



## Clissold Park User Group News

### Notes of our January 12<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting

**Present:** Mark Forsyth (Chair), John Hudson (Vice Chair), Kath Willgress (Secretary), Delilah Jeary (Minutes Secretary), Amir Dotan (Park History Rep), Caroline Millar (treasurer), Richard Crawford (Biodiversity rep), Yvonne Hill, Ken Worpole, Lorraine Worpole, Sylvia Anderson, Daphne Kemp, Lee Stacy, Daphne Steele (Dog owner's rep) and other park users

**Apologies:** Roderick Ryan, Isabelle Gore (Website manager), Theresa Boden (Vice chair), Quinten Geurs (Park Manager), Sophie Cameron (Councillor, Clissold Ward)

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### Follow-up from the last meeting

**The new buggy park** It is being used a bit but three baby groups have moved elsewhere as their members can no longer park buggies in the Dining Room. House management is looking at replacing this lost income and the Dining Room is, once again, used as a seating area for Café patrons. People can still bring buggies into the house, they just can't park them in that room.

**Vaults** it is hoped they can be used as storage for the House. There is some damp down there and it may not be cost effective to tank the vaults for the small amount of storage they will provide.

**Dogs** Some dogs are not on a lead near the House and Café. There are signs as you approach the House informing park users that dogs must be on a lead near the House.

**Cyclists** High speeds from some cyclists are still intimidating pedestrians. There is a speed limit in the park for cyclists of 12mph, and rangers will pull people up if they see them speeding. Segways are illegal in the park and on pavements. Motorised skateboards and scooters are also not allowed in the park. All motorised vehicles are subject to traffic laws within the park. These are too long to include within these

minutes but can be found on Hackney Council's website and they are displayed on notice boards within the park.

### Park Manager's report

Quentin has been away so there is no update or Park Manager's report this quarter. Issues raised have been referred and updates are included in these notes.

### Updates

**Repairs to both bridges** of the New River are complete

**Decompaction** work is being carried out to two plane trees by the rose garden, this work is to prolong the life of the trees, while making sure they are safe.

**Slide** is all repaired and working well. Children are having lots of fun.

**The pumps on New River** are off and need some repair and there is build up of mud.

**Feeding ducks** People are still feeding ducks with bread, which attracts rats. Rats eat birds' eggs and attack birds. Weil's disease is also an issue. The park management feel that signs are ineffective in preventing food being left around the ponds. Park and cafe staff have been asked to be extra vigilant to prevent food being left around the park and options are being looked at regarding the issue of rats around the pond.

**Compostable cups** We are still waiting for a place to dispose of them in the park.

**Fencing** Some latches on the bowling green and dog free areas are missing. This has been reported and will be added to the maintenance schedule.

**Jogging path** More wood chipping can be

ordered but volunteers will be needed to help spread it. Mark Forsyth will liaise with Lee Stacy to see if the runners would be prepared to help.

**Butterfly Dome** User Group would like to look inside to have a think about what we might do with it? Could it be taken over by a wildlife group of some sort? If anyone would like to start a butterfly club they would need to raise any necessary money as the park does not have a budget for this.

**The Chicken run** has been given over to the goats.

**Regular Food market** – The meeting asked for more detail regarding what type of market might be held in the park. This will be discussed at the Clissold Park Development Board meeting in early February.

**Hydrant/Standpipe by the pond** - There was a leaking tap which was useful to allow dogs to drink. This was fixed as part of the ongoing maintenance. Although it was useful whilst broken it did need to be fixed.

**Bowling green toilets** - There will be signs put up in the paddling pool directing people to the bowling green toilets. This will only happen when the paddling pool and the toilets are both open and will not be permanent.

**The unveiling of a commemorative plaque** to Joseph Beck at Barton House Medical Centre on Albion Road was held at 3pm on 10th November 2018 despite torrential rain. Descendants of Joseph Beck and John Runtz, the founders of Clissold Park, attended and the Hackney Gazette dedicated a full page to the event. Thanks were sent to Amir Dotan, who organised the event, and staff from the medical centre who assisted on the day.

**Clissold Park 130 year anniversary**  
Could we run an event on Saturday 22nd June? Mark to check whether this would clash with potential events. Themes will be history of the park and activities for children.  
125 year celebrations were lots of fun, so we're looking for ideas and volunteers to run a sub-committee. Can we email users who might be interested in helping set it up and run it?  
Kath Willgress volunteered to get the ball rolling.

### **Richard's report on Biodiversity**

The Park Manager is very keen to look after the biodiversity in our park. Quentin is planning a

Biodiversity Blitz to document what is out there in the park. Members of CPUG can be the eyes and ears of biodiversity. We would like Biodiversity to be an item in every CPUG meeting where all users can report back on biodiversity that they are aware of. Could schools get involved with a survey? Richard and John Hudson will liaise.

### **Other issues raised by park users**

Last year there was a **failure by the events team** to consult with and inform the User Group and residents about events. We are assured that this will improve in 2019 and that good relations can be re-established

Can we put **Minutes** up on the notice board and make sure they are up to date?

What is happening with the **Pump House tender**? Despite previous reports that this would go out to tender by the end of December 2018, it is now reported that the tender document will go out in February 2019.

Can we have an **update on staffing levels** in the park – Rangers and Gardeners etc. Staffing levels will be checked and reported back at the next meeting.

We are always looking for people to **get involved**, do please let us know if you would like to participate. The roles are not onerous, there isn't a lot of work involved.  
Would be very keen to get representatives of young families, and younger people more generally. Is there someone who would step up to be **Teenage rep**?

### **Next CPUG meeting:**

**AGM Saturday 9th March 2019**

11am to 12.30.

Venue: Clissold House, Clissold Park

#### **Contacts**

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

Park Manager: [Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk) or call 020 8356 4215

Café Management: [clissoldhouse@capergreen.com](mailto:clissoldhouse@capergreen.com)

Clissold House Venues and Events Officer, Christine

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Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

[Clissold.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Clissold.snt@met.police.uk)

Sergeant in charge: Carroll Weeden

[Carroll.L.Weeden@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Carroll.L.Weeden@met.pnn.police.uk)

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

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

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