

A Guide to Street Parties

Residents

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Introduction

Welcome to this resource for organising and enjoying vibrant street parties that foster strong sense of community spirit among your neighbours. Whether you're planning a celebration for a special occasion, aiming to strengthen neighbourhood bonds, or simply looking to have some fun, this guide is designed to provide you with the essential tools and advice to make your street party a memorable, enjoyable and safe event for everyone.

In an increasingly fast-paced world, where digital connection often overshadows the importance of face-to-face interactions, street parties offer a wonderful opportunity to slow down, step out of the daily routine, and create lasting memories with those who live right next door. These gatherings have the power to transform your street into a hub of laughter, music, and shared experiences, fostering a strong sense of belonging and reminding us all of the strength and vibrancy that comes from connected community.

This guide has been put together by your local council to assist you in every step of the process, from the initial planning stages to execution of a successful and enjoyable event. Inside, you'll find practical advice, creative ideas, and essential tips that cover everything from obtaining necessary permits and ensuring safety measures, to organising engaging activities and bringing everyone together for a day of laughter and connection.

Remember a successful street party isn't just about the event itself, it's about the collaborative effort that goes into planning and executing it. By working together, you'll not only create a memorable event but also strengthen the bonds that hold your local community together. So, whether you're a seasoned event organiser or someone planning their first street party, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and inspiration to host an event that reflects the unique spirit of your community.

Thank you for taking the initiative to bring your community closer together.

Healthy and Safety

It is wise to take some precautions so that everyone can enjoy the street party safely.

- You do not need a formal risk assessment for a street party
- You do not need public liability insurance to hold a street party

However, you should consider how people may need to access their properties in vehicles, including designating marshals to escort the vehicle to the property at a slow speed.

Risk assessments

The Council does not require a formal risk assessment before approving your street party. However, it is still prudent to make a note of any risks, who might be harmed and how, and what you can do to control those risks.

A simple and handy guide to risk assessments can be found [here](#).

Food hygiene

The Food Standards Agency has produced guidance on how to [safely host a street party](#)

Bouncy Castle hire set up and use

There have been numerous serious incidents involving inflatables, including fatalities. It is therefore of utmost importance that those responsible for premises and events are aware of the safe hiring and use, and their responsibilities under Health and Safety law. If there will be a bouncy castle or other inflatable at your event, you must ensure that the suppliers have adequate insurance.

For safety advice when hiring Bouncy Castles please view [Health and Safety Executive: Bouncy castles safety advice](#) and [ROSPA: Bouncy castles](#).

Bouncy castles need to be on private residential property, securely fixed to the ground. They must not be placed on the highway.

Noise

Please ensure that noise arising from any music/instruments played at a street party does not cause a nuisance to neighbours. If there is a request to reduce the volume of or stop the music, then you should be considerate to your neighbours and reduce the volume of the music or turn the music off.

Gazebos and Marquees

Gazebos and marquees are permitted, however they should be secured using weights, to prevent them being blown away and causing injury.

It is not permitted to anchor gazebos, marquees or bouncy castles to the public highway.

Helium Balloons

Releasing helium balloons on Council land, including the highways network, is prohibited. We discourage the release of helium balloons as there is a risk to the welfare of wildlife, it is a blight on the environment and helium is a finite resource and essential in many medical applications.

Important local information about your party

Road barriers and signage

The Council will deliver and install all appropriate road barriers and signage for your street party, which will need to be kept in situ for the duration of the event. Collection arrangements will be made at the time of installation.

Waste Disposal

Please use your recycling bins to recycle what you can and use your domestic waste bins for non-recyclable rubbish.

Social media

City of Wolverhampton Council would love to share your street party with the rest of the city. Please tag us in your social media posts using the hashtag #WolvesStreetParties and we will share on our channels. You can tag us on:

- Twitter: @wolvescouncil
- Facebook: WolverhamptonToday
- Instagram: @wolverhamptontoday

Inviting the Mayor and Lord Lieutenants of the West Midlands

Why not make your party extra special by inviting the Mayor of Wolverhampton, details can be found online here: [inviting the Mayor](#)

As well as inviting the Mayor we also have a great advocates for community in the region via our [West Midlands Lord Lieutenants Office](#). They can also be invited via emailing: [contact-us | West Midlands Lieutenancy \(wmlieutenancy.org\)](#)

Get your free 'Love Your Community' banner



The Love Your Community branding has been developed by the City's Cohesion Forum to help to bring together all of the communities in our city, regardless of ethnicity and diversity. It's about us all coming together to improve the city and our neighbourhoods.

Anyone organising a street party can order a free banner to reflect this commitment.

Get your free banner by emailing Deborah.Smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Links to useful resources

Government Guidance on organising a street party

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

Playing Out

Why not make your street party extra special by having a play street as part of your event?
<https://playingout.net/play-streets/>

Streetparty.org

Lots of useful information on organising your street party including top tips and a planning guide.

<https://www.streetparty.org.uk/>

The Big Lunch

The UK's biggest get together for neighbours

<https://www.edenproject.com/mission/our-projects/the-big-lunch>

Street Party Recipes

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/street-party-recipes>