



Carnival Village Trust
Office: The Tabernacle
T: +44 (0)20 7221 9700
admin@carnivalvillage.org.uk
carnivalvillage.org.uk

The Tabernacle
Powis Square
London W11 2AY
T: +44 (0)20 7221 9700
tabernaclew11.com

The Yaa Centre
1 Chippenham Mews
London W9 2AN
T: +44 (0)20 7286 1656
yaacentrew9.com

Response by Carnival Village Trust to CAMF

Email from CAMF to Members of Artistic Disciplines Organisations dated 13 March 2018

Carnival Village Trust is concerned that CAMF has written to members of CAMF, CMA, BASS and ACUK setting out what it purports to be an update on the current situation regarding the organisation of Notting Hill Carnival for 2018.

This note sets out Carnival Village Trust's response to the email.

CAMF : Please note that the ADOs, i.e. CAMF, CMA, BASS, ACUK are working collaboratively and agreed NOT to encourage their membership to register with CVT for the following reasons

Response: *We are concerned that the British Association of Steelbands (BAS) appears to be overlooked as an Artistic Discipline Organisation. BAS has encouraged its members to register with CVT and as a result all steelbands are registered. We are also working closely with BAS and individual steelbands on issues such as Panorama, judging point and funding to support players and bands. CAMF, CMA, BASS and ACUK appear to have encouraged their membership NOT to register with CVT. (note rearrangement of words). Despite this, as at 12 March, 37 Mas bands have registered with CVT.*

CAMF: RBKC Council has not to date ratified the recommendation to award the £100,000 grant funding for Carnival 2018.

Response: *RBKC has agreed to fund CVT and this decision has been ratified. CVT has prepared a draft Event Plan at the request of RBKC and this is being considered by the multi-agency Operational Planning and Safety Group (OSPG). CVT has also been invited to attend all meetings of the Strategic Partners Group (SPG).*

CAMF: There is a RBKC Public Realm Scrutiny Committee meeting on Thursday 15th March 2018 at Kensington Town Hall at 6.30pm at which the Carnival funding decision will be discussed; you are encouraged to attend.

Response: *We understand that there is an agenda item for this meeting on Carnival funding; however, this does not relate to approval of the decision already taken. The main item, papers for which are published on RBKCs website, relates to licencing policy.*

CAMF: The recommendation to award £100,000 for Carnival 2018 as contained in the RBKC Executive Decision Report cannot be implemented before 23rd March 2018.

Response: *the decision to award the grant is already being implemented. We are currently liaising with Council officers regarding the terms of the funding agreement.*

CAMF: As LNH CET has already completed Stage 1, CVT's actions are a duplication of effort, similar to what London Street Events attempted to do in 2017.

Response: *we have sought to engage with the Artistic Discipline Organisations (which in effect are the constituents of LNH CET) to avoid duplication and to share registration information. Despite our attempts all except BAS have refused to cooperate. A meeting planned for last night was cancelled yesterday morning.*

CAMF: LNH CET and the four ADOs are NOT in favour of RBKC's recommendation to appoint CVT or any third party organisation for the following reasons:

It is inappropriate for one organisation to carry out concurrently the roles of Infrastructure Manager, Operations Manager and Events Manager as well as Carnival Organisers without any accountability to the Artistic Disciplines Organisations;

Response: *We are holding ourselves to account to the carnival community including the Artistic Discipline Organisations including BAS).*

CAMF: The Expression of Interest process used by RBKC is flawed and deceptive as RBKC state expressly in their documentation that LNH CET is the

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Carnival Organiser and would be getting support, but instead the specification transfers all the authority to the appointed contractor, resulting in LNH CET being sidelined.

Response: *the expression of interest process that we engaged with was clear. It related to being the carnival organiser and not an event manager for LNH CET. LNH CET did not submit an expression of interest despite being given an extension of time to do so.*

CAMF: LNH CET has always made it clear that it would work with a professional Event Management company that is willing to work with and employ from the carnival and local community, as outlined in LNH CET's 2018 plans going forward and therefore, RBKC's approach is dismissive, unreasonable, unfair and undemocratic.

Response: *we are committed to working with and employing people from the carnival and local community. We have already had positive meetings and responses from a wide range of community partners regarding community stewarding and other matters.*

CAMF: RBKC's approach has already caused confusion and will lead to chaos, not to mention lack of accountability to those who make Carnival happen.

Response: *We are seeking to ensure there is no confusion; however, misinformation by a range of individuals and organisations appears to be designed to create confusion and chaos. The Artistic Discipline Organisations should be working with us to ensure that there is no confusion.*

CAMF: It is immoral and unfair for RBKC to assign organisation of the Carnival to a third party after 50 years of Europe's largest street Carnival being organised by the Carnival Community.

Response: *We are part of the carnival community as much as any other organisation and are committed to engaging with carnivalists to ensure a successful, safe and spectacular carnival.*

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