

Community councils need more information about FLY Music Festival

Both Old Town and New Town & Broughton (NTBCC) community councils say they need much more information about the Fly Music Festival in September than has been provided by the organisers.

The community councils are bodies which must be consulted in relation to planning or other permissions in the city centre.

This time the festival is due to take place around the weekend of 13 September but the application states that FLY will be "on site from 5 to 17 September" (presumably to allow the set up and take down). The NTBCC ask if that means the public will be excluded from part of or the whole gardens for the whole 12 days.

They also question measures to ensure sound levels are retained within legal limits and whether or not fossil-fuel propane flaring will be a feature of the performances as it has been in the past.

The body also want to know how many people will be admitted into the Ross Bandstand and why there is a secondary stage in the Red Blaes area near the children's playground.

This is the information which the council provided to stakeholders:

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
Public Spaces Team
STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION SHEET

EVENT INFORMATION	
Event	Fly Music Festival 2025
Park	West Princes Street Gardens (Ross Bandstand)
Organiser	Watchtower Live Ltd
Date of Event	13-14 September 2025 (on-site 5 – 17 September)
Time of Event	12:00 – 22:00 on event days (tbc)
<p>EVENT BACKGROUND (provided by organiser)</p> <p>The event is a two-day outdoor dance music festival which has run for nearly ten years with performances from young Scottish DJs and industry leadings Global DJs using the Ross Bandstand structure as the main stage.</p> <p>The 2024 event was nominated for the UK’s ‘Best Metropolitan Festival’, ‘Best Small Festival’ and ‘Best Event for Young People’ at industry awards.</p> <p>The main stage will use CO2 and Flame FX as part of the production design and it is proposed to have a secondary smaller stage, with lower-level music on the red blaes area which will have merchandise, bars, seating and food to create a chill out area.</p> <p>The event will have capacity for 6000 attendees per day with a mixture of day and weekend tickets being sold in advance.</p> <p>The 2024 event created over 240 event jobs across the weekend and generated over £1.3m for the local economy with £10,000 raised for local charities & Princes Street Gardens.</p>	

The Old Town Community Council

The Old Town Community Council has also responded to the council suggesting that the single page information sheet has “next to no detail” on how the event will be set up, operated

and removed.

They have suggested to the council that it is a “complete waste of our collective time” asking for comments on this basis and it is impossible to make any informed comment.

They have pointed out that any events at Ross Bandstand should be appropriate in scale, setting and frequency in the public park, and they do not support this event.

FLY Festival has been contacted for comment.

