

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

July/August 2008



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:

Saturday 6th September

11 to noon

Red Room in rear of Café Clissold Park House

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

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 5TH July 2008

Present: Ken Worpole (chair); John Hudson, Caroline Millar, Simon Lissner (Vic Chairs);

Apologies: Penny Crick

Park manager's Report from Michael Dixon

Restructuring of the Parks service was nearing completion. This should bring park rangers back under park manager control. Staffing levels would be maintained.

Dennis Holmes would hand over to the new permanent Head of Parks, John Wade in September. (**ACTION:** Ken Worpole to invite him to the November meeting)

Resolution of the Secretary of State's order for 3 Queen Elizabeth Walk was awaited. Meanwhile

the squatters would be evicted and the future use of the site decided on. The meeting felt that the squatters should be allowed to stay until a final decision was made (KW to write to LBH)

Further attempts would be made to locate and buy a boom to allow duckweed to be cleared from the New River.

Replacement of playground equipment would be completed before the start of school holidays.

The Stokefest event had been very popular and a huge amount of rubbish was cleared by the park staff in record time. Gates had been closed by police at 3.30 when crowds exceeded the Park's capacity and staff could not access the area.

Issues then raised by Users were: the amount of glass left around; the constriction of crowds around the entrance and in the music area; the dangerous size of the crowd; the need for family picnic and children's events areas; the excellent job done by park staff in clearing up.

The Park was expected to retain its Green Flag status again this year. A formal announcement was due on July 24th.

Users then asked Michael Dixon for notices about dog behaviour and the Dangerous Dogs Act to be displayed, following incidents caused by aggressive and offensive owners and for bigger rubbish bins to be provided to avoid overflows. (**ACTION Michael Dixon**)

Events Policy

An application to hold a two day music event in the park in September had been directly rejected by Hackney Council.

Previously the policy had been to limit events to 5 per year and for only one circus, with all income going solely to Clissold Park. The CPUG had been consulted about events, but not since approval for events had been centralised. The meeting felt that Events policy should be returned back to be under the Park's authority, and to include the CPUG as participating stakeholders.

Lottery Bid

Overall the plans were progressing well, the overall design and content being well received. There was an outline planning deadline at the end of July, but detail of the house interior and of other features such as the design of a waste strategy and the siting of composting facilities would continue to be developed after that.

No. 3 QE Walk, the Tennis club offices, and the eventual relocation of the One O'clock Club to the centre of the Park would all be developed separately by LBH outside of the project. (A reply from LBH to residents in Greenway Close with details of the proposed waste compactors had yet to be received by them)

CPUG had become concerned about the seeming lack of depth to the consultation programme and although senior council managers had responded with a detailed list of consultation activities we still wanted more general *ad hoc* consultation in the Park throughout its opening times, including at weekends, to engage sports and activity groups. Also the publicity for consultation events, questionnaires etc. had been poor, with too few notices put up too late. Many interested people had been unaware of consultation and some had reported that there were no questionnaires in the Ranger's office despite frequent requests being made.

Other points raised: Could the sort of interactive play facilities that are in Springfield be located near the Northern boundary? (It was thought this was against the established parameters of the design).

Could anyone use the proposed demountable bandstand to be held by Clissold School? (It was thought so, in principle)

How would the House and gardens be used in the evenings? (This to be developed in the business and house plans)

Could any skateboard facility be used by up to 14 year-olds? (To be clarified)

Other Business

Some cyclists were a danger to users and reacted aggressively to requests for more care. Could 'traffic calming' measures be considered and could the community police officers stop cyclists without bells to warn them of the dangers of this. Camden canals had simple awareness scheme notices asking cyclists and pedestrians to recognise and co-operate with each other.

Graffiti on the One O'clock Club would be removed once the specialist equipment had been repaired.

Notice boards should be kept more up to date and include more information for users,

including the community police telephone numbers.

A large gap in the northern boundary fence was still awaiting repair by the Hackney Housing department.

There was an enthusiastic response from the meeting to the idea of a Park volunteer force, to assist with litter picking, pond clearing etc.

The next meeting will be on Saturday the 6th of September.

CONTACTS for the User Group

Clissold Park User Group website
WWW.CLISSOLDPARK.COM

•Contact the CPUG communications secretary
clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS for the Park

• Park Manager: Michael Dixon: Rangers' Office 7923 3660 or 8800 1021 michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk

TENNIS BOOKINGS through Hackney City Tennis Club in Clissold House
0207 254 4235
www.hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk

Next meeting of CPUG:

**Saturday 6th September
11 – noon**

Red Room Café

ALL WELCOME!

www.clissoldpark.com