

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

March/April 2008



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

Next meeting:

Thursday 8th MAY 2008
6.30 – 7.30/8pm

Red Room
Back of Café
Clissold Mansion

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

At the meeting on Saturday 1st March:

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), Yvonne Hill, Penny Crick (Newsletter Secretary), Simon Lissner (Co-Vice Chair), Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Betty Manning (Post Secretary), Rob Brown (Lottery Project Manager), Cllr Matthew Coggins, Lorraine Worpole, Natalie Teich, Adrian Tucker, Lisa Gormley, Christopher Sills, Anne McGinley, Sylvia Anderson, Rebecca Feiner, Chris Wills, Bob Newman, Justine Willett, Claire Ingram, Jonathan Sparks, Don Giddens, Hettie Sears.

Apologies: John Hudson

Minutes of last meeting: Accepted, issues outstanding not covered in meeting: **Police** (re dangerous dogs) were invited to meeting but did not respond. **Kings Crescent** plans: Linda Smith, Caroline Millar and Steve Epstein to review and feed back

– Noted today that previous plan included bridge access to Park – NB re Lottery plans? **Toilets** refurbishment completed and baby changing facility in place yet?

Park Managers report: Michael Dixon updated the group on a number of matters and took some questions: The drinking fountain by bowling green is out of use due to vandalism, will be repaired soon. Lakes will be cleaned soon of vegetation etc (not silt at this stage), warning will be given to local residents about the consequent SMELL! There is funding for more **trees** and a plan for an arboretum of rare trees (to fit in with **new** landscape design for whole park) in field to west of paddling pool.

Rabbits: A roof will go over the rabbit enclosure, the remaining two rabbits are currently protected in a hutch, the enclosure will be restocked when secure and while there is a fox den nearby, contrary to rumours, it is **NOT in** the animal enclosure.

Buildings: There may be work done on the bowling pavilion, providing training for community service people, and the points were made a) that this should be routed through the lottery plans in order not to waste effort and resources and b) that it should not put the bowling green area out of use in the summer months. Audit of Park Lodges **still** not yet reported...

Events: Zippo's Circus is not booked in the Park this year.

Rangers: Michael confirmed that the Rangers service is to be 'restructured' – **ACTION** CPUG will write to Denis Holmes to ask what this restructuring is to achieve, to urge enhancement and to ask for our comments/input to be fed into any revision.

Playground: Consultation meetings on the playground took place Feb 2,9,10 and 14, options put forward, favoured is to put in new equipment same design as original with additional disabled access unit. Should be within 6-8 weeks – currently with 'Procurement' at Hackney council. Landscaping in area to be attended to, grass banks, prune trees.

Noticeboards: Meeting asked Michael to please improve visibility of existing noticeboards and to place a noticeboard in the playground for info re emergencies, our newsletters, update on playground, lottery etc. (**Also see previous minutes**)

(Action CPUG: Ask if we can have CPUG dedicated board in Café)

LOTTERY UPDATE: Lottery project reference group meets monthly and includes two CPUG officers. Two matters in particular under current discussion: **RED GRA/PLAYGROUND** and **EXTENSION OF NEW RIVER**. It is crucial that people have their say on these complex matters that have major implications for the Park. **Rob Brown** is the Project Manager and his job is to maximise participation in discussion and consultation with specific stake holders, such as CPUG, local schools and community groups as well as with the general public. Official consultation will

start at Easter. **CONTACT Rob** on rob.brown@hackney.gov.uk with your comments and ideas: he wants to hear from you!

RED GRA and PLAYGROUND: Proposal to extend play activity area across the whole Red Gra, to include landscaping, seating, picnic area, a caged multi-sport area and a shallow 'wheels' next to tennis courts. Compatibility of having teenagers and small children sharing just one area in the Park is a big and central question –pros and cons were discussed.

Consultation needs to address the question about what facilities and where little and bigger children as well as teenagers and young adults want. Planned area will be heavily planted, landscaped, shaped and zoned. Toilet facilities in House only – will this be sufficient? Skate park will affect residents in Queen Elizabeth's Walk area and is currently planned to be right under windows of flats on Lordship South estate. All play and sports in one area? Better to have playground facilities for various aged kids in several areas, as in Finsbury Park? All encouraged to see and report back on examples of good layout in other parks. In response to question about whether plans will be fit for future needs, it was pointed out that current and projected demographic figures about number and age of children is shown in Phase 1 reports for lottery bid.

New River Extension: many concerns about this: e.g. likely heavy cost relative to whole project, long term water management given climate change and pollution, additional bridges and reduction of useable space and routes through Park, maintenance, safety, various environmental concerns. Pumping would be needed to keep water flowing.

Options: leave it as it is; extend across Park to Green Lanes (opposite White House pub); extend part way to past Bowling Green area. Last is favoured so far by project reference group but no costing yet.

Serious concerns were raised about Consultation process: Rob Brown was thanked for his speedy and helpful responses to questions and CPUG encourages people to contact him. But we have seen consultations delayed before to be followed by speedy, rushed and poor decisions. What is consultation process schedule of meetings, exhibitions etc?? How many events are planned and for when? Decisions need to be made but will the consultation process be sufficient to make these with confidence and with public support?

Rob Brown proposes using council website in conjunction with our own www.clissoldpark.com to disseminate information about plans and consultation.

Walking and cycling route: is planned to go across London to Olympic site through Clissold Park. Proposed route has implications for the Park and pedestrian priority possibilities. To be addressed.

Kings Crescent development: No feedback yet, but we need to consider the implications of a number of blocks of 12 stories all along Green Lanes opposite the Park, the implications for the Park of the increased population, the status of previous plans for bridged access into Park...etc. see note re Previous minutes above.

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 communications secretary clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS for The Park

- Park Manager: Michael Dixon: Rangers' Office or 8800 1021 michael.dixon@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
- Report fighting and other dangerous dogs to **Safer Neighbourhoods Police number: 020 8721 2924 or 2030** and incidents will respond and be recorded.

Next meetings:

Thursday 8th May 2008
6.30 – 8 pm

Proposals for Lottery work on House and Park will be presented

Saturday 5th July
11-noon

ALL WELCOME!

www.clissoldpark.com