

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

January/February 2007

EVERYONE WHO USES CLISSOLD PARK IS PART OF THE USER GROUP – EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

To join the Clissold Park User Group (CPUG) mailing list and for this newsletter by email, contact clissoldpug@yahoo.com
Or see www.clissoldpark.com

We meet on the first Saturday of every other month.

Next meeting:

Saturday 3rd March 2007

11am – 12 noon

Clissold Park House, red room in café

All meetings are open, public meetings, anyone can attend and active participation from park users is always needed and very welcome.

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 4th November 2006:

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), John Hudson (Co-Vice Chair and Email Secretary), Yvonne Hill (Newsletter Secretary), Paul Foinette (Area Parks Manager), Jim Blinko (Park Supervisor), Anthony Joseph, Don Giddens, Hettie Sears, Simon Lissner (co-Vice Chair), Penny Crick, Lorraine Worpole, Brassett (Park Ranger), Jorge Samaniego, Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Betty Manning (Post Secretary), Chris Sills, Maxine Young, Ann Mc Ginley

Apologies: None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted as a true record of meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

The annual accounts were accepted. **ACTION: CHAIR TO THANK BARBARA MCFARLANE, TREASURER**

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT-Paul Foinette

Paul is working on this year's Final draft of the Green Flag submission and on a programme of plant replacement including 300 shrubs and 100 roses.

Tree management has included inspection and monitoring of trees along Queen Elizabeth's Walk. Twenty new lion-head benches have been installed.

There are plans to

- improve the deer enclosure including provision of a shelter and cordoning off of an area to encourage grass re-growth;
- reposition the recycling area;
- install push/drop bollards and/or hang-man gates in the park to prevent unauthorised vehicular access.

Designs for a ramp to the house/café were circulated. This was provided by the L B Hackney to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. This ramp design has good performance indicators but is very large and estimated costs are £25,000 to £30,000. It was felt further advice should be sought to ensure best possible solution. **ACTION: SIMON LISSNER TO FORWARD NAME OF ADVISOR TO PAUL FOINETTE. PAUL TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH HACKNEY.**

QUESTIONS FROM GROUP TO PARK MANAGER

- Could we consider repositioning the recycling area to the site recommended in the Heritage Lottery Bid thereby obviating the need to reposition twice?
 - Is there an arboreal management plan? At the moment planning is rather piecemeal.
 - Could we display Hackney's policies on Dangerous Dogs – concern was expressed about irresponsible owners...and on Deer Culling?
 - Is there news on 3 Queen Elizabeth's Walk? Police feasibility report seems to indicate a keenness for the police to use the house.
 - Could we display notices in a more timely fashion so that we ensure as wide an audience as possible.
- ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE (AND YVONNE HILL FOR NEWSLETTER AND MEETING NOTICES).**

LOTTERY BID

A Stage 1 Plan for the Heritage Lottery Bid has been submitted. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) assesses the bid and if successful, approximately six months later, a Stage 1 Pass provides monies via Hackney Council for Stage 2 planning. Ultimately, £8.3 million is available including Hackney funding of £3.3 million.

HLF have responded and asked for further clarification with a response needed by 15th January 2007. Great concern was expressed about this deadline as

1. Glenville Grey, the Land Use Consultant contracted by Hackney to work on this is on leave;
2. Joyce Guthrie, Hackney's lead officer on this matter, has not responded to CPUG's request to attend meetings and therefore the group is not at all confident about Hackney's ability or commitment to respond efficiently or effectively;

3. The holiday period prior to the deadline will have made progress difficult.
4. CPUG need time to consider the replies and a formal response.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE, CHAIR OF CPUG TO CONTACT JOYCE GUTHRIE AND THE MAYOR, AND IF NECESSARY HLF, TO REQUEST A DEFERMENT.

THE PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP TO MEET.

Details of the clarification needed by HLF have been circulated to (most of) the group and written comments forwarded to Glenville Grey. For further details of the submission and questions raised see the Clissold Park User Groups' website:

www.clissoldpark.com.

There was further discussion about the bid, which is now considered to be at a vital, "crunch time" stage. More than thirteen years work will be lost if the bid is rejected.

The group discussed whether it is, and can be considered, inclusive enough? Are we representative enough? Have others a different perception of us? Do we need to consider, for example varying our meeting days so that other users, such as religious groups, are not excluded. Nevertheless, it was felt that it is made clear that CPUG is open to all, that meetings represent those wishing to be actively involved and that the group is run democratically.

ACTION: MEETING DAYS AND TIMES TO BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE WEEKDAY EVENINGS.

It was pointed out that CPUG has a limited remit, that we have links with other forums and community groups and schools, and that the onus and responsibility for getting the Lottery Bid in on time and "right" must reside with Hackney Council and their Land Use Consultants.

BANDSTAND

This was originally envisaged as a Stoke Newington School project but there is now an understanding that, although the original plans were well intentioned, there is a need to provide a quicker, cheaper more generic alternative. We need to communicate with the school to determine the donations and funding being held. Overall, there was a consensus that this project is now best managed by Paul and the park.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE, PARK MANAGER

AOB

- Is there a need to cull the terrapins? There has been concern for some time about their impact on the indigenous wild life and the probability that they are, on the whole, having a negative effect.
- The Library has uncovered a bag of £50 of old notes labelled CPUG. If they can be converted, it was agreed that an English Oak be bought and planted.
- We are pleased to have received information from

TERNS a local Reservoirs Nature Society and will looking to linking their website with CPUG's.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE AND ISABELLE GORE (WEB MANAGER)

CONTACTS for the User Group

- Clissold Park User Group Website
www.clissoldpark.com
- Join CPUG
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/clissoldpug/join>
- Contact the CPUG secretary
clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS for The Park

- Park Manager: Paul Foinette: Rangers' Office or 8800 1021 & 07958692551
paul.foinette@hackney.gov.uk
- Rangers' office and Tennis bookings: 7923 3660
Tennis Club: 7254 4235 and
info@hacknecitytennisclubs.co.uk
- Head of rangers' service:
balavant.barber@hackney.gov.uk or 07985 692585
Hackney Council 8356 5000

Next meeting:

**Saturday 3rd March 2007
11a.m.-noon**

Clissold Park House, red room in café

Draft Agenda

**Heritage Lottery Bid
Park Management
The Bandstand and Lodges
Trees, Plants and Wildlife**

**and
YOUR issues!**

**If you use the park you ARE a Park
User...
so come and join us!**

ALL WELCOME

**MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2007
(SUBJECT TO VARIATION)**

**3RD MARCH, 5TH MAY, 7TH JULY, 8TH
SEPTEMBER, 3RD NOVEMBER (AGM)**