

Dear Festival Goer,

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on the 2026 Palmers Green Festival. We received a lot of responses, and we wanted to share some of the main themes that emerged, as well as some of the things we are looking at for 2027.

What you liked

The festival's atmosphere and entertainment were overwhelmingly highlighted as the standout successes of 2026.

- **Sense of community:** This was the highest-rated specific element. Many of you particularly valued reconnecting with old friends, meeting new neighbours and celebrating our local area together.
- **Music, dance and performance:** The entertainment received lots of high ratings and was a major draw. Many comments particularly praised the DJ and salsa area for creating a vibrant, feel-good atmosphere throughout the afternoon.
- **Community stalls:** Visitors enjoyed discovering and talking to the many local groups and organisations taking part.
- **Food and drink:** The quality of food and drink was generally rated highly, although a number of you suggested changes to the layout of the vendors. Some suggested creating a central food court. We have tried this in the past and found that it became rather crowded, so next year we will look again at the layout, perhaps with two main food areas.
- **Family-friendly environment:** Families particularly appreciated having a safe and entertaining day out, with activities for both younger children and teenagers. The fact that the festival is free to enter, with free entertainment on the dance area and bandstand, was also highlighted as an important part of what makes the festival special.

The quieter boating pond area

A number of you noticed that the area around the boating pond was quieter than usual. This was the result of several things coming together at short notice:

- The dog show organiser was unfortunately unable to take part.
- The boating pond was very low following the drought, so we could not have the model boats.
- Several vendors pulled out at short notice, including some who would have been located in this area.

We are looking at how we can bring more activity back to this part of the park next year. Hopefully, the other three zones of the festival helped to compensate in 2026.

What could we improve in 2027?

- **Layout and maps:** We distributed 2,000 physical maps this year, but we know that finding particular stalls can still be tricky. With the size of the park and the number and variety of stalls, navigation is an ongoing challenge. One possibility for the future is to make a digital map available on phones before the event.
- **Seating and shade:** Some of you suggested providing more chairs and tables. Unfortunately, our limited volunteer resources mean that we cannot provide furniture

throughout the park. Instead, next year we will be making more of a feature of our “bring a blanket and chair” message. Many people already do this, and it is a great way to create your own base for the afternoon and soak up the festival atmosphere!

- **Activities and atmosphere:** We heard clearly how much people missed the dog show. It was a big disappointment for us too, particularly as we found out at short notice, and we are exploring what would be involved in bringing it back. We are also reviewing our approach to community stalls so that the festival continues to be a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone, whatever their background or beliefs.

A word about how the festival works

The Palmers Green Festival is organised by a small team of volunteers who give their time throughout the year to make it happen. We are very grateful to our sponsor, Winkworth, and to everyone who supports the event in other ways. The festival receives no funding from Enfield Council or other public bodies, so keeping it free to enter depends on sponsorship, stallholders, other income and, above all, the commitment of our volunteers.

We also received some comments about the prices of food and rides. We understand that many people are feeling the financial pinch at the moment. Individual vendors set their own prices, however, and we have to leave it to visitors to decide what represents good value for them. The festival's free entry and free entertainment remain central to what we are trying to provide for the community.

Thank you again for supporting the Palmers Green Festival and for taking the time to tell us what you think. Your feedback really does help us plan for the future.

We are already looking forward to 2027. If you would like to get involved behind the scenes or on the day, we are always looking for more volunteers. Just email info@fobp.uk – we would love to have you involved.

Best wishes,

David Williamson
Events Lead and Charity Secretary
Friends of Broomfield Park