

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

July/August 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.co.uk
Or see www.clissoldpark.com

Next meeting:

**Tuesday 11th September 2007
7.30 p.m.-9 p.m.**

**New Church Rooms,
St Mary's Church,
Stoke Newington Church St**

Special Agenda:

**• Sports and Events
Please join us to discuss what
you'd like to see as the way
forward for improved sports
activities and events in
Clissold Park.**

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

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), John Hudson (Co-
Vice Chair and Email Secretary), Yvonne Hill
(Newsletter Secretary), Paul Foinette (Area Parks
Manager), Simon Lissner (co-Vice Chair), Lorraine
Worpole, Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Betty
Manning (Post Secretary), Chris Sills, Ann Mc Ginley,
Tom Wayton, Natalie Teich, Emma Kelly, Karl
French, Andrew Dwyer, Jonathan Shattock, Jen
Barton, Mary Bettinson, Stephen Uhlander, Ged O'
Sullivan, Fliss Premu.

Apologies: Jim Blinks (Park Supervisor), Don
Giddens, Hettie Sears, Penny Crick, Cllr Matthew
Coggins

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted as a true record of meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

None

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT-Paul Foinette

Refurbishment of toilets has proved problematic and
delayed due to abrupt departure of original project
manager. The project is now on track and the
children's toilets have reopened, subject to snagging.
The opening of the adult toilets has been delayed
and therefore Portakabins are still in use.

The Group felt that the temporary toilet provision was
wholly unsatisfactory and that consideration should
be given to the provision of new portaloos with a
maintenance contract.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

There are plans to improve the children's playground
and tendering is underway.

The Stokefest was very successful as a well-
attended festival but the clean-up operation was
overwhelming. The group felt that the festival had
become bigger than just a local festival and there
were concerns as to whether the park was a suitable
venue for such a big event, advertised nationally.
There were also concerns for the safety of the large
numbers of people and it was felt that the park
management should have had a greater say at
contract and planning stages to enforce and advise
on safety issues.

There was concern about the number and frequency
of festivals generally and it was felt that the park
needed longer resting periods between the various
events.

The group was keen to discover the whereabouts of
the Council's Events Policy to ensure it is adhered to.
Festival organisers, circuses and exhibitors must be
made aware of all the regulations and the
consequences of non-adherence to the policy
(misuse of cars, safety breaches etc.) and the
contract must be more stringently enforced e.g. loss
of deposit/ fines or even cancellation of the event.

It was also recommended that a crisis management
plan be prepared.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

The Park has retained its Green Flag status with an
increase in score.

The Chair and the group thanked Paul and his team
for their continued good work, for their clean up work
during the Stokefest, and congratulated them on the
improvements made for the Green Flag award.

LOTTERY BID

There has been one further meeting of the Project
Reference Group. Advertisements for consultants
and a Project Manager to lead on the bid are being

placed. The group and all interested parties are urged to complete the questionnaire now being circulated as part of the consultation process.

Concern was expressed that the consultation process will take place between January and March when there is reduced park activity. There will need to be well-organised focus group meetings.

TREES

The magnificent work of the Tree Musketeers was commended. On a recent walk they had pointed out tree damage due to lawnmowers. It was suggested that Paul brief his team before they mow and that the area around trees be widened to 1m through mulching or use of hessian to protect the trees.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

There are large trees that are in urgent need of surgery but very few Council tree surgeons. This is a safety issue.

ACTION: JOHN HUDSON TO RAISE AT THE STOKE NEWINGTON FORUM MEETING

It was AGREED that the Tree Musketeers be invited to the Park more regularly: two/ three times a year.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

3 QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WALK

Suggestions for use:

The Council has suggested demolishing the house at a cost of £20,000.

A Police usage feasibility report seems to be stuck with the Met's property dept so no decision can be made until there is a reply from them. The group felt that a police presence in the park would be helpful and welcome.

It was also suggested that that one o'clock club could be moved onto this site.

ACTION: JOHN HUDSON/ CHRIS SILLS TO RAISE AT THE STOKE NEWINGTON FORUM MEETING

THE AVIGDOR SITE PROPOSALS

Local residents addressed their concerns for the proposals for a new 200+ mainstream/special school (with up to 50 staff) plus housing for 4/5 storey 25 x 4 bedroom and 4 x 2 bedroom units (up to 216 residents) on the site of the old school. It was agreed that CPUG write to the Planning Officer with their comments and concerns on the impact of the proposed developments on the park, which are summarised as follows:

- The proposal for a new school, particularly aimed at children with special educational needs, is positively welcomed. However, the group is keen that the needs of the children are not compromised by the addition of the high density housing on the existing playground. It is felt that, whilst the children should be strongly encouraged to use the park, it should not be assumed that the park can make up for inadequate play facilities in the proposed school.
- The increase in traffic will lead to serious congestion and compromise safety for road users and pedestrians along the perimeter of the Park and around the north-eastern gate. This runs contrary to

recent plans by the Council for traffic calming and improved safety around the Park.

- Sight lines/ views in a conservation area and in the park need to be protected.
- A hydrology investigation needs to be undertaken to determine the impact on the water table.

ACTION: YVONNE HILL TO WRITE

AOB

- The terrapin cull is going well and they are being rehoused in Hertfordshire.

A down-pipe in Clissold House is still leaking and this must be remedied as there is a risk of dry rot, which would be devastating.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

SPORTS FUNDING needs to be improved.

In spite of a very timely publication, old newsletters were displayed alongside some new ones. This is unsatisfactory for the volunteers producing them and frustrating for park users. The notice-boards need to be kept up to date, the board in the bowling green replaced and newsletters should be posted as soon as they are received.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

The group was reminded that we agreed to vary the timings of our meetings to include some evening meetings so that people who find the usual Saturday morning time difficult have an opportunity to join us.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE

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@hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk

- Head of rangers' service:

balavant.barber@hackney.gov.uk or 07985 692585

Hackney Council 8356 5000

Next meeting:

Tuesday 11th September 2007

7.30 – 9 p.m.

Note evening meeting to help those who find our usual

Saturday morning time difficult

ALL WELCOME

Then 3rd November 2007 (AGM)