

Appendix 1

Mile End Park Pavilions Subsidised Hire of Pavilions for Community Group use

Background

The Arts and Ecology pavilions operate both as a method of raising income through hire and as community facilities. There are currently no clear operating guidelines on how these two aspects should be proportioned or clear criteria on how decisions might be made around free or subsidised access to these facilities.

Proposal

To define free usage this would include the costs of staff necessary to opening and managing the building during the hire period and these costs would be covered from commercial income generated through hire.

We propose the following key elements to community access guidelines:

- Only groups based in the Borough or able to demonstrate strong ongoing working ties to the Borough should benefit from free or subsidised usage. Usage should be of benefit to Tower Hamlets residents and open to all.
- Free or subsidised usage will not normally be granted for events that make a charge to those attending or seek to make a profit. The exceptions to this would include events raising funds for local charities.
- Friends of Mile End Park group should be awarded an allocation six free bookings a year
- A fixed number of free and subsidised lets to be operated and reviewed each year and offered not exclusively but in the main during periods where commercial hire activity is usually lower. Suggested up to 20 bookings per annum not including Mile End Friends Group allocation.
- A formal and transparent application process for free and subsidised usage. Applications to be considered by a panel on a rolling programme basis across the year and records to be made available for public scrutiny. Average discount around 50% but some 100% discount to be determined by level of benefit and match funding/in kind support.
- We will ensure that any policy on free and subsidised bookings meet with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.