

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

May June 2008



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 5th July

11 to noon

**Red Room in rear of Café
Clissold Mansion**

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

The meeting held on Thursday 8th May was a Special Meeting where the proposals for the restoration work on the House and the Park were presented.

The Chair was taken by Ken Worpole and there were over 50 people present (full list may be obtained upon request). After his introduction, the consultants and architect presented plans and questions were taken by them and by the Project Manager Nina Curley (Hackney Council) and Rob Brown Project Development Officer (HLF funded).

Introduction: the purpose of the meeting was for the CPUG to facilitate a reasonable and proper conversation between the consultants, Hackney Council and users of the Park concerning these plans. Several other meetings will be convened by the consultants/Hackney Council over the next few months before the final plans are submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in October.

The Plans (in brief)

(full details can be found via www.clissoldpark.com)

Dan and Sally from LDA consultants presented the plans for the Park under 5 main headings:

A. Clissold House and Pleasure Gardens: Aim is to re-unite the House with a proper landscape setting. New access to House from East side (facing old church); front of house lawn to slope down as original design; 'bandstand' area, tarmac to be reduced, trees to have grass around;

B. New River to be cleaned up and fence moved to animal enclosure side, enclosure to be enlarged with fence path through, aviary to be removed?

C. Play area to be extended and extensive redevelopment of Red Gra to incorporate multisports enclosure, larger play area, incorporating natural landscape play things like boulders, slopes, trees; planting and seating; Skate Park.

D. Bowling Green area pavilion + lavatories to be refurbished, lawn retained and building available for educational/community use

E. New River to be extended towards Green Lanes; recycling and waste centre to be moved to Park depot at Northern boundary; one o'clock club building to be left – planting screen; Paddling pool, sustainable water/waste management here and for rest of Park; more trees and planting here and in field towards Green Lanes – arboretum development. Lakes, pond dipping platform and fences removed.

Richard Griffiths presented plans for the House

(see website for detail) This architecturally important historic **House** will be opened up to show how it was originally designed (eg staircase and beautiful rooms currently closed off), **ground floor** (what is currently thought of as 'basement') to be main access though central door East side (see picture above) where will be a caretaker's office, shop, café rooms and kitchen + lift to right of door giving access to all floors; **main floor** – café, function rooms available for hire; **top floor** – three large rooms + lavatories + small kitchen, available for hire/events or possibly business let. Prefer public access use. **External** – passage under pillars and steps West side to be opened up for access to house and vaulted cellars, including Rangers office. Lavatories to replace those in separate building and playground to be incorporated into ground floor with access from outside. **Use and management of House is central to business plan for House and Park and hence to Lottery bid success.**

The Questions and the Responses:

(where questions about similar issues were raised, these have been condensed or grouped together here)

Q: Play facilities for children – inadequate and boring, will this be addressed?

A: Yes, equipment caters for ages 2-6, 4-12 and 12+ and nature play, walls, boulders etc, aim is to increase scope of play activity and area. **(NB Michael Dixon Park Manager announced that new play equipment following recent consultation will be installed in existing playground within next few weeks)**

Q: Adolescents, older children, young children all to be accommodated in one play area, together with multisport pitch – not a good idea to blur age

groups, multisport very small relative to current usage of Red Gra for football, rounders, petanque, other casual (and local schools sports) use, especially in winter months when grass too muddy.

Q: Concentration of sports and play and skate park when activity in Park is noisy daytime and night time (when Park 'closed') already – will vastly increase noise so close to residents (Lordship South Estate and Queen Elizabeth Walk) – alternative locations considered?

A: Natural association with multi use play and sport area, don't dismiss because noisy, age groups will mix fine... Young people to be trained up in summer to do consultation with young people.

Q: 1 o'clock club in Bowls Pavilion would make good complimentary use of building and facilities.

Chair intervened to note that it is clear that play and sport plans, interface with residents and Park vistas is clearly very sensitive and will need considerable further consultation and careful consideration. Contentious to have so much activity concentrated in one area.

