



## Clissold Park User Group News

### Notes of our November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 meeting

#### At the meeting

Caroline Millar (Chair), John Hudson (Secretary/Vice Chair) Delilah Jeary (Notes), Bruce Irving (Park Manager), Leanne Douglas (Hackney Events Manager and 18 other Park Users.

#### Matters arising from the September meeting

Reported by Caroline:

Woodland track: Wood chippings have been laid in muddy areas. Several people have contacted the park manager in response to request for comments and suggestions. A full survey is planned.

**Playground:** Thames Water has now settled a substantial amount to pay for the repairs and the swing should be fixed soon.

**Events:** The Big Draw event was very popular and a giant '125' was made which will be displayed at the fireworks event. The Halloween Party in the house was over-subscribed and went well.

**Annual survey:** There were 360 responses and the results are now being analysed. Full results will be reported to the January CPUG meeting.

**Litter bin at QEW gate:** Is fully installed! There are 64 bins in the park and their locations will be reviewed.

**Picnic tables:** The siting of picnic tables is being considered.

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

The newly built **Tennis Clubhouse** is now in use and the temporary offices have been taken away.

Future meetings will revert to being only on Saturdays – the Sunday alternatives have not proved to be popular. To avoid confusion around bank holidays, meetings will be held consistently on the 2nd Saturday of alternate months.

#### Park Manager's Report from Bruce Irving

In August there were slightly fewer **visitors** than last year, but still about 300,000 with an increase in September of 30,000 over last year.

105 **workshops for schools** were run over last academic year including over 2000 students. Generally there are fewer sessions in the autumn term.

There will be a **Christmas market and Santa's grotto** in Clissold House on the 6th December

The café will have a **festive menu** in December

**Cafe Christmas opening:** Closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, open on Boxing Day and New Year's Day from 10-3.

There has been no reaction so far to the increase in **Cafe prices**.

The **Mosaic panel** has now been put up on the deer fence, across the river.

**Wildlife trust volunteers** have replanted the wildflower area, with bulb planting and new bat boxes.

**The Skate Bowl** repairs were successfully completed.

Possible provision of **fitness equipment** will be reviewed following the user survey results.

Water in the **commemorative fountain** has been turned off because parts of the taps were stolen! They are being replaced more securely.

**People's choice awards** Clissold came 8th with 650 votes and lost out to Victoria Park which won with 13,000 votes.

**Tennis club:** Richard Logan from Queen Elizabeth Walk strongly expressed his concerns about the tennis courts lighting. He understood that lights were to go out at 9pm but said that this was not being observed. Clarification is needed as to whether the cut-off time is 9pm or 9.30pm which some members of the group recalled it to be. RL also said that there was lighting on courts that were not being used, contrary to the planning conditions. He felt that light was seeping too far beyond the edge of the courts. The group agreed that it was important to ensure that the tennis club was meeting the terms of the planning approval. Action BI to check and report back.

RL also raised concerns about the reinstatement of wind breaks with large advertising logos behind the courts. The group has previously raised the issue of advertising on these panels and would prefer there to be no advertising here. The meeting accepted the need for the screens themselves. Is such advertising allowed in the park? Action BM to discuss with tennis club and report back.

#### **(a minority of) Inconsiderate and problem behaviour:**

**Reckless Cycling** – Pit Stop education sessions will be run at the leisure centre and possibly also in the park. Sessions also arranged with police talking to speeding cyclists to remind them of the code of conduct

The possible use of signs, etc. was discussed to remind forgetful riders and give other users a reference to point to. Would speed limits painted on paths help? Bruce would consider the cost and effectiveness of this. Banners asking people to cycle more slowly have been moved into new locations.

**Careless dog walkers:** The Dogs Trust session in October was well attended. Education as well as tackling serious incidents was seen as the most effective policy

**General:** There had been persistent problems with a particular group of youths climbing into enclosed areas, abusing park users and animals, attacking cafe staff, and stealing. Other young people are getting into the park after dark, throwing fireworks and causing damage and abusing and intimidating local people. Local Police and Safer Neighborhood Teams and

Islington police were all helping park staff to deal with these people and they urged all users and neighbouring residents to help them by continuing to report all incidents. Action: it was agreed that CPUG and local Councillors would liaise with the relevant authorities to address this. Park users and local people were encouraged to report ALL incidents to the police.

#### **Leanne Douglas – Hackney Events Manager**

Since joining Hackney she has been working on event policy and management. She has attended many events and found that many agreed conditions were not being fulfilled and has debriefed each event organiser. She will now be looking at the effects outside of the sites: traffic, litter, noise as well as safety. PA systems' noise may be within volume limits but their tone is still impactful. She welcomed feedback on any issues that park users and neighbours may have. An Events calendar had been drafted and once finalised would be circulated to park users. Future events should focus on local community rather than encouraging a wider audience and priority given to events for local residents to enjoy. And an adequate toilet provision at events is still an issue.

There has been an overwhelming demand for the 'Pyromusical' event on the 8th. 6,500 tickets has been sold (the space could hold 10,000). 250 concession tickets were allocated. Several CPUG members have volunteered and more are needed.

In response to concerns raised at the meeting, LD confirmed that the RSPB had advised that there is no evidence or past experience of such events harming or disrupting birds.

It was agreed that detailed information about the event should be posted on all the gates a few days in advance of the event.

#### **AOB**

##### **Extending park opening hours**

Group member, Lee Stacy, reported that the working group's report on Park opening times was being put to the Development Board for consideration on Thursday the 6th.

##### **Dog fund**

A Proposal was made for a user group fund to be set up to aid the owners of animals attacked in the park. However this fell outside of the function

and constitution of the User Group and will not be pursued. Other groups may of course take up the idea.

There is currently a public consultation taking place by Groundwork on the best use of the Levy Memorial ground and Albion Parade small open spaces.

## **Future CPUG events**

The next CP UG meeting will be in Clissold House from 11-12 on Saturday the 10th January 2015

## **Contacts**

Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile.

Park Manager: [bruce.iring@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:bruce.iring@hackney.gov.uk) or call 020 8356 4958

Café Manager: Paul Mason:

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Room booking and house tours (GLL): Emma Finch [clissoldhouse@gll.com](mailto:clissoldhouse@gll.com) or call 020 7249 2308

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Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

## **To join Clissold Park Users Group**

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