

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

January/February 2010



Matters arising

John Hudson apologised for not yet having contacted John Wade. Will do so.

There was no park manager's report.

Rangers

The long-promised review of the Rangers has still not been undertaken. Can we get clarity/timetable? Users are never sure when Rangers are on/off duty, and what to do when they are needed and not around. The group felt the visibility of the Rangers had diminished, not, as promised, increased. Currently the contact phone number on the door leads to a series of circular answering machines! This is long standing issue re safety and security of users and site. There is also a lack of clarity about their areas of responsibility.

Councillor Karen Alcock (KA) responded by saying she was waiting for a report, which would be taken to the Mayor. A full review is anticipated, particularly in the light of the even greater use of the park and mansion.

ACTION: Cllr Karen Alcock to keep CPUG informed, and Ken Worpole (KW), CPUG chair, within two weeks. Michael Dixon to post valid contact number for access to Rangers.

Site monitoring during works should be the responsibility of the Council.

ACTION: Simon Biss (SB) to post Tel nos. for enquiries about site developments, with rapid response facility.

Feedback from Stakeholders' Forum

Caroline Millar (CM) informed the Group that minutes from the forum are posted on the CPUG website (<http://www.clissoldpark.com/>) which has been revamped by KW, CM and Isabelle Gore, webmaster, to incorporate CPUG Officers' feedback on meetings and up to date information re developments. Highlights of the minutes are:

The Playground will be closed from October 2010 – February 2011.

The Paddling Pool will now, in response to concerns from the group, remain open for the summer of 2010.

Hoarding around the house – ideas for art design are being sought.

Contracts: Mansell plc have won the contract for the house and Geoff Osborne plc for the site. Neither were the cheapest but contracts were awarded on basis of quality and experience.

Security with regard to their equipment will be the responsibility of contractors.

Temporary Café is now open after consultation with CPUG etc.

Contract for new permanent café to go out to tender Easter 2010 with a decision expected September 2010. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the contract for the temp café and the new café both require them to include plans to deal effectively with waste management.

ACTION: Penny Crick to send SB survey on café undertaken in the past.

Planning permission for Tennis club's move to 3 Queen Elizabeth's and floodlights is not yet valid or posted (stop press: now up - see link from CPUG website)

ACTION: Cllr Linda Smith to let John Hudson know when planning permission is ready to be posted as the group were concerned that the consultation period might go unnoticed, and users would be keen to respond.

There was considerable discussion about the **retaining wall between the tennis courts and the red gra**, which is in a bad state of repair, but not in the project plan. It was suggested that historical records showed underground storage tanks with a pipeline to the path along Queen Elizabeth's Walk. How would this be handled? Is it sensible to proceed without a survey? KA and SB replied that this would be dealt with once work has started, as it was impossible to determine the impact of any such tanks/drains. It was felt this would be a better option than a site survey. The landscaping plans include

soft landscaping to improve drainage, with a nonporous liner along retaining wall to prevent flooding onto tennis courts.

ACTION: Penny Crick to forward historical evidence to SB who would forward to Hackney technical team.

The next Stakeholders' Forum meeting will be held on 19th January. CM, MJ and KW will attend.

Project manager's report

Simon Biss, Project Manager, emphasised that the project was adhering to the 6 key phases, as described on the CPUG website. Recent progress included awarding of contracts (see above).

Osborne's (park) will be on site before the end of January. There will be a new drop-kerb entrance exclusively for contractors, formed west of the paddling pool. The official start date is 8th February. The temporary café is already in operation.

In response to questions, SB confirmed that there is a continued role with the design consultants and architects who now become the project managers and administrators.

The park will continue to open from 7am onwards. ACTION SB to confirm site workers' hours and publicise key contacts and dates.

SB and the Councillors were not aware of the once proposed Hackney Council plan to widen the narrow pavement on the west of Church Street. There are plans in place to ensure the deer and goats are a minimum distance from the works. The aviary may be re-housed temporarily by the depot. Because the park notice-boards are in a very poor state, the work to replace them will be brought forward so that people can be kept informed of progress immediately.

The Council's December project newsletter has not been produced in hard copy although it is available in an electronic format. The January newsletter will be out soon both in electronic and paper format.

Concerns were expressed about the route, which trucks would be taking to carry material from the dredged ponds to the redgra where it will be stored while it dries out. SB explained that there would be a dedicated haul route which will be fenced off and there will be manned cross-over at points where it crosses public routes. The route will run from the North side of the lakes going east parallel to Queen Elizabeth's Walk.

Questions were asked about the vegetation around the ponds. Will this be removed? There are no plans to remove the vegetation. If anything is removed or damaged, it will be replaced. Fish will

be stunned and then moved to the other pond as each pond is drained.

Rats: SB reported that the baiting programme is ongoing but JH reported sightings of numerous rats frolicking on the ice! The meeting expressed its continued concern about the impact of the works on the rat community (and the resultant impact on the local human community). It was suggested that local schools should be involved in the work with the wildlife. Council could perhaps contact Wild London who work with children in London schools.

Park Lodge

There was no up-to-date information about how the Council is handling the plans to move the current tenants out of the Green Lanes Lodge. Councillor Smith reported that the Council has hired a housing lawyer on behalf of the couple. The Council will look at their needs and provide a more sensitive response. The meeting was also concerned to know about any plans for the future use of the lodge. Perhaps the One O'clock club could move into this building. It is critical that there is a proper strategic approach to the buildings in the park and beyond (town hall, leisure centre, cemetery, reservoir, climbing centre). The meeting was very concerned that this is not happening yet. Cllr Alcock assured the meeting that she had asked for a report from officers on these issues by the end of January, which she will share with local people and groups such as CPUG. Ultimately responsibility rests with Kim Wright and the Mayor. Ken stressed that this tied up with the issues around the management structure for the future park and house, which he has raised repeatedly.

Any other business

There was a complaint that rubbish (including food waste and an old fridge) was being dumped indiscriminately in the "recycling" area of the park and that this area had no gate, allowing anyone to dump there, and resulting in dogs, foxes etc having easy access. SB responded that this area will not be used for rubbish or recycling under the new plans and will become parkland again. The new café will be completed, through their contract, to handle waste in a very different way. It will either be taken off site daily or stored in sealed compactor units in the depot near Greenway Close.

There were complaints that gritting around the gates had not been adequate during the snow.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 6th March, 11 am to noon, in the Church Rooms to the rear of St Mary's "new" Church. This will be the

AGM at which we hope to elect new officers.
Nominations for a number of new posts are being sought.

ACTION: JH will circulate the list of new posts (which relate to specific roles) to officers who will ensure that nominations are sought in good time via the website, the emailing list and posters on the notice-boards. It will be possible for people to be nominated or nominate themselves in advance, or on the day at the meeting.

For HLF Project issues contact
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For Park Management issues contact
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For Council issues contact
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To join Clissold Park Users Group contact
clissold@googlemail.com and visit

www.clissoldpark.com

...or join our Facebook group

...or just come to the meetings!

**Next meeting of CPUG: AGM - Saturday 13th
March 2010, 11am. At the Church Rooms, behind
St Mary's church. ALL WELCOME!**