

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

July/August 2011



The meetings of this group are the main forum for airing public concerns about the way the Park is funded, managed and improved. Whatever your main interest in the Park you can influence its developments.

Attendees

Caroline Millar (CM) Chair; Richard Logan Vice Chair (RL); Ken Worpole (KW), Hon President; Sylvia Anderson (SA), Older Person's rep; Mark Forsyth, dog rep; Lisa Gormley, Children and Young People's rep; Betty Manning, Post Sec., Sophie Robinson-Tillett; website developer; Yvonne Hill, Newsletter sec (temp); Anthony – rep for people with disabilities. Eleanor Johnson (EJ), Hackney Parks' Development Officer; Councillor Linda Smith (LS); Barbara Read (BR), Clissold Park Animal Concern; Guy Dehn (GD), Witness Confident...and approx. 14 other Park Users.

Matters arising

Completion date for the major works should be end of July 2011, except for the planting around the lakes, which takes place in September.

Issues raised

- Original tree planting plan has not been adhered to.
- The maintenance of new trees has been poor - they have not been watered. EJ confirmed that the contract for trees includes a three-year maintenance period. Hackney Council is pursuing this issue.
- The reinstatement of the reed beds is needed as they are particularly good for bird life.

- RL expressed regret that local knowledge was ignored re terrain and underground springs: water-filled cracks are now appearing in the skate park.
- Phone number advertised on Park Rangers' door is still not always answered!

Chair and other reps continue to attend monthly Stakeholder and Project Board meetings.

ACTION: EJ, who assured the groups that these issues were being addressed. In addition, the new post of Park Manager is being advertised.

The Deer

Peter Green, consultant in the health and welfare of horses and deer, has stated in his report that, "The deer are currently in very good health" and there is no evidence that they are stressed. Everything is being done to maintain their wellbeing, indeed a fireworks' display was cancelled to ensure the deer would not suffer. An Animal Welfare Policy is to be published soon.

ACTION: EJ to send copy of report to Barbara Reid.

Park Development – the next stages

EJ gave an interesting and informative report on the therapeutic value of inner city parks such as Clissold, especially for the mental and physical wellbeing of children and young people.

Hackney is about to recruit an Interpretation Officer who will lead on environmental education and will work with other external agencies. Clissold Park will be the focus for this pilot project.

ACTION: EJ, CM and LG to meet. Others with ideas to forward them to EJ.

LS commented that other local communities are doing good work and it would be good to link e.g. Abney Park.

KW commented on the paradox that the One O'Clock club seems to be a barren area. New Interpretation Officer will be tasked with taking forward relationship with Learning Trust which runs it.

SA asked about the possibility of a stage area for putting on plays etc.

Dogs

Hackney Council is undertaking a consultation on dogs and dog controls. The closing date for comments is 14th August 2011. Paper copies are available from the Rangers' office or online: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/animal-welfare-dog-control-orders.htm>

In addition, Clissold Park Users Group is seeking views, from dog owners and non-owners, on dogs and the principles that could underpin good dog guidance for the park. A copy of the questionnaire is available on the user group website.

Animals in the park

BR discussed the formation of the Clissold Park Animal Concern group, who believe that inner city park are never good for animals- predators and security being major issues. The group would like to see a proper programme of care with a care manager linked to a local vet. The group would like to work with CPUG to improve the situation.

ALL agreed that we need to ensure the proper welfare of all the animals in the park. Most people enjoy and appreciate the park and its animals but unfortunately there is always a minority who do not respect animal welfare. KW felt it very important to maintain an Incidents' Record to learn from mistakes and monitor trends. ACTION: Park Manager

The Street Violence Map

GD presented a new charity that is encouraging people to record criminal activity in the area. The group is working with the police who are no longer able to use witness appeal boards. See www.streetviolencemap.org

Park Café

The contract has been awarded to the Company of Cooks who also cater for Kenwood House. They will offer affordable differentiated priced menus.

AOBs

- Events Policy to be finalised and should be mindful of scale suitability.

Monies generated are ring-fenced and reinvested into Clissold Park.

- Bridges and gates should be completed by the end of July. Ensure animals are safe please!
 - New Tennis Clubhouse has gone through planning stages. Work is expected to begin shortly.
 - Plans for Lighting for the Tennis Club will be published soon.
- Bats must be protected. And an assurance was given that the lighting would be turned off by 8.30 or 9.00pm and would be non-intrusive to local homes!
- The New River water circulation system is not circulating – is water level in ponds where it is meant to be? Seems lower than before
 - Animals must be safe and secure and better training for staff is needed.

Contacts:

Park Rangers: 0208 3566834 – this connects to a mobile

Refurbishment Project Manager:

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Park Manager:

michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk

Lead Councillor for Parks:

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Parks Development Officer

eleanor.johnson@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 or 07879 603106

Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Sargent in charge: Sue Wright

Sue.C.Wright@met.pnn.police.uk

To join the Clissold Park User Group:

Email: clissoldpug@googlemail.com

Go to our website:

<http://www.clissoldpark.com>

Join our Facebook Page - or just come to our bi-monthly meetings!

**Next meeting of CPUG:
Saturday 10th September 2011
11 – noon
in the new church rooms,
St Mary's Church
ALL WELCOME!**