



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our September 9th 2017 meeting

Present

Mark Forsyth (Chair), John Hudson, Lee Stacy, Amir Dotan, Kath Willgress (Secretary), Sylvia Anderson, Growing Communities, Anthony Larvin, Delilah Jeary (minutes) and approximately 10 other park users

Apologies: Caroline Millar, Ken Worpole, Quinton Geurs (Park manager)

Minutes from last meeting were approved

No report from Park Manager. Questions raised in the meeting have been passed on to the Park Manager and are included in these minutes.

CPUG music event: Thanks to Theresa and Caroline for organising A Little Summer Night's Music concert in the Cafe Garden on Aug 31st, to everyone who kindly volunteered on the night and our sponsors Company of Cooks and London Speaker Hire to help make it a successful evening with an audience of approx. 250 people. Along with sponsorship, audience donations on the evening of £200 help to offset the final cost to CPUG of just under £175. We also sold 7 CPUG Clissold Park maps on the evening.

There is a **musical appreciation group** on first Monday of the month if people are interested, there are some notices in the library.

Some **dog owners** are disappointed there is no dog drinking element in the new fountain. The fountain was ordered to be within budget and resistant to vandalism. We need an update on the other fountain that has been out of action all summer.

New River quite smelly at the moment, especially on the Stoke Newington Church Street end. It is thought that the vegetation is dying back and falling into the water, where it is rotting. The rangers will keep an eye on this.

The user group are keen for the developers of **Clissold Quarter** to make a financial contribution to the park. There was no update available at the meeting but one will be made available for the next meeting

Pump House still empty, probably not going to be opened this year, will it be ready for next summer? It's been over a year, can the council please crack on with this? The tenders have now been reviewed and it is hoped that things will speed up from now on.

Cyclists: Following requests from the user group the council is now looking at putting speed awareness signs on the ground at the gates. In the meantime there are banners asking cyclists to take care at some of the gates. Some cyclists go too fast, speed limit is 12mph for bicycles, 5mph for motorised vehicles. Park rangers are doing an excellent job sensitising cyclists but it's not their job to police the park. John Hudson has a contact for the Head teacher at Stoke Newington School and will look to develop a relationship between the school and the user group. It was suggested that a student representative could come to a meeting.

Could Clissold Park develop a strategy around courtesy, could we be known as the friendly park?

Please do **volunteer to help with future CPUG park events** - it is vital to us being able to continue running them - we always need a certain number of stewards to ensure safe and proper management and satisfy our licence with Hackney Council Events team.

Clissold Park Maps: we have made £230 selling maps from the cafe

Feedback from Clissold Park Development Board

Cafe prices: Prices have gone up in the café for the first time in three years by an average of 6-7%, because they are now paying the London

living wage, and the cost of coffee has increased by 43% due to fall in the pound. You can always **complain directly to the café** if you feel prices are too high or the quality of the food isn't adequate in your opinion; if you do voice your opinion it will be listened to.

Buggy Store: The quiet room has become a buggy store. External buggy store is being looked into. Clissold House looking at using the vaults under the house. This would be quicker and cheaper than funding an external store. CPUG supports the use of the vaults. If there is a buggy store then there might be fewer buggies in the house causing damage.

New chef been employed by Hackney council's 'Ways into Work' which promotes jobs for local people.

Commercial Use of the park

A discussion about people making a living in the park raised the following points:

Westminster Council charge for parks, and there are no commercial activities allowed in the Royal Parks. Should we charge for personal training etc? There are so many financial pressures on the park, perhaps people making a living in the park should contribute?

Could we have a consultation? Giving people a license can make people feel more empowered about their business using the park and that can be a good thing.

Growing communities have a toddler group on Wednesday charging £5 per child. Should Growing Communities get free use of the park? Free use of the land at the moment, they do have a lot of volunteers, but they are a social enterprise who make money. Should be looked at?

Do the Tennis courts pay into the park? Mark Forsyth will clarify for the next meeting

As there are no marked pitches in the park the various football sessions which take place are not charged.

CPUG has no objection to reasonable charges for commercial activities happening in the park. E.g. Lee Valley are charging £100 per year for dog walkers.

Girl Guides want a park bench, but there is no space at the moment. Would they consider a picnic table? Mark Forsyth to find out for next meeting.

Can we reinstate the park benches in the rose garden. Mark Forsyth to find out for next meeting.

Saturday 23rd September Growing Communities held an open day.

Next CPUG meeting:

Saturday 11th November
11am to 12 noon.
Venue: Clissold House, Clissold Park

Contacts

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

Park Manager: Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk
or call 020 8356 4215

Café Management:

clissoldhouse@capergreen.com

Clissold House Venues and Events Officer,
Christine Rupprecht:

christine.rupprecht@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505

Head of Leisure and Green Spaces

lan.Holland@hackney.gov.uk

Lead Councillor for Parks:

feryal.demirci@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Sergeant in charge: Carroll Weeden

Carroll.L.Weeden@met.pnn.police.uk

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

Sign up for our latest news and browse this website / join our Facebook Group / and just come to the meetings!

AOB