

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

March/April 2009



**Next meeting: Saturday 9th May 2009
11 am to Noon
Red Room in rear of Clissold House Café**

With many changes and new things happening in Clissold Park (lottery bid decision coming up soon) make sure that YOUR views are heard, The meetings of this group are the main forum for airing public concerns about the way the Park is funded, managed and developed in the future. Whatever your main interest in the Park (playground, children, trees, wildlife, fun, football, tennis, running,...) you can influence future developments

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

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 7th March 2009

Chaired by Ken Worpole
List of those present available on request

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Several people noted that the visibility of **Rangers in the Park** has not improved at all – in fact the notice on their office door gives the (wrong) impression that they are only actually in the Park for a few hours a day.

Seating in the Park – seating built around trees may be a good alternative to shelters – put forward to planners? (**Action: John Hudson**)

Handrail on steps of House for access to Café much needed now. (**Action: Ken Worpole**)

3 Queen Elizabeth's Walk and Tennis – see under Park Manager's report below.

Review of time and venue of CPUG meetings: explore meeting in more accessible One o'clock Club building? Early evening weekday times? Agreed it would be good to vary. Proposal for outdoor meeting in summer months in CPUG marquee. (**Action: re:1o'Clock Club access Caroline Miller**)

Chair's Annual Report - Ken Worpole:

During this last year there has been consultation about the Heritage Lottery Bid proposal for the Park and House and this bid has now gone in with a decision due in 3 or 4 months time. This proposal involves big changes to the Park and the House. The CPUG has been involved in the project steering group convened by Hackney Council and has found the consultation exercise to have been better than in previous bids but we still have serious concerns: Not the least of these is the lack of continuity of the project management team under Hackney's management: 3 changes of manager in 15 months and no one consistent person involved over that time. Secondly, the Council's decision to specifically exclude key features of the Park – i.e. the one o'clock club building (hardly an insignificant feature of the landscape!), the relationship between the House and the Park, the Tennis club provision, 3 Queen Elizabeth's Walk – missed opportunities here which will very likely be regretted. There has been a consultation about trees in the Park recently but this was organised at very short notice. **Play in the park:** it is essential that the planners get the playgrounds in the Park right – now is the chance and the most must be made of it. There are 1.8 MILLION visitors to the Park each year – indicating that this Park needs sophisticated management to encompass recreational, sport, house, children and young people etc use of the Park. There are great opportunities in all these areas afforded by the lottery plans, but there are equally *very serious management issues* which have **not** been addressed to our satisfaction and we remain very concerned about this. But in general, CPUG as the most consistent attenders of the Project steering group, are able to say that we are generally impressed by the work to date.

Treasurer's report: Barbara McFarlane

£1,500 in bank; £800 spent, website costs: £440
Question raised about whether we should ask Hackney to subsidise the website as it is *de facto* the official website for the Park and very well used – but

we would need to be sure to maintain editorial independence.

Election of Officers

The posts available were Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Minutes/Newsletter secretary, communications secretary, with nominated people taking responsibility for special interest areas. We were very pleased to welcome many people new to the User Group who would like to become actively involved. There was heartfelt gratitude expressed to Ken Worpole for his chairmanship during these active and busy times, and also for his willingness to stand again this year. Warm thanks also to all others who have worked so hard for the user group, including Betty Manning who gets the newsletter distributed by post.

Election results:

Chair: Ken Worpole

Deputy Chair: Matt Jeary

Newsletter secretary: Yvonne Hill

Communications: Penny Crick and John Hudson

Treasurer: Barbara McFarlane

SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS:

Children and young people: Caroline Millar, Tim Linehan **(TIM: We can't get you on the email address we have for you – please get in touch!)**

Lisa Gormley

Lottery Bid: John Hudson (co-opted in his absence)

Dogs: Simon Lissner

Anyone else who would like to take up responsibility for special interests, eg sports, please get in touch.

Park Manager's Report: Michael Dixon

Dogs: there have been a number of serious complaints about the behaviour of some dogs and some dog owners. Meeting between dog wardens, dog walkers and the safer neighbourhood officers will soon be arranged. This is welcomed by the group where there was widespread agreement that the threatening behaviour of dogs and some owners is a big and increasing problem.

Bins: 20 new bins are going into the Park, old oil drum bins and dog waste bins are being removed (dog waste in bags can go into general bins now)

New River: duck weed and other vegetation being removed, hard to get 100% of duck weed

Down pipes on House east side: still leaking even though they have been cleared. Being raised with John Wade and Lottery Project manager – can funds be found now to sort it out to prevent further damage to House?

Hedges: to be radically reduced to allow more effective management.

Tennis office: Looks pretty certain that 3 QEW will be refurbished as a centre for the Tennis club and until that time the Tennis office will be relocated to a temporary structure near Queen Elizabeth's Walk. Where? Not known. Also reported that the use of 3 QEW is still under negotiation. Michael unable to say if Tennis

Club will be moved out of the House into temporary office before the agreement for permanent accommodation is agreed.

Café: To be closed in July or August and temporary café facilities provided, pending lottery bid work to House.

Workshop in May planned to consult about future Café provision. *Considerable disquiet expressed about plans to close the Café* at the busiest time of the year and even before there is a decision about the Lottery bid! Has this decision been taken in consultation with anyone? The timetable for closure of areas of the Park for the lottery work, should the bid be successful, has surely got to fit with the calendar of the Park and its **NUMEROUS** users!

Any other business:

Announcement made about a group who are testing public opinion about the lottery bid proposals for the front of Clissold House – tables on a terraced area as present or restore slope of grassed area, with limited tables, as proposed? Plans are for main outdoor seating area to be at South side of House area of current Rose Garden. There is going to be a lot of issues about this and no doubt many other things when people begin to see more clearly what is proposed in the Lottery plans and how they will change familiar features of the Park. The consultation process took place and the user group has been relatively happy with it but the process needs to be able to continue to respond to public concerns.

And another very sad farewell to Andrew, the incredibly helpful and truly effective Park Ranger who has been moved to another Park in the Borough – our very best wishes Andrew!

Contact clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to know more about what you could do for your Park, and influence what it can do for you!
WWW.CLISSOLDPARK.COM

Park Manager: Michael Dixon:
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Rangers' Office 7923 3660

Next meeting of CPUG:

Saturday 9th May 2009

11 – noon

Red Room Café

ALL WELCOME!

www.clissoldpark.com

It's your Park – its use secured to the public forever, since 1890