

NOGOE

No to Greenwich Olympic Equestrian Events
17 City Business Centre, Lower Road, London SE16 2XB
www.nogoe2012.com

LOCOG ON THE RACK

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Local Opinion

Results of a survey of Greenwich residents carried out by London Assembly member, Gareth Bacon, showed that 68% of respondents were opposed to the Equestrian Olympics in Greenwich Park (see *Daily Telegraph*, 20/10/09). A similar pattern was observed by NOGOE in their collection of protest signatures outside the Park gates. An analysis of a sample of 13,000 protesters' addresses showed that 80% were from SE1 - SE28 and Bromley and Beckenham postcodes, i.e. **many Southeast Londoners don't want these events in Greenwich Park** - proving that opposition is NOT down to nimby-ism.

The stock response from LOCOG has been to blame 'misinformation' about trees being cut down and Park closures. NOGOE have never said trees would be cut down; only that there is the risk of damage to ancient tree roots. Park closures of 6-8 weeks were LOCOG's own estimates. They have now brought this estimate down to 4 weeks but their own brochure claims "inability to make guarantees". They add that "we will no longer need to close the Children's playground ----- plans remain subject to final security assessments". LOCOG's spin doctors try to reassure the community but **qualifications would allow them to do whatever they want in future.**

Why Is There So Much Opposition?

1. Archaeology and Ecology At Risk

The fabric of the Park would be put in danger and LOCOG seem to be prepared to trade off risk against their absolute determination to hold these events in a World Heritage Site.

The cross country course goes through an area of Roman remains. NOGOE are unconvinced by promises that the turf will be strengthened to prevent penetration since this is dry acid grassland and has protected status.

Patrons:

**Dame Jennifer Jenkins, Blake Morrison, Dr David Starkey, Jonathan Sumption QC,
Margaret Tyzack OBE, Sir Willard White**

Incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee
NOGOE (Save Greenwich Park)
Registered in England No. 6986444

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Considering just one aspect of threat to wildlife, bats' radar can be destroyed by modern security technology. There are severe penalties for breaking laws that protect bats.

The Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum have expressed concern to LOCOG and, we're led to believe, will oppose the planning application. LOCOG say that they are being advised by English Heritage and Natural England but we doubt whether these bodies have a power of veto.

Tim Richardson is a trustee of the Garden History Society, a statutory consultee in the planning process and, writing in the Daily Telegraph on 20/10/09, he said, "I would add my voice to those opposing this plan. The Olympics steamroller should be stopped before it flattens, floods, breaks, mangles and otherwise chews up beautiful Greenwich Park, one of London's key historical sites and greenest assets."

NOGOE feel that LOCOG should publish the full Environmental Impact Assessment not just the Environmental Impact Statement which is to be included in the planning application.

2.Public Safety: Underground Tunnels

When NOGOE featured the risk posed by conduits under the Park in their "Saving Greenwich Park" film on YouTube, LOCOG's response was "scaremongering": that they are aware of these passageways and their planning application would show the cross country course avoiding them. However Dr. Per von Scheibner, who has made a study of these conduits over the last 15 years, says no one knows where all the conduits, some dating back to Tudor and Medieval times, are; and moreover **no one knows where all the weakened access points are. These could pose a small risk to riders and the 50,000 spectators walking on grassed areas.**

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3. Environmental Health Hazard

NOGOE have worked out that 200 horses over 20 days would produce about 200,000 lbs of manure, 40,000 gallons of urine and 20 tons of foul straw. The stables are due to be located in an area that is about 100 yards from houses backing onto the Park - one reason why it is unsuitable to hold these events in an urban park. **What's LOCOG's response to this - misinformation, scaremongering or just horseshit?**

ENDS

Editor's Note

NOGOE (NO to Greenwich Olympic Equestrian Events) is a group of concerned local residents who feel that Greenwich Park, a World Heritage Site, is totally unsuitable for these events. It is too small and fragile and is in the middle of a densely populated urban area. The economy would suffer as a result of disruption on the roads, particularly from the Blackwall crawl and the A2 queue. NOGOE feel that the Park was chosen for all the wrong reasons and with no understanding of its context.

For further information visit our website www.nogoe2012.com or contact

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