

Filming in London Borough of Waltham Forest – FAQs

Who is managing filming enquiries for London Borough of Waltham Forest?

Waltham Forest Council has instructed FilmFixer to represent our borough for inbound enquiries as well as reaching out to the filming industry to promote Waltham Forest as a location of interest for a range of opportunities. For further information you can contact 020 7620 0391 or email info@walthamforestfilmoffice.co.uk. If you'd like to speak to a Council representative about this, please email venues@walthamforest.gov.uk.

What legal grounds does filming have to go ahead?

Filming is a legitimate activity and filmmakers are legally permitted to conduct their business in public places. FilmFixer, as the borough's Film Office, are committed to making sure that it is an activity that benefits the entire community and causes as little disruption as possible. Councils support the film industry and are signatories to the Film London Partnership Agreement. Filming boosts the international profile of London as a dynamic and fascinating city. Many people make their living in the film industry so it is also good for employment to have filming occurring locally.

How does filming benefit our neighbourhood?

FilmFixer encourage filmmakers to speak with the local community to reach agreements before filming and works hard to ensure productions conduct thorough resident and business engagements. Often this will result in donations being given to local community spaces like parks and schools, to local charities, or to local associations of residents and traders. Filming in the borough is a source of revenue for the Council to help with services across the borough. It boosts the local economy as local services such as catering, and accommodation providers are used. In addition, opportunities for local individuals through work placements and training can be facilitated by FilmFixer.

How can I get involved in filming?

We are committed to making sure that filming is something that can benefit the entire community. FilmFixer runs a Set Ready training and employment programme which supports the next generation of film and TV talent as they take their first steps into production and on to set. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved with, please do get in touch (info@walthamforestfilmoffice.co.uk, 020 7620 0391) or take a look at FilmFixer's [Training](#) page for more information.

How do I give feedback about filming in my neighbourhood?

You are welcome to share any concerns about filming directly with FilmFixer via our Contact Information listed below. We are all ears to any concerns, complaints, or aspirations for the borough that you might have.

info@walthamforestfilmoffice.co.uk - 020 7620 0391

24 hour emergency phone line - 07919 002 115 (Please only use this emergency contact number if you have concerns about filming taking place at the moment)

What can I do if my business has suffered because of filming in the neighbourhood?

Filmmakers are expected to contact business owners in advance of planned shoots through letters and Q&A sessions. This consultation process allows measures to be put in place to minimise or mitigate any impact on your business. If you believe your business is suffering and you did not agree to the filming, please contact FilmFixer via the contact Information below (using our 24-hour emergency phone number if necessary).

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What can I do if filming personnel are being rude or antisocial?

We expect film crews to film and act responsibly, and we consider any rude or antisocial behaviour to be unacceptable. If you were consulted about filming via a resident's letter, you should have the production's contact details to allow you to contact the filmmaker directly. If this does not resolve the situation, you can call Waltham Forest Film Office on 0207 620 0391 (or on their 24-hour emergency phone: 07919 002 115) and we will immediately contact or visit the set. If a filmmaker or their crew does not act responsibly, it will count against them in future applications to film.

What can I do, if filming activity is restricting access or blocking my route?

Film crews must always maintain access to properties and cannot block a pavement or highway when it is in use. In some cases the production may have agreed a restriction to the pavement to allow for filming and may ask pedestrians to wait whilst the camera is rolling.

These sorts of measures are agreed in advance with local residents and businesses through letter drops and Q&A sessions. Emergency access and other any special access requirements must be maintained at all times. If you have not been informed of planned closures or if filmmakers are blocking your route without permission, please let us know via the contact Information below and we will immediately contact or visit the set to resolve the situation.

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What can I do if filming activities are causing excessive noise or light?

In most cases, filming is only licensed between 7am and 11pm to minimise the disturbance this might cause. The noise team and out of hours team will be informed if filming occurs before 8am or after 6pm. If we think a planned shoot is likely to cause significant disturbance, we make sure that the filmmakers come to an agreement in advance with people in the neighbourhood. We can include any agreed conditions (such as the provision of blackout blinds) in the license and can take deposits from the filmmakers, which may be donated to local causes if the conditions are breached. We also have a 24-hour emergency number listed below. You can call this number if you are being disturbed, and we will immediately contact or visit the set to resolve the situation.

24 hour emergency phone line - 07919 002 115 (Please only use this emergency contact number if you have concerns about filming taking place at the moment)

Why are roads closed for filming?

Closing roads is sometimes unavoidable for health and safety reasons - for example if there are dangerous stunts being filmed. It might also be necessary to close roads for things like period films so that the aesthetic can be controlled. Road closures for filming have strict lead-in times so that the proper consultation can take place and you will always be given advance warning. Emergency access and any other special access requirements must be maintained at all times.

Why are parking bays suspended for filming?

Parking is often needed for support and technical vehicles during filming or to keep the road clear for certain shots. We work with productions to make sure that non-essential vehicles are parked off-site and that parking causes as little disruption to the general public as possible. When suspension is essential, you will receive advance notice by way of signage at the affected bays and a residents' letter from the production. We encourage filmmakers to return bays to service as soon as they have finished with them. If you require alternative parking provisions, please get in touch with the production via the details provided on your residents' letter. If you receive a parking charge notice as a result of being unaware of a suspension, please contact us and we will endeavour to get it cancelled.

info@walthamforestfilmoffice.co.uk - 020 7620 0391

How can I stop filmmakers from using the unrestricted parking on my road?

While there is no legal means to prevent parking on unrestricted roads, we expect filmmakers to be responsible with their number of vehicles and length of stay. If you think your road is attracting an untenable amount of parking, please get in touch via the contact information below.

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Are productions allowed to put cones out to reserve parking?

It is fine for a production to place cones within bays that are already suspended for their purposes. However, if you suspect that coning is happening in bays that have not been officially suspended, please get in touch with us via the contact Information below.

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What if I don't want myself or my property to be filmed?

Whilst there is no specific right under English Law to not be filmed in public, FilmFixer supports [Film London's guidance](#) that filmmakers should have your permission to use footage that you feature in. We also expect filmmakers to use 'Filming in Progress' signs to alert members of the public to their presence. If you have spoken to the filmmaker and you believe that they are not living up to these expectations, please do let us know via the Contact Information below.

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Is there a risk of my neighbourhood becoming overrun by filmmakers?

Our main priority is to protect the interests of the community during filming, which means making sure this doesn't happen. We monitor the amount of filming throughout the borough, as well as feedback from the community, to see if any neighbourhoods are being over-used. If an area has had a high level of filming, we will introduce rest periods and decline any shoots in this area during this time. We also often use our local knowledge to suggest alternative locations to make sure that filming is as evenly distributed as possible.

What can I do to stop my neighbour from using their house as a film location?

We do not have control over what happens on private property, but we may be able to use our influence to encourage filmmakers to act responsibly. If you are concerned about the volume or scale of filming, get in touch with us via the contact Information below. The usual rules about unreasonable noise or nuisance still apply (for example if a neighbour is having a loud party), so if you think they are breaking these rules then you can contact the Council. You can find guidance on how to contact the Council about a noise nuisance [here](#).

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