

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP (CPUG)

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

March/April 2010

AGM

13th March 2010



The Draining of Becksmere – 18th March 2010

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:

Tuesday 4th May

7.30 – 9.00 pm at Stoke Newington Library

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

Apologies – Cllr Karen Alcock & Bea Pemberton, Simon Biss, HLF Project Lead

Minutes of the last meeting

Cllr Smith would like to make it clear that she had not engaged a lawyer on behalf of the residents of the park lodge as stated in the last minutes. The rest of the minutes were approved.

Chairman's report – Ken Worpole

It has been a very busy year for CPUG due to the starting of the works on the park. Representatives from CPUG have and continue to attend a

monthly stakeholders' forum. A particular focus of CPUG has been on how information about all the works is passed on to all the users of the park. The website <http://www.clissoldpark.com> is now being updated every two weeks.

Vice Chair - Caroline Millar's update on the website

The site has become more popular, with 2000+ visitor in January and February, with users being driven to the site by Google and also the CPUG Facebook site which has fifty members so far. <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=122991750385&ref=fn>.

Both sites have a link to the Local Authority's official website for the restoration project <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/clissold-restoration-project.htm>

Election of committee members.

The following positions were elected:

Chair – Ken Worpole

Vice Chair - Caroline Millar

Meeting and Newsletter Secretary – Matthew Jeary

Communications Secretary –John Hudson

Treasurer – Anna Gualtieri

The following volunteered for special interest matters:

Older People - Sylvia Anderson

Dogs – Mark Forsyth

Children and young people – Tim Linehan & Lisa Gormley

Sports – Vacant

The Chair gave special thanks to Betty Manning for her printing and distribution work and to Isabelle Gore for her work on the website. The Chair also noted that this would now be the start of his final year as he would not seek re-election at the next AGM.

Park Manager's Report - Michael Dixon

Jeff Rodgers has been appointed as a new Chargehand. The Chargehand's main responsibility is horticulture and he will be the line-manager of the gardeners and will himself be managed by Michael Dixon.

There are currently six rangers employed, which is a full complement. The rangers are on a rota which may explain why they are not visible to park users.

Issues with the domestic rubbish being dumped in the foreyard are being addressed in liaison with Simon Biss.

Eight trees have been planted in the last week. Some of these trees have been sponsored by park users.

The Park Manager and his team have been working with the contractors, looking (every two days) for any birds nesting around the lakes. If any nesting birds are found then work will stop.

Responses to the Park Manager's report

In response to questions, it was explained that while the rangers do not have special pre-existing training with regards to the care of the animals they are trained on the job and that the rangers are dedicated specifically to Clissold Park.

Concern was expressed that Rangers now have less time to spend with the animals and the impact that will have on the animals.

ACTION: Park Manager to provide a clear diagram of the structure of who does what in the park which should be made available to CPUG and disseminated.

John Wade's Report – Head of Parks and Green Spaces, Hackney Council

Hackney Local Authority has been asked to submit a more robust plan to the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding the management of the animals and birds during the redevelopment of the park.

A review of the changes to the rangers' service is ongoing and will be completed by the end of May.

Planning applications for 3 QEW – After consultation there were four objections to the planned changes regarding size and design. The hope is that it will go to the April Committee.

Business plan for the park is still being worked on - meeting due with CPUG representatives on 22.03.10.

Response to John Wade's report

Numerous concerns were raised about the proposal for **lighting on the Tennis Courts**: e.g. exclusivity; light nuisance; night access – consultation is ongoing and the application will probably go to committee in June.

ACTION: Questions regarding **operational hours of the park** to be discussed at next **CPUG meeting, specifically with regard to the Tennis Club's access to the park** and wider issues relating to after dark operational hours of the park.

Other issues around the **road safety of access to the proposed gates onto QEW** were raised - This will also be looked at during the consultation period. It was also pointed out that the Western boundary on QEW is an elegant stepped run of railings that will be interrupted and totally ruined by the introduction of a gate to access the tennis courts.

With regards to the funding of the cost of the lighting, Mr. Wade explained that Hackney is considered a beacon local authority for Tennis, and is working in partnership with the LTA and the Hackney Tennis Club – since opportunities to play tennis after dark in Hackney are extremely limited. Funding is accessed through the Tennis Foundation (the charitable arm of the LTA). As part of the application for funding from the Tennis Foundation, a business plan has been submitted which would mean the costs of installation and the ongoing cost of the lights would be funded by money that the Tennis club makes from bookings and other income. The lights will be turned off at 9.30pm. Specifications for the lights/plans are on the Local Authority website planning portal.

It was confirmed that as the tennis club has no membership therefore the courts will be accessible to anyone who wishes to book them, unless training or tournaments are taking place. The facilities in the proposed clubhouse in 3 QE Walk will be available to all those actively involved in the club

It was explained that the **western boundary is cordoned off to joggers** because of fears that the tree roots are being compacted and damaged. Wood chips are being put down on other jogging paths and this seems to stop the compacting of the roots, so should the QEW side be reopened for joggers? – to be discussed by Michael Dixon and the park staff.

Metro festival – objection from CPUG about the scale of the festival, which were passed back to the festival organisers who have yet to get back to Hackney Council.

For HLF Project issues contact:

simonbiss@hackney.gov.uk

For Park Management issues contact:

michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk

For Council issues contact:

nargis.khan@hackney.gov.uk

To join Clissold Park Users Group contact

clissold@googlemail.com and visit

www.clissoldpark.com

...or just come to the meetings!

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