Safety Management Plan (ESMP) that must be agreed by Southwark’s Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG includes representatives from the council’s Emergency Planning, Regulatory Services and Community Safety teams, the Metropolitan Police, the London Ambulance Service and the London Fire Brigade.</p> <p>The ESMP is a document that is developed with SAG member input.</p> <p>The ESMP will include details on the following subjects: Event Risk Assessments, Event Schedule, Site Plan, Fire Risk Assessment, Security & Crowd Management Plan, Drugs Policy, Alcohol Management Plan, Traffic Management Plan, Egress / Dispersal Plan, Waste Management Plan, Medical Management Plan, Adverse Weather Plan, Crisis Communication Plan, Noise Management Plan, Sanitation Plan, Child Welfare/Vulnerable Persons Policy.</p> <p>A suitable and experienced security and stewarding company will be appointed to ensure public safety and to prevent crime and disorder both inside and outside the event footprint.</p> <p>More information about safety and security management will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p>
<p>Waste</p>	<p>The event operators are required to provide a Waste Management Plan that must be agreed by the council’s Parks, Events and Street Cleansing teams.</p> <p>A dedicated waste management team will manage the onsite and offsite litter created by the event. Their main responsibility will be litter collection in the areas surrounding the park, including roads and pavements.</p>

	<p>A separate internal team will be in place to keep the festival site clean during the festival and after the event.</p> <p>There will be no loading or unloading of onsite skips between 20:00 – 08:00 to minimise disruption to local residents.</p> <p>GALA must adhere to the council's <u>Events Environmental Sustainability Guide</u> regarding waste management.</p> <p>More information about waste management will be shared at the community engagement sessions taking place on Wednesday 19 November.</p>
<p>Toilets</p>	<p>The event operators are required to provide an adequate number of toilets for event attendees inside and outside of their event space.</p> <p>Toilet facilities for festival goers will be placed in suitable locations on key routes to and from the event site.</p>
<p>Traffic and transport</p>	<p>The event operators are required to provide a Traffic and Transport Management Plan (TTMP) that must be agreed by the council's Highways (vehicle movement outside the park) and Parks (vehicle movement inside the park) teams.</p> <p>GALA must adhere to the council's <u>Events Environmental Sustainability Guide</u> regarding transport management.</p> <p>More information about traffic and transport management will be shared at the community engagement sessions on Wednesday 19 November.</p>
<p>Site protection</p>	<p>All proposed event operations will need to be reviewed and agreed by the council's Parks team and in particular;</p>

	<p>GALA will be required to produce a Tree Protection Plan in consultation with the council's Parks and Arboriculture teams</p> <p>GALA will be required to produce a Ground Protection Plan in consultation with the council's Parks team.</p> <p>GALA will be required to produce a Wet Weather Plan in consultation with the council's Parks team.</p> <p>GALA are required to consult with the council's Ecology team and carry out ecology surveys before the event can take place. The survey reports for 2025 are available on request. If you would like a copy to read, please contact: events@southwark.gov.uk</p> <p>GALA must adhere to the council's Events Environmental Sustainability Guide regarding the protection of biodiversity.</p>
<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>Read GALA's 2023 Sustainability report here</p> <p>Read GALA's 2024 Sustainability report here</p> <p>GALA's 2025 Sustainability report will be posted on the same web page by the end of 2025.</p>
<p>Community benefits</p>	
<p>Community event</p>	<p>In-kind (financial and professional) support and free use of event site infrastructure to free-to-attend community event On The Rye Festival, taking place on Bank Holiday Monday 25 May. Over 15,000 people attended this event in 2025.</p>
<p>Resident tickets</p>	<p>1,600 discounted resident tickets were allocated to residents in 2025.</p>

	<p>In 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday: 1,000 tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis - £30 + booking fee • Saturday: 250 tickets are available through a ballot - £35 + booking fee • Sunday: 250 tickets are available through a ballot - £35 + booking fee <p>Resident ticket offers for GALA will be available to apply for from 1 December.</p> <p>All information regarding the Resident Ticket application process for GALA '26 will be added to the Local Community webpage on or before Monday 10th November and previous resident ticket holders will be contacted with information on how to apply.</p> <p>Resident ticket offers for Fri 29, Sat 30 and Sun 31 will be confirmed in early 2026 if this application is progressed.</p>
<p>Community and charity tickets</p>	<p>246 free tickets were given out to people who work in local charities and community organisations in 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GALA allocate 300 free tickets to people who work in local charities, community organisations and businesses with a social impact objective. • 150 discounted tickets will be offered to NHS workers • 50 free tickets will be offered to those who would struggle to afford to buy discounted residents tickets. This will be done on an honesty basis (no evidence of socioeconomic circumstances required). <p>If you would like to find out more about these offers, please check the GALA web site for more detail:</p> <p>www.thisisgala.co.uk/local-community/</p>

Employment, trade and supplier opportunities

There will be opportunities for local people to be employed at the event. Gala aim to staff the event locally wherever possible using local production crew and bar and ticketing staff. Gala are working with their contractors to continue to target local people for recruitment by advertising jobs locally and jobs being awarded to the most local applicants, if suitably skilled, including working with 'Southwark Works' to advertise job roles to job seekers in Southwark.

