

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED BY USER GROUP REPS AT THE RESTORATION PROJECT STAKEHOLDER FORUM IN DECEMBER 2009

The meeting was attended by Caroline Millar and Matt Jeary, elected Clissold Park User officers, on behalf of the User Group. Also represented were the Tennis Club, Growing Communities and the One O'clock Club. Representing the Council were Simon Biss, the project manager of the restoration project and John Wade, Head of Parks.

The following note is a summary of the meeting from the perspective of the User Group representatives based on issues raised at User Group meetings and by users who have emailed the User Group. [The formal note of the meeting will be available soon from the Council website](#)

Closure of the playground. The playground will be closed for approximately five months from October 2010 to February 2011. User Group members have previously asked whether it would be possible to have temporary play equipment in place between the closure of the existing playground and opening of new one but this is looking a bit more complicated than originally hoped because of the amount of work required to "fix" any equipment safely in place and make the surfaces safe. Simon is still investigating possibilities. We emphasised that if a decision is made to have nothing Simon and John Wade need to be clear about reasons (indications of costs and/or practical barriers) as there will be a large number of parents and children who will be disappointed if there is no provision.

Retaining wall behind tennis courts – this is in a bad state of repair but it is not in the project plan and there is no money to include it. Simon agreed to talk to the Tennis Club to see if there is any alternative funding that can be found, as it would make sense to do this work at same time as everything else.

Hoardings around the site – The Council is looking for ideas for decorating the hoardings – maybe a photo competition – Simon Biss to discuss further next year with the User Group and others.

Award of the works contracts - the two contracts have been awarded to two separate providers. The successful contractors will be announced as soon as the contracts have been signed. Neither of them were the cheapest as they were awarded contracts on the basis of quality. The project architects were part of the selection team and (according to Simon) are happy with the choices. This was reported to Hackney Council Cabinet in November 2009.

Business plan – very little progress on this as far as we can see since the original document, which was submitted to the HLF as part of the stage two bid. Simon is developing a new business plan on the basis of the original one and taking into account the audience development plan from stage two. Simon has promised to send us some sort of "principles paper" but we have not seen it yet. We pressed him to get this to the User Group as quickly as possible to allow time for proper consultation. Caroline will continue to press.

House manager - will be appointed in September 2010. We expressed once again our concerns about the future management of the park and house and the urgent need to have one senior manager in charge of both the house and the park. (NB Ken Worpole, Chair of the User Group, submitted a detailed paper setting out our arguments to the Council and to Councillors). A copy can be found at ([link to the doc on CPUG website](#)).

New permanent café contract - will go out to tender around Easter 2010 and decision made in September 2010.

Security during the works –Contractors will be responsible for protecting their equipment. If they decide to have a "guard" on site, the Council may consider asking that this cover extends to the temporary buildings too. – Tennis club very concerned about security of their temp offices.

Temporary café – New temp café will open from 8 January 2010. Sample menus will be posted in the park in December 2009. Simon has visited the café in Battersea Park which is run by the same

people who will be running our temp café and was impressed by their “marquee” which had a raised wooden floor. He is investigating whether we could have something similar.

Planning applications for the Tennis Club - (2 alternative versions for club house and 1 for lighting) [will be available soon on the Council website](#)

Caroline Millar

Co-Vice Chair Clissold User Group

15 December 2009