



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our July 9th 2016 meeting

Attending: Caroline Millar (Chair) Theresa Boden (Secretary) Amir Dotan, Isabelle Gore (website) Daphne (Dog walkers) Sophie Cameron (Clissold Cllr) Laurence (Park Manager) Tom Palin (Friends of Finsbury Park), Gavin Avey -Hebditch (Community Safety Warden Supervisor), Betty Manning and three park users.

Matters arising from May meeting

We are considering **changing our legal status** and becoming a charity/social enterprise or possibly a limited company. Any of these approaches will limit the liability of our elected members and some will have benefits for fundraising (such as being able to reclaim tax on donations and allowing us to apply for some grants currently not available to us.) Sophie Cameron has been investigating the various options on our behalf. She has registered us for pro-bono legal advice with an organisation which advises small community groups so that we can begin to plan for growth. **CM and SC to look at application form for advice we need.**

Chair's report

Hackney Council development meeting attended by three elected members of CPUG (CM, JH & TB).

The **cafe contract** with Company of Cooks has been extended for two years.

Money and future staffing of the park: this is a key issue since HLF funding for the Park Manager and Park Development Officer stops at the end of 2016. Lucy Gijzen, the Development/Education Officer has left and will not be replaced. Options are being explored such as park managers working across all parks and generation of income in ways appropriate to the park. We will continue to be consulted about future developments and options. Decisions are likely to be affected by the upcoming Mayoral elections in September.

Meeting and Chair wished to register **our thanks for Jules Pipe's support** of Hackney Parks and especially for the development of Clissold Park.

CPUG officers meeting was held in Ryan's Bar on 20 June 2016. It was agreed to investigate donations from **Clissold Quarter development** since most of their sales and marketing promotes the advantages of having the park opposite – can we get funding towards a new paddling pool?. Chair will pursue with CPUG fundraising reps.

Welcome the **new Interim Park Manager**, Laurence Pinturault

Park Manager's report

The park manager presented her report

Key points:

Work to secure the deer enclosure against **fox incursions** will be carried out in the autumn and once it is complete, the foxes will be removed from the enclosure into the park.

Various **playground maintenance** tasks to be carried out including checking drainage problems in the sandpit. Chair in discussion re location of new swings and need to repair the water feature which has not worked for three consecutive summers.

New water tanks are to be installed in the café garden to tackle water supply issues. Work will commence in August.

Company of Cooks contract extension of 2yrs. Park Manager invites feedback about pricing/menu and quality

Butterfly dome will not open this summer - staff, maintenance and cost factors. Exploring avenues to re-open next year.

Reporting anti-social behaviour in the park Surgery and Safer Neighbourhood meeting in the Tennis Pavilion 27th July 7.15pm (Caroline & Theresa will try to attend)

Events:

- **CPUG quiz** in May raised £1000. Many thanks to Yvonne and Hilde for their hard work.
- **7th July Concert** had approximately 150 visitors. It had sponsorship from Company of Cooks and London Speaker Hire and raised £100 in donations which helped CPUG setup costs. Volunteers welcome and needed for the next concert which is on 14th July.
- Amir Dotan gave a 45 min talk on **the Beck collection** at the Hackney Archive. He is putting all material online - tagged in a chronological timeline. He will be giving his talk twice at 2pm and 3pm on Sunday 18th Sept as part of Clissold House's participation in Open House weekend.
- Clissold Park will appear in Saturday 16th July **Telegraph article on Parks** - Caroline Millar interviewed about the Park.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardens-to-visit/its-time-to-stand-up-for-our-parks/>
- There have been **complaints about recent festivals**, such as noise and excessive litter from the Daymer festival - with no difference from last year regarding litter, and parking issues in surrounding streets. All complaints were passed to the Events team.

Community Safety

Gavin Avey-Hebditch, Community Safety Warden Supervisor, spoke advising that park users should not approach dog owners who allow their dogs to foul the park but to note the time of day, type of dog and exit of park used and report to the Safety team. They are issuing fines for **anti-social behaviour and dog fouling**. Wardens are authorised by the council and accredited by the police with a full range of powers. He informed us that there is currently no stipulation as to the number of dogs a dog walker may bring into the park. The only park that has a limit is Queen Elizabeth Park. It was agreed to organise a dog walkers' meeting and invite relevant council officials and safety wardens. Laurence (Park Manager) reported that Tony Twig has enforcement days planned - dates to follow.

Legal challenge re Wireless Festival

Tom Palin, Chair of the Friends of Finsbury Park spoke about the judicial review of Haringey Council's actions in relation to the Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park which was dismissed but which is to be appealed. The ruling, based on Section 145 of the 1972 local government, has wider implications for all London parks as, in theory, it gives local authorities unrestricted power to close parks to the public. The appeal case is being closely monitored by Britain's

oldest national conservation body, the Open Spaces Society, supported by other park user groups. They welcome offers of support from others and individuals as an issue which could affect many user groups and park users who don't have (CPUG does) a constructive and helpful relationship with their local council.

www.friendsoffinsburypark.org

We agreed to lend our support. CPUG Chair will visit FP during Wireless to see the impact.

Future meetings:

Next meeting will be Sunday 11th September at 11am. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SUNDAY

Normally we meet on the second Saturday of alternate months

2016 Dates are: 11 September and 12 November

Contacts

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

Interim Park Manager:

Laurence.pinturault@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 4958

Café Management: clissoldhouse@capergreen.com

Room booking and house tours (GLL): Emma Finch

clissoldhouse@gll.com or call 020 7249 2308

Head of Leisure and Green Spaces

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Lead Councillor for Parks:

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Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Sergeant in charge: Sue Wright

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Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923