In 2025:

- 46% of bar staff had a SE postcode
- 35% of bar staff had a Southwark postcode
- 25% of bar staff lived within a two-mile radius of Peckham Rye Park
- 70% of all ticket scanners had a SE postcode

There will be opportunities for local businesses to provide services to the event. Local businesses who can meet the requirements for services or products will be favoured above those from further afield.

There will be opportunities for local food traders to trade at the event by applying to attend through GALA. Any trader applications meeting the menu, safety and hygiene requirements that are based locally will be favoured above those from further afield.

More information about these opportunities can be found on GALA's web site:

www.thisisgala.co.uk/local-community/

It is estimated that some local businesses benefit from an uplift of between 35% and 150% in sales when GALA is taking place. A full socio-economic statement with figures will be released by GALA by the end of 2025 as part of their annual sustainability reporting.

<p>Charity fundraising</p>	<p>GALA's principle charity partner is Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers – £10,077 was raised in 2025 and over £46,700 has been raised in total for the charity since the partnership with GALA began in 2021. The target for 2026 is £10,000.</p>
<p>Cultural and creative partnerships</p>	<p>The GALA team continue to create collaborative partnerships to build on their already successful partnerships with Peckham Platform, South London Gallery (Art Assassins), SAGE Flowers, Girls About Peckham, Born n Bread & Jumbi.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Fund</p>	<p>GALA donated £1,000 to fund or part fund a biodiversity-themed project in 2024.</p> <p>The Friends of Peckham Rye Park opted to restore part of the Sexby Garden in the Park.</p> <p>The biodiversity fund will be allocated again in 2025.</p>
<p>Income - Environmental Impact Fee</p>	<p>The GALA team will pay the council an Environmental Impact Fee (EIF) – the EIF is paid in addition to the site hire fee and is ring-fenced to be spent by the council's Parks team on projects which will enhance Peckham Rye Park.</p> <p>In 2025 the EIF has been spent on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiverse perennial Flower beds in Peckham Rye Park children's play area (protective fencing and watering programme) – this has great benefits for pollinators, is aesthetically pleasing and educational – the Parks management team have reported finding bumble bees, butterflies and lady birds in the play area this year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project development and implementation with Friends of PRP – restoring the flower beds in Sexby Garden phase 1 – removal of pernicious weeds and installation of ground cover/membrane and mulching. Restoration of sympathetic heritage garden with appropriate species , simplifying planting palette/species choice. <p>Remaining funds to be spent on improving habitats and water quality in PRP lake and River Peck stream. Introduce sedges, iris and marginal vegetation and ramp to island for breeding birds.</p>
<p>Income - site hire fee</p>	<p>The GALA team will pay the council a commercial site hire fee. The hire fee goes directly towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding the council’s free events programme and Cultural Celebrations Fund • Subsidised fees for community events in the borough • Off-setting the running costs of the Events service, which supports the delivery of the free community events programme
<p>Stakeholder engagement</p>	
<p>Community engagement sessions</p>	<p>Wednesday 19 November 2025</p> <p>Session 1: 12-1:30pm (online via MS TEAMS) Session 2: 6:30-8pm (in-person at Peckham Library)</p> <p>To find out more about these sessions and to register your attendance, please contact:</p> <p>Email: events@southwark.gov.uk Telephone: 020 575 3422</p> <p>These sessions will take place whilst the consultation is open. They are designed to give people more information</p>

	<p>about the event, so that people can determine whether they would like to take part in the consultation.</p>
<p>Safety Advisory Group meetings</p>	<p>The GALA team are required to present event safety plans as they develop to Southwark’s Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The SAG is made up of representatives from various council departments, including Parks, Licensing, Community Safety, Environmental Protection, Highways, Street Trading and external agencies including the Met Police, London Ambulance Service and Transport for London (TFL). The event will not go ahead unless all SAG members are satisfied with the event plans in place for their relevant areas of expertise. The first in a series of SAG meetings is scheduled to take place on:</p> <p>Thursday 20 November 2025</p>

This consultation will be carried out online via the council’s Consultation Hub. If you would like to take part in this consultation, please go to:

www.southwark.gov.uk/GALA2026

This page will be updated regularly with information as we progress through the application and consultation process.

If you have any questions about the information provided here, or about the application, or consultation process, please email: events@southwark.gov.uk or call: **020 7525 3422**

Kind regards,
Southwark Events Team