

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

September/October 2010



Meeting took place on 11th September 2010.

Apologies

John Hudson, John Wade, Hyder Ajmi

Minutes of the last meeting

Approved

Olympic Cycle Path

Currently no further progress since no feedback from the Council received.

Ranger Review

John Wade has presented a paper to the Mayor and hopefully there will be some feedback for the next CPUG meeting.

Event Strategy

Still no update on this. It is thought to still be at consultation stage with the Mayor's office.

PROJECT / PARK UPDATE:

Deer

Michael Dixon read a prepared statement on behalf of the Council.

Requests were made that the full statement be published on the Council website and provided to local papers including the Hackney Citizen and the Hackney Gazette so those users not present could read it and find out how the Council are responding to the issues around

the deer. The Council have since, despite requests from CPUG, made the decision not to publish the statement.

The following is what was minuted at the meeting and is not verbatim:

The statement dealt with the two issues that have occurred with the deer. The first being that there was a breach of the temporary fencing on 12.07.10 that led to a deer breaking its leg and having to be put down by the RSPCA. The second issue was the birth of a fawn being born on 03.09.10.

For both issues the Council have taken the advice of Veterinary Surgeon and Deer Specialist, Peter Green. Peter Green has undertaken an assessment of the temporary enclosure and as a consequence the fencing has been improved in order to prevent any more breaches. Following the birth of the fawn Peter Green advised that work be suspended anywhere within a 50m distance of the temporary deer enclosure. The restriction was to stay in place until the 13.09.10. It was stated that the fawn was doing well and the Council continue to consult with Peter Green.

Park users present were positive about the reading of this statement.

It was raised that the improved outer fencing still had gaps and that a dog had been observed getting under it and scaring the deer. It was asked that this outer fence be made totally secure.

There were concerns about the impact of the work on the animals, as illustrated by the incident of the deer having to be destroyed. There are also ongoing concerns about the general care of the deer – the need for trained staff to care for them and the size of the enclosure. Michael Dixon stated that Hackney Parks staff were working in partnership with the RSPCA and Hackney City Farm to improve training around all the animals within the borough.

Signage

All signage about not feeding the animals/fish has disappeared and it was asked that some temporary signs be erected

Lakes

The carp have parasites and are being removed for treatment. They will be returned to the lakes after treatment.

Litter is being removed from the lakes.

Seating/benches for around the lakes are being worked on.

Work on the sluice house is continuing.

Work on the composting yard has started.

Neither of the lakes are totally full yet.

Fountains are being fixed or will be replaced.

The planting programme for around the lakes will start this autumn.

Clissold House

Works are running slightly behind schedule because of the discovery of rotting beams – contractors estimate that works are five weeks behind schedule

One O'clock Club

The Learning Trust is not planning to spend funds on the building. There will be a planting programme which will hopefully lessen the visual impact of the building on the look of the park. There will also some investment on new fencing.

Cafe Tender

CPUG will have some input on the tender process. It was suggested that it is vital that sampling of the food is carried out as part of the process. The quality of the current temporary cafe's food was raised.

House/Park Manager

The post of House/Park Manager has been advertised as an internal secondment within the Council.

Incident book

A question was raised as to whether the Rangers/Park staff keep the park incident book up to date. There have been a couple of recent incidents that need recording: dogs attacking dogs, and a child getting its head stuck in the railings by one of the lakes.

Dog Fouling in the park

Suggestion raised that there could be dispensers for plastic bags so dog owners who did not have a bag could grab one.

It was also stated that the issue of fouling by humans is also on the increase in the park.

Discussion about enforcement of the anti-fouling laws and whether fining is realistic – no one has been prosecuted in Clissold Park for dog fouling to date.

The Council do have enforcement officers who are working in the borough to educate dog owners.

3 Queen Elizabeth Walk

Objections against the plans had been raised and the scheme has gone back to planning. It is possible that the current structure may be demolished and a more aesthetically pleasing building build, more in keeping with the park.

White House Gate

White House Gate is to be closed as it was hit by a lorry and badly damaged. The gate will be closed while contractors repair it.

CPUG Next Meeting will be at 11am, St Mary's New Church Rooms, on Saturday, 13th November 2010.

CONTACTS:

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To join Clissold Park Users Group:

contact clissoldpug@googlemail.com and browse this website

<http://www.clissoldpark.com> - and join our Facebook Group - or just come to the meetings!