Q: Path surfaces to be suitable for wheelchairs?

A: Yes, tarmac remains on existing paths, new paths will be resin-bonded gravel, suitable for wheelchairs.

Q: Rubbish and recycling depot is going to be located right outside Greenway Close flats – vermin, noise implications for residents there.

A: Finer details of depot to be worked out, eg compactor and sealed containers? Consultation with residents will take place. *(Residents very concerned.)*

Q: 3 Queen Elizabeth's Walk – concern at state of building – what plans for this site in Plan?

A: No plans, not included in Plan. *(NB User group still does not have sight of 'review' of lodges which is reported as completed.)*

Q: Plans for bandstand/performance area as previously discussed?

A: Portable performance structure being planned with Stoke Newington School

Q: Concerns re consultation – recent exhibitions in weekdays and working hours only, poor links on website. Commitment to street by street leafleting to reach people not in or near Park already? Needs more imaginative approach (e.g. like CPUG poster for this meeting linking to 1886 public consultation meeting!) and to reach more people.

A: Will be w/e consultation day on 17th May and other events, leaflets, ad in Hackney Today etc. Have consulted with schools and other stakeholders. Consultation will continue to end of October when submission made to Heritage Lottery Fund.

Q: Security in Park?

A: Hackney Council must commit to improve and maintain the rangers and other staffing in the Park on a 10 year management and maintenance plan, this is a condition of the Bid being accepted. The new rangers office (in the vaulted cellars of House) will mean that they are visible and have good sight line into Park and will make regular foot patrols. **(These points were questioned; concern re Rangers & mngmt)**

Q: Tennis Club House shown as new building by courts at Queen Elizabeth Walk side – will obscure historic vista of avenue of trees, castle, park walks, to and from old church side. Reference to the Act of Parliament disallowing building in Clissold Park **(This**

issue was raised by several people and stirred considerable criticism and opposition.)

A: Not part of this funding but tennis club needs to go somewhere as it will no longer be in House. It will be subject to separate decisions, planning and funding between LTA, Club and Hackney. Not good to put at other end of courts re vista from House. No response to how Tennis courts will be managed when club vacates House.

Q: New River extension: not maintained now, how will it be maintained in future? Drought? Bridges?

A: Plan to drill borehole for water for Park and install sustainable water and waste circulation system, ecological planting to reduce algae, reduce fencing.

Q: House –security and management – what staffing numbers, level, skill set? Exciting project but will hinge on staffing and management.

A: Management and business plan for House very important, success of bid hinges on this. Not part of consultants' brief to determine this.

Q: Evening use of House must be part of business plan – how will this be managed in Park which closes at dusk? Other areas to be opened and lit for use, e.g. tennis courts and other sports?

A: Evening opening for House and surrounds is key but will just be this area, to be managed by gates and fences inside the Park (not shown on Masterplan). Maybe other areas too – needs to be looked at, controversial.

Q: 3 QEW, Green Lanes lodge, new building for tennis club, 1 o'clock club – all integral to Park and yet excluded from Plan – deep unhappiness about this.

A: Have tried but time scale and other Council decision schedules prohibits possibilities, above but also St Mary's old church, Olympic cycle path etc. also planned but not incorporated into Plan.

Q: Do we need new and extra buildings to improve facilities in Park vs developing what we have? Co-ordinated thinking re plans but also use of Park and implications for design needed to not waste the opportunities offered by this funding. Not enough joined up thinking about design and real use of Park and House. Great ideas but is there a budget for proper management? Aren't the ideas to grand to be covered by £8.9M?

A: Budget to date is overspent on House and about right on Park. Some things will stay and some things will go. Hackney looking at other ways of bringing in linked money to Park. Agree not good to bring in new structures, best to build on what is there and works.

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 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

Next meeting of CPUG:

Saturday 5th July 11 - noon

ALL WELCOME!

www.clissoldpark.com