



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our September 6th 2014 meeting

At the meeting:

Ken Worpole (Hon President) Caroline Millar (Chair), John Hudson (Secretary/Vice Chair) Delilah Jeary (Notes), Mark Forsyth (Dog owners), Bruce Irving (Park Manager), and 12 other Park Users.

Matters arising from the May meeting:

Woodland track: Over summer 250 corporate volunteers working on the track as well as painting benches, edging beds. Whole south section has been redone. Survey of track use will need volunteers to help.

Playground: Swing repair cost is still under negotiation with Thames Water. New sand has been laid. The pump is awaiting a part.

Events: Comments have been made at the last meeting about Anatolian festival and complaints have been made about noise at the Yoruba festival. A new events officer is being appointed. Monitoring compliance is key.

Annual survey: Is now online, on paper, on notice boards, in Hackney Today, with links from our website and there will be a touch screen terminal in the café.

Litter bin at QEW gate: The base is in, and will be finished on Monday 8th September. The small works contract is now in place. Some bins are not in right places, and others need repairing.

Footbridges: anti slip repairs now completed

Picnic tables: The cost of more picnic tables being investigated.

Email CPUG with any suggestions on locations for litter bins and picnic tables!

Community notice board: The Town Hall manager will comment on using on the old board, but it is very dilapidated and may not be in the best position.

Chair's Report from Caroline Millar

The Park's **Green Flag** had again been retained and the staff and gardeners were formally congratulated and thanked for all their hard work.

National People's Park Award - last year we came sixth, and we could win with a bit of effort – **so tell your friends to vote for Clissold Park!**

After the loss of the original contractor there will sadly **not be an ice rink** this year.

Consultation on the installation of **fitness equipment** will be in the autumn.

The **125th birthday celebration** event went very well. The two restaged photos will be printed and displayed in the House and postcards and Christmas cards can also be produced.

The meeting agreed that CPUG should become a friend of the **Greater London National Park**

A **Community event** will be held in the park next week (Sunday 14th September) from 1- 4pm

Park Manager's Report from Bruce Irvine

The park has had **1,056,000** visitors so far this year with **369,214 in July** - an increase of 14,000 on last July.

Clissold House is featured in next weekend's **Open House London** festival and will be open to the public on Sunday 21st September.

Cafe prices have been increased by 1.07%, the first rise in 18 months and with some basic item prices kept unchanged.

The new **smoke free areas** are established and have been welcomed by users.

The Skate Bowl repairs will be done in the week of the 22nd September.

Nature Club week was a great programme for young park users and is fully subscribed. More events are planned for this autumn.

A **Son et Lumiere** evening will be on Saturday the 8th November, with silent fireworks and more

The new **Tennis Clubhouse** is nearly finished; it will be handed over to the Council and Tennis Club for fitting out next week. Fencing and landscaping around the building will be completed in the next few months.

Proposals for changes in **park opening times** await the results of the Park Survey. Delilah (runner) and David Pitcher (cyclist) will join the five dog walkers and a tennis player on the working group and hope to report to the November meeting.

A **Dogs trust event** will be held in the park on Thursday 2nd October.

Dog attacks: The dog which attacked and killed another dog in the park has not been found. A second fatal attack on a dog near the park resulted in a dog being taken into custody. Dog owners plan to meet to discuss this with Bruce and to make suggestions on changing the dangerous behaviour of a minority of irresponsible owners.

Chicken hutch – A group of seven youths who broke into the enclosure and set fire to the hutch were interviewed by the police. Fortunately no animals were harmed.

Cycling in the Park

David Pitcher was welcomed as the Group's cycling rep. He ran a very successful bike clinic at the Clissold 125 event.

Lorraine Worpole voiced the continued serious concerns of the Group about how to deal with the recklessness of a minority of cyclists in the park – particularly during work journeys. Ken Worpole has been knocked down and injured.

The Park is primarily a pedestrian area but also a shared use space. Many users feel that some cyclists need educating in good cycling practices. A 'Take It Easy' campaign has been useful and there is a code of conduct on the Council's website. Should the by-laws be re-publicised? Could there be enforcement mornings? Can we look at what has been done in other parks?

The next CPUG meeting will be in Clissold House from 11-12 on Sunday 2nd November 2014

Contacts

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