

# CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

January- February 2011

**Our next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> March between 11am and noon in the New Church Rooms. This will be our Annual General Meeting, with a review of our constitution, committee elections and the usual reports and Q & A's**

**So do come and consider helping by standing for election to the committee.**



## **Notes of meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Attendance:** 35 park users were present.

Ken Worpole (Chair), Caroline Millar (Vice Chair), John Hudson (Comms Secretary), Matthew Jeary (Minutes).

Hyder Ajmi (Restoration Project Manager)

**Apologies** – Cllrs Karen Allcock & Linda Smith; Michael Dixon and John Wade.

## **Update on the Park Project**

Hyder Ajmi reported that work on the grounds was due to end by 31 March; some parts sooner. eg, the Bowling Pavilion by the end of February. Work on the Mansion will be completed by the end of May.

Concerns were raised about the safety of the steep bank by the wheels park, built to reduce noise affecting Queen Elizabeth Walk residents. It was feared to be an inviting slope to run or ride down; endangering people on the path below.

There are no plans for a barrier or planting to prevent this and any risk would be assessed once the park was in use. Park Users suggested that something more

proactive but cheap be done to discourage risky behaviour E.g. planting.

Another smaller bank is to be added to reduce tunnelling of sound affecting houses further down QEW. The play area has been landscaped to meet best practice guidelines to prevent acoustic disturbance to local residences.

The contractors confirmed that to be cost effective, the fencing around the mansion house was bought rather than hired and that the bed of the New River was not concreted, but sealed with a clay based liner, this being cheaper and more ecologically sound. Works on the house are within a week of planned timescales.

## **Planting round the lakes**

This has been delayed due to some design changes to the edging and the consequential need to source and buy appropriate plants. Work is now complete, plants bought and planting due to start and be completed by March. There will be wild flower planting on the margins of the lake and aquatic plants in the lake edges. The aim is to re-establish the biodiversity of the lakes while balancing the overall look of the park.

## **Playground update**

This is on course to be finished by March. All the new equipment has been purchased and will be installed within four weeks.

## **New Aviary**

Users were worried that the mesh used was too dense; looked unpleasant and that the aviary design was dominated by security considerations. The designers said that the mesh needed to be stout enough to withstand attack or break-in and dense enough to prevent smaller birds from escaping. It was agreed that it would be best to wait until the birds were in the aviary to see if there were problems with viewing them and then design modifications could be considered.

## **Security of park buildings and animal enclosures**

CPUG has been pressing the Council for a strong and effective security plan for the park, to include good police presence and CCTV. The Council are looking at different options and this will be reported on next month. It was asked that the Council be innovative, creative and thoughtful when it comes to this, as a great deal of money and effort is being put into the project. To then allow vandalism to destroy this work would be devastating.

## **Cafe Procurement**

CPUG will be involved in the selection process for the cafe contract but are very concerned that the procedure has ground to a halt because of the Council's new but unfinalised procurement strategy. The Council confirmed that this strategy is now in place but acknowledged that because of the process timescales the temporary cafe will still need to be in use some six weeks after the mansion has opened.

*Action – Council to provide a revised timetable for the cafe procurement.*

## **Management of the mansion and park**

Users remained concerned that there would not be an overall manager for the park and responsibilities would be split between Park and House Managers.

The Park Manager is now in post. That of House Manager will now be advertised externally and might be combined with that of the S N Town Hall Events Manager, subject to Heritage Lottery Fund approval. A Council parks project manager will cover the post until a permanent appointment could be made.

*Action: Councillor McShane to update CPUG on appointing the House Manager.*

## **No. 3 Queen Elizabeth Walk**

It has been agreed in principle that the current building will be demolished and a new tennis clubhouse built. Validation and full planning permission is still needed and the new building might not be completed until spring 2012. The interim location of the tennis club's temporary offices is being considered.

## **Walks around Clissold Park**

CPUG had been awarded a grant from the East London Grassroots Fund and will be running a series of walks around the park in March. Two of these walks will be led by CPUG Chair Ken Worpole and two others by the Tree Musketeers.

Details and dates of these will be advertised locally on posters and on the CPUG Website.

## **Contacts**

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To join Clissold Park Users Group:

[clissoldpug@googlemail.com](mailto:clissoldpug@googlemail.com) via our website <http://www.clissoldpark.com/> - join our Facebook Group

- or just come to the meetings!