

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

March/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

We generally meet on the first Saturday of every other month but the next meeting is **Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.00-8.00 pm, St Mary's Community Hall, Defoe Road, N16. This evening meeting will concentrate on the decision of the Heritage Lottery Bid.**

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 3rd March 2007:

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), John Hudson (Co-Vice Chair and Email Secretary), Yvonne Hill (Newsletter Secretary), Jim Blinko (Park Supervisor), Don Giddens, Hettie Sears, Simon Lissner (co-Vice Chair), Penny Crick, Lorraine Worpole, Brassett (Park Ranger), Jorge Samaniego, Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Betty Manning (Post Secretary), Chris Sills, Ann Mc Ginley, Natalie Teich, Diane Knill, Sue Mc Intosh, Harriet Salisbury.

Apologies: Paul Foinette (Area Parks Manager), Zitta Lomax, Barbara Mc Farlane (Treasurer)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted as a true record of meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

All addressed in the Agenda

PARK SUPERVISOR'S REPORT-Jim Blinko

• **The deer:** 17 deer have been removed from the animal enclosure due to overpopulation. A team comprising RSPCA vets, rangers and gardeners undertook this task very efficiently and professionally. The deer have been happily re-located to Scotland. The enclosure is to be reseeded and the remaining

two stags and eight does will be provided with a new shelter.

CPUG thanked the park staff for a well-organised job and in particular for the informative and reassuring notices about the project.

• **Seven trees** were blown down in the recent storm. They were mostly aged horse chestnuts and will be chopped up, with some logs saved for play venues.

• **Dangerous dogs:** There are now notices informing dog owners of the need to muzzle dangerous dogs.

There was much discussion from the group about the need to have common information on all notice boards to include regulations about need for a collar and the need to muzzle dangerous dogs, to ensure there are no grounds for ignorance. It was appreciated that the majority of dog owners are responsible but some very disturbing incidents were described including verbal assaults on park users, attacks on other dogs, and on a mother and baby group. Perhaps a policeman could accompany the group and try to identify nuisance dog/s? It was noted that there is no dog warden in Hackney.

ACTION: ALL USERS AND RANGERS TO INFORM THE POLICE IF THEY WITNESS DANGEROUS DOGS AND IRRESPONSIBLE OWNERS WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE WHERE POSSIBLE.

SIMON LISSNER TO PUSH FOR COUNCIL TO FORMULATE A POLICY AND APPOINT A DOG WARDEN.

RANGERS TO ENSURE PLAYGROUND IS DOG FREE

PARK CAFÉ TO ENSURE FOOD WASTE IS SAFE FROM ANIMALS

• **Preventing unnecessary vehicular access:** John Hudson met with Paul Foinette and AGREED that bollards will be positioned closer to the gates to allow vehicles to turn and exit but not to enter the park. Keys will be available for emergency services.

RAMP TO THE HOUSE

A Disability Discrimination Act advisor has suggested that as a ramp is not statutory if it is not feasible, and in view of the prohibitive cost, the plans be delayed until the outcome of the Heritage Lottery Bid is known - there are plans in the bid to install a lift.

LOTTERY BID

A Stage 1 Plan for the Heritage Lottery Bid has been submitted and passed to one committee. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) assesses the bid and if successful, approximately six months later, a Stage 1 Pass provides monies via Hackney Council for Stage 2 planning. Ultimately, £8.3 million is available including Hackney funding of £3.3 million. The outcome of the bid will not be known until the first week in April.

In view of the importance of this decision, the need to discuss the next steps whether or not the bid is successful, and the need to consult as widely as possible, it was AGREED that the next CPUG meeting would be changed from the usual Saturday slot to **WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL, at 7.00 p.m.**

(After-note: this date has been amended from that agreed at the meeting). This also fits in with our previous decision to vary the day and times of meetings to allow as many people as possible to participate and contribute. This will be our usual, open-to-all meeting and is not to be confused with any consultation meeting that the Council will need to organise. It will be important to move quickly to ensure key, over-arching issues and areas of responsibility are identified so that the mistakes of the Leisure Centre are not repeated!

ACTION: YVONNE HILL TO CIRCULATE POSTERS IN PARK, SHOPS, LIBRARY ETC, **JOHN HUDSON** TO BOOK VENUE AND **KEN WORPOLE** TO PLACE ADS IN LOCAL PAPERS AND INVITE COUNCIL.

It was felt that the meeting with Hackney Council had been positive. Two new posts for park have been agreed, and there will be a full time Project Manager for this bid. There will also be a new tendering process for consultants should the bid proceed.

BANDSTAND

We have received a letter from Zitta Lomax, community liaison officer at Stoke Newington School. Zitta remains enthusiastic about seeing the students' plans for a bandstand come to fruition but there are still monies to be raised. In view of the developments with the Heritage Lottery Bid, it was felt that these plans should be held in abeyance but not discarded.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE TO THANK ZITTA AND ENCOURAGE HER TO LIAISE WITH ANY NEW PROPOSALS.

3 QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WALK, PARK LODGE

Councillor Matthew Coggins informed CPUG that the police had been interested in the property for their Safer Neighbourhood offices. However, Hackney and police surveyors have deemed the property too structurally unsafe!

ACTION: SIMON LISSNER TO RAISE AT NEXT COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD MEETING.

Yvonne Hill has written to Councillor Nargis Khan with details of our past year's discussions requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, feedback re decisions and actions proposed for this house.

ACTION: YVONNE HILL TO FORWARD CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCILLOR **MATTHEW COGGINS** WHO WILL INVESTIGATE.

TREES

The tree stock is old and many trees are coming to the end of their natural life. A tree-planting programme is at the heart of the Heritage Lottery Bid. In the meantime, five households in Queen Elizabeth's Walk have generously raised funds, match-funded by the park, to purchase four new oak trees. Trees officers are undertaking a survey of the trees.

There was discussion about joggers and the need for them to avoid compacting roots. Is there a plan for dedicated jogging paths?

AOB

• **Cyclists** are reminded to be responsible and keep their speeds down; there have been incidents of cyclist using the park as a race track and there is obviously a danger to park users.

• **Baby-changing facilities:** there have been requests for this for many years with no action. AGREED, after vote, that CPUG fund a baby-changing facility for children's playground. All then agreed that Hackney be asked to reimburse CPUG.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE TO PURCHASE, SITE AND ORGANISE REFUND.

• **Access to Lottery Plans:** It was AGREED that the Council be asked to provide plans for scrutiny in the library and the Rangers' office.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE

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@hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk

• Head of rangers' service:

balavant.barber@hackney.gov.uk or 07985 692585
Hackney Council 8356 5000

Next meeting:

**Wednesday 19th April 2007
7.00 pm – 8.30 pm**

**St Mary's Community Hall,
Defoe Road, N16**

Heritage Lottery Bid DECISION!

**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)