



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

UNLICENCED MUSIC EVENTS – we need your help



You may have seen the following recent article on the Metropolitan Police web site, or in the Evening Standard in relation to an unlicensed music event that occurred in Dulwich Woods.

Met officers from Lambeth and Southwark, working with Southwark Council’s Wildlife Department, have found and seized equipment that could have been used to hold an Unlicensed Music Event (UME) in a disused railway tunnel in Dulwich Wood.

When officers and council officials attended on Wednesday, 6 January, they found locks on the gates. Upon forcing entry, they found sound equipment, barriers, a temporary bar and a DJ table all set up.

There was also a large black curtain obscuring the entrance so the event would not have been visible.

The equipment was seized and has been taken to a police station.

Police Sergeant Jonathan Adams, who covers the Dulwich Safer Neighbourhoods Wards, said: “This old railway tunnel was known to us as a place where people were holding UMEs and most likely spreading Covid and putting themselves and others at risk.

“Not only would they have angered local residents by hosting this illegal event, but the tunnel is a protective site for bats, proving that UMEs don’t only disrupt humans, but also the local and unique wildlife that live there.”

Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Community Safety, said: *“I’m horrified that anyone would have such little regard for themselves or others, that they’d attend an illegal rave at the height of a pandemic.*

“We continue to support the police in finding and shutting down locations where illegal raves might be held. Only by working together can we prevent such dangerous, thoughtless and illegal events from happening.”

It took place in the disused railway tunnel that runs underneath Dulwich/Sydenham Hill Woods. It is possible that the organisers may attempt to stage further events in the woods or tunnel.

Such events are antisocial, a fire risk and can damage nature and the local environment. Of course, at present, such gatherings are against COVID restrictions and a huge risk to public health.

Should you witness anything that arouses your suspicion that such an event is taking place, or is soon to take place, can you **please call police on 999 immediately**. This could be groups of people looking for the event, music or light shows, event organisers bringing equipment to the location (sound systems, stage set up, alcohol, portaloos, fencing & so on) or tampering with the tunnel entrances. It should be obvious if anything looks out of place.

Once such events get going, they become extremely difficult for police to deal with so please do let us know at once, if you have such suspicions.

Although we would like to speak to you directly, we appreciate this isn’t for everyone so if you prefer, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**. If you do this, please ask they pass your information on to police immediately.

Just to be clear, **we cannot deal with things we do not know about!** Please help us to protect the local environment & keep everyone safe.

This aside, you can keep up to date on what Dulwich Wood Safer Neighbourhood Team are doing across the ward by following **@MPSDulwichWood** on Twitter. For other non urgent local matters, you can reach us dulwichwood.snt@met.police.uk (NB – this email is not monitored 24/7).

In an emergency, always call 999.

Yours sincerely,

Dulwich Wood SNT –

PC Ross Kennedy 2222AS

PC Andy BEADLE 5203AS

PCSO Ed Mustafa 7141AS