

# CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

**September/October 2008**



To join the Clissold Park User Group (CPUG) mailing list and for this newsletter by email, contact [clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk)  
Or see [www.clissoldpark.com](http://www.clissoldpark.com)

## Next meeting:

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November  
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 6<sup>TH</sup> September 2008**

**List of those present available on request**

### **Park manager's Report from Michael Dixon**

**Duck weed** on river/lakes soon to be removed when new boom is brought into use.

Final piece of **playground** equipment is to be installed week of Sept 8<sup>th</sup>.

Signs giving information about **the responsibilities of dog owners** and rights of the public, and what to do in an emergency will soon be placed in the Park.

Graffiti – a persistent problem on most buildings in the Park. Liaison with the Learning Trust had enabled graffiti on 10'clock club to be removed. But removal is quickly followed by more graffiti and man who can use the cleaning equipment is off sick. Can someone else be trained to use equipment?

Planting is to be reduced around the Bowls Pavilion in the hope of discouraging repeated **vandalism**. **3 QEW** squatters had to leave by 15<sup>th</sup> August and until a decision is made about the use of the building, the garden of the house is to be landscaped and incorporated into the Park. In the meantime, security guards (at what cost??) in place to prevent re-squatting. Tennis Club may be in negotiation for use of 3 QEW. But there is a Disposal Order on the house – no one know what this means. Ken Worpole to write to Secretary of State to enquire (since meeting has done so and has found that the order has now been cancelled – whatever it was.)

Michael Dixon to meet with residents of Greenway Close on quarterly basis concerning rubbish and recycling in Park Depot (Does this mean that the location of new recycling/composting proposed in Lottery Bid has been confirmed?)

New Management structure for Park due 1<sup>st</sup> October at which point we will know who rangers are responsible to and what their duties are.

Lighting on buildings in the Park at night: Michael Dixon is to find out if there is a policy to have bright lighting on toilet blocks by House and in playground that are on ALL NIGHT – waste of energy, aesthetically unappealing and illuminating work of graffiti artists? If policy, why? If not, arrange for lights to go OFF when Park closed. **ACTION: MICHAEL DIXON**

### **Lottery Bid – Main Item for discussion:**

The Lottery Bid consultation process is coming to an end. There have been 6 project reference group meetings with the last one two months ago; CPUG representatives, although reasonably satisfied with the meetings, report some dissatisfaction, in particular the lack of political input from councillors on a regular basis ('Chair' Nargis Khan has been present at very few of the meetings). Although significant amounts of public consultation have taken place in recent months, the collating and reporting of the findings has been poor and the reference group has not been able to take full account of the views expressed. However CPUG reps consider that the overall proposals are good and user group is reluctant to risk losing them at this stage.

The consultation may have been better than many people think, but there are weaknesses, eg in how questions have been asked, oversimplifying complex issues such as the aviary into **YES** or **NO**, lack of exploration of controversial issues, and poor or non-reporting of results.

Plans have now been submitted to the Planning Department and will thence go to the Heritage

Lottery Fund for assessment and approval. Local residents had been sent planning notice to comment but the letter was not clear on deadline for comments or where to find a copy of plans, search on planning website under Clissold Park not giving any information at all.

There is considerable concern that a number of features in the Park are not taken account of in the plans to date: tennis club, 1 o'clock club, bowling green and pavilion, 3 Queen Elizabeth Walk, management of various areas for children's activities around the Park, use of the House etc.

There is without doubt a great deal more work to be done on the plans before any work could commence. We understand that plans have been submitted pending further consultation – if permission is granted for all, things can be removed. (reference for seeing plans on website is: 2008/1973 and 1975).

Report on Trees in the Park is very detailed and good.

There is a dilemma: for the CPUG to agree when there is dissatisfaction or to disagree, withdraw co-operation and risk the bid collapsing?

User group to view plans at the Planning Dept and to comment to Planning dept that: reporting back of consultation results has not been adequate, contentious areas are not shown in detail or addressed at all in the plans, communications with the public re the plans is not good – plans not easily in public view and poorly organised on website and letter to residents unclear, making it hard for people to comment.

It is a condition for the Heritage Lottery Bid that there is partnership between the Council and stakeholders – has this been fulfilled? We don't think so and believe that we should press for regular consultation meetings between stakeholders and the Council regarding the detailed development of plans. If the Council is unable to fulfil this condition, the User Group will need to decide whether to withdraw from the process.

#### **Other Matters raised for discussion:**

**Terrapins:** The policy is that these will be removed from the lakes when they are eventually dredged. Trapping for humane disposal did not work.

**Ponds:** Litter and general mess makes them disgusting – they are to be cleaned up and litter etc removed. **ACTION: MICHAEL DIXON**

**Bins:** are not big enough to cope with weekend rubbish quantities, especially in the summer. Can this be addressed? **ACTION MICHAEL DIXON**

**1 o'clock club:** yet another container has been placed on the site – there is no planning permission for any container, they cause root impaction and should be removed. **ACTION MICHAEL DIXON**

**Playground:** Sand needs to be swept back into the sand pit on a regular basis. **ACTION: MICHAEL DIXON**

**Damage to Clissold House** from blocked and leaking down pipes on South and North side of the East facing wall of the house continues and these **must** be fixed. **ACTION: MICHAEL DIXON**

**Communications:** Michael will undertake to have copies of these newsletters printed onto A3 paper, laminated and placed in notice boards in the Park. User group will print off A4 copies for distribution.

**The next meeting will be on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> November. 11am – noon Red Room Café.**

**CONTACTS for the User Group**  
Clissold Park User Group website  
[WWW.CLISSOLDPARK.COM](http://WWW.CLISSOLDPARK.COM)

• Contact the CPUG communications secretary  
[clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk)

**CONTACTS for the Park**  
• Park Manager: Michael Dixon: Rangers' Office  
7923 3660 or  
8800 1021 [michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk)

**TENNIS BOOKINGS** through Hackney City Tennis Club in Clissold House  
0207 254 4235  
[www.hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk](http://www.hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk)

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**Red Room Café**

**ALL WELCOME!**  
[www.clissoldpark.com](http://www.clissoldpark.com)