

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Special meeting April 2007

**EVERYONE WHO USES CLISSOLD PARK
IS PART OF THE USER GROUP –
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

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
Saturday 7th July
11 a.m.

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

We generally meet on the first Saturday of every other month but the last meeting was on Wednesday 18th April 2007 7.00-8.30 pm, St Mary's Community Hall, Defoe Road, N16. This evening meeting concentrated on the decision of the Heritage Lottery Bid to award a Stage 1 Pass to provides monies via Hackney Council for Stage 2 planning.

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Simon Lissner (co-Vice Chair), Yvonne Hill (Newsletter Secretary), Betty Manning (Post Secretary) Paul Foinette (Area Parks Manager), Cllr Matthew Coggins, Ayhan Aksu (Park Café) Don Giddens, Hettie Sears, Penny Crick, Lorraine Worpole, Chris Sills, and more than 60 Park Users.

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2007:

The Chair thanked all who attended, and to those who had contributed to the successful

initial outcome of the lottery bid, including previous Park Users committees.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The principal concerns raised were:

... The need for a vision for the park as overall a child-friendly, ecologically sustainable place of recreation, in which the needs of different users - parents with young children, the elderly, joggers, active sports players, dog-walkers, cyclists and people seeking peace and quiet - can all be met with as little conflict as possible.

... How to draw up this vision without some clear idea of the numbers of people using the park for these different activities - and at what times, and seasons. "If you don't measure it, you can't manage it," is a useful management philosophy on such matters of public space. Some basic statistics of park use may be a pre-condition of drawing up the overall vision.

... The vision must take into account, and be related to, other services and facilities offered locally by, for example, Clissold Leisure Centre, The Climbing Centre and Reservoirs, meeting rooms, youth clubs offered by local churches, libraries, community groups and other local parks (including parks offering facilities in neighbouring local authorities, such as Finsbury Park with its running track).

... The conservation of Clissold Mansion is a priority, as well as the appointment of a business manager, developing a business plan and programme of services it will offer in future. A successful café, and support for the popular Clissold Park Tennis Club, are good building blocks for the future.

... The use of the house during the evening, particularly in the winter months, needs careful consideration, as do all forms of security and lighting.

... More work needs to be done on the history of Clissold Park & Mansion as part of the conservation and interpretation process.

... The auditing and conservation of the existing tree stock, with sustainable arboreal and landscaping plans, which take account of climate change, is a key priority for many people.

... The water features in the park - lakes, river, paddling pool - all need to be considered with a view to long-term sustainability, funding and management, especially with drier summers forecast.

... Future public consultation should take as many different forms as possible - public meetings, focus groups based on different park users, auditing of current use, questionnaires, and so on. Where possible the budget for consultation should be flexible enough to pay some local groups - for example the Orthodox Jewish Community, the Turkish and Kurdish communities - to conduct their own focus groups and local surveys. It is vital that existing parks management staff, gardeners and rangers are properly consulted, as they have a wealth of experience and knowledge of how the park is used.

... An overall vision for how the park meets the needs of all children and young people, and where facilities should be sited is key. Issues identified include the heavy use of the existing playground, perceived lack of facilities for older children and teenagers, as well as the need to extend the use of One O'clock Club facilities.

... People have suggested offering more training opportunities for park users, including dog-training, cycling proficiency (including for people with disabilities), opportunities for fitness walking with paid trainers.

... What might be the role of volunteers in the future of the park? Could there be voluntary litter picking and/or rubbish recycling as part of local school studies, as a way of getting children and young people to take a more responsible view of litter in

future. How might volunteers be more involved in management and policy issues in the future?

... People hoped that Council would begin to issue a regular lottery bid newsletter as soon as possible, with contact details as to how the public can make their views heard - and shared.

... It was proposed that visits to other London parks which have had successful lottery bids such as Mile End Park might be organised.

CPUG officers look forward to discussing these issues with Hackney in the near future, once the final letter from the HLF confirming the grant and its conditions has been received.

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 secretary
clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS for The Park

- Park Manager: Paul Foinette: Rangers' Office or 8800 1021 & 07958692551
paul.foinette@hackney.gov.uk
- Rangers' office and Tennis bookings: 7923 3660
Tennis Club: 7254 4235 and
info@hacknecitytennisclubs.co.uk
- Head of rangers' service:
balavant.barber@hackney.gov.uk or 07985 692585
Hackney Council 8356 5000

Next meeting:

**Saturday 7th July
11 a.m.**

It was great to see so many of you at the last meeting. Do come again. We need your views on the next exciting phase of the Park's development and the lottery bid.

**If you use the park you ARE a Park User...so come and join us!
ALL WELCOME**

Next meetings planned for 2007: 7th July
8th September, 3rd November (AGM)