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# NO STOPPING THE FESTIVAL

**GALE FORCE** winds and torrential rain failed to prevent more than 7000 people turn out to celebrate the Festival of Diwali recently.

Enthralled spectators lined the entire route of the procession along Ealing Road in Wembley, before making their way to Barham Park for a spectacular firework display to round off the celebration of the Festival of Light.

The colourful procession was made up of children dressed in traditional costumes and a number of floats whose decorations were made by

pupils from Wembley High and Barham Park Junior Schools.

The whole event was organised by the Wembley (Brent) Lions Club in co-operation with local businesses, religious groups, Brent Council officers and the Metropolitan Police.

Guest of honour at the event was the leader of Brent Council, Cllr Bob Blackman, who was thrilled at its success.

"I am delighted that so many families braved the weather to join in the celebration of Diwali," he commented.

"I commend the efforts put in by Brent Council staff to

make the event possible and the excellent work put in by the police who helped ensure that everyone safely enjoyed the event," he added.

Tension was building prior to the festival between Brent's Liberal Democrats and Conservatives regarding the safety of Barham Park for such a large event, although no trouble was reported.

"Apart from the hold up to traffic as the procession made its way down Ealing Road, everything passed by without any problems," confirmed Ray Austin from Wembley Police Station.