

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

November/December 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 10th January 2009
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 1st November 2008

Chaired by Caroline Millar

List of those present available on request

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT FROM MICHAEL DIXON

Last bit of **playground** equipment is in and people seem to be happy with it.

Drain pipes on House – cleared and underground drains etc being surveyed by Lottery bid project team.

Graffiti no sooner off than on again - ??solution for tennis courts wall to commission graffiti artist – urban walls for **urban tennis**?

Terrapins lottery plan: have a few in a dedicated and secure terrapin pond and move rest out to Terrapin sanctuary somewhere a long way away.

3a Queen Elizabeth's Walk – now in Park and positive talks with LTA for tennis club base in progress.

Dangerous Dogs notices up in notice boards.
Bigger bins? On order.

New Parks Head: John Wade. Rangers now under Park manager (from December 1) and will have increased visible presence in the Park. Rangers job description etc to be discussed next meeting.

YOUTH FORUM SURVEY ON PARK FOR LOTTERY BID

Rachel Piper, recently elected member of Youth Parliament, presented very interesting findings from a recent survey undertaken by young people (11-19) as part of Lottery Bid consultation. Full details of findings on our website at www.clissoldpark.com

Key findings included: young women mostly use the Park for socialising and are more likely to use the Café than young men, who use the Park mostly for sports activities. Half of all asked would use a skate park if there were one. Most would like to see rain shelters provided for somewhere to sit and meet others, e.g. in the old bandstand area. While young women are more likely to need to contact a ranger, all would like there to be more visible presence of rangers and community police in the Park, and to also increase convenience of Park with longer opening hours, and safety with some lighting of paths, but were all much opposed to CCTV. Concerns were expressed about vermin, rubbish and cleanliness. A dedicated place for youth to go to, perhaps in the House, had been suggested as very desirable and there was also a call for more organised activities in the Park during school holidays.

It was noted that Hackney Sports organises some but they are very poorly publicised, information usually arriving at schools after the end of term and the suggestion was made that there could be an 'activities fair' before the end of each term giving kids the chance to sign up to participate. **ACTION we will write to Sports to suggest.**

There was a good discussion of other aspects of the presentation and the idea of a **youth club/room in the House** in particular will be promoted in the House plans – but that this could be something to take forward **NOW** and CPUG will support this **(ACTION)**

Also the idea of an outside/playground area for older children – something that is not included in plans – and could be more widely popular than the skate park (which requires special and expensive equipment etc) and would be there for spontaneous vs planned use.

Some mentioned that a former rain shelter in the Park had been vandalised and finally burned down – but this was about 15 years ago and there are fine

big new shelters in Finsbury park that appear to have gone unscathed over the last two years or so.

How about **use of 1 o'clock club building for youth in the evenings** – CPUG to link with youth forum to approach Learning Trust about this (**Action**)

Young people would like to be involved in the Park as Junior Rangers and to volunteer in other ways, perhaps with an incentive scheme as in other areas in the Borough.

There was a very warm reception for this presentation, which was the most comprehensive account of the consultation process for this bid that we have seen. Youth Forum will continue to have links with the CPUG and the Lottery Bid. Cllr Karen Alcock supported this at the meeting.

LOTTERY BID UPDATE – JOHN HUDSON

There has been quite a bit of dislocation in our involvement with the project, there has been a change of personnel in the project team at Hackney, there is a new Parks Manager and various organisational changes going on.

The deadline for the bid submission has now arrived and it has been delivered. CPUG representatives on project reference group have been unhappy about the lack of engagement and there is concern that the submitted bid proposals are now a *fait accomplie*.

An updated version of the plans are now to be available on the website
<http://www.hackney.gov.uk/clissold-restoration-project.htm>

There are remaining issues: in particular: structure of management team for the Park and House needs to be sorted out – all the wonderful things that **could** happen in the Park and House can only happen with proper co-ordinated management. We have consistently, and on the basis of year and years of experience, promoted the value of a *single* manager for House and Park – current business plan involves one for each: **BAD IDEA**. Other unresolved and contentious issues: Skate Park, 3 QEWalk (though there is reported to be serious negotiation with the Lawn Tennis Association for this to be the new base for the Tennis club).

CPUG is holding off writing a formal letter of support for the bid until we have seen and assessed what has been submitted. A lot of what has been seen looks good though, regarding involvement and priority of community use, financial support etc.

There is a long term commitment from Hackney to support the business plan. If the plan is approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the total available budget will be in the region of £9M. There will be a lot of historical information in the house, a writer or artist in residence, the café will be mostly based in the basement/ground floor.

There are many issues concerning **waste disposal**: green waste from Park, rubbish from bins etc, waste from café, and each of these are having optimal solutions planned. There is a remaining unresolved issue with the residents of Greenway Close which needs serious attention. (**report back next meeting**).

There has been a significant problem with the Planning application and confusion over dates for public consultation and to date the application has not in fact been approved.

The next meeting will be on Saturday the 10th January 2009 11am – noon Red Room Café.

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.hacknecitytennisclubs.co.uk

*Seasons Greetings
-oOo-
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our readers!*



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11 – noon
Red Room Café
ALL WELCOME!
www.clissoldpark.com**