



## Clissold Park User Group News

### Notes of our July 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting

**Attendees** Committee members Mark Forsyth, Caroline Millar, Delilah Jeary, Amir Dotan, Theresa Bowden, Kath Willgress, Quentin Geurs - Park Manager, Hilde, Daphne, Renée Willgress, Rose White, Isabelle Gore, Sophie Cameron, Sophie Higgins

**Apologies:** John Hudson, Ken Worpole, Lorraine Worpole, David Pitcher, Lee Stacy, Richard Crawford, Betty Manning.

**Minutes from previous meeting** were approved

#### Park Manager's Report

Quinten explained that there is an Instagram account for the cafe which we can access to communicate with the park manager. The account is [https://www.instagram.com/clissold\\_park\\_cafe/](https://www.instagram.com/clissold_park_cafe/)

**Café** - The new cup policy has saved 1,700 single cups. The tender process for the new cafe operator is now complete and the tenders are being reviewed. They have been presenting their pitches, Mark Forsyth attended on behalf of CPUG. Update to follow when a final decision has been made

A corporate film shot in the playground/ Skatebowl – they paid £750 – which will fix the benches. Skate park users ask that shoots don't happen first thing in the morning or in the evening.

**Memorial trees** - can be requested throughout the year but only planted in winter and autumn.

**Antisocial behaviour** - There are concerns of ongoing muggings in and around the park. Some shops and businesses on Church Street have been designated as safe spaces where

children and young people can go for help if necessary. Clissold House is also included. *Please inform police if you see anything of concern*, or contact the park manager or the rangers who can quickly inform the police. The police, Safer Neighbourhood teams, park management and schools are working together on this.

**Lost children** If you find a child who has been separated from their parents, you can bring them to the park office, or the rangers can search for the child that is lost. They are there to help.

**Rats** - Quite a few near the lakes. They are being trapped and caught but people feeding animals will encourage rats. Could we update the signage? If you are feeding waterfowl throw food straight into the water rather than the bank so the birds get it rather than the rats.

**Paddling pool** - Park team will put notices up if the paddling pool is closed on a day when it is meant to be open. They have redone the top coat to make it less slippery. Could we ask about the costs of a splash park. CPUG would be very interested in a large fundraising drive to help.

**Volunteers** Corporate volunteers have done a good litter drive. The park office has litter pickers if you want to spend a bit of time helping keep the park tidy. Quentin would offer once a month volunteering session. We will email the volunteer group. We will try one to see if this works. There is a dog walking group that meets at 8.30am on weekdays who may want to help with this. A possible date could be before each CPUG on the second Saturday of the month. CM to email QG to set up.

**Market** - The park is looking at a market proposal and Max from the market company will come to the November meeting to discuss the proposal and hear thoughts from park users.

Thanks to Quinten Geurs for the Park Report

## Updates

**Butterfly Dome** - CPUG is now looking after the dome and has already had a good clear out. People are very excited about reinstating caterpillars and butterflies in the dome. We will have another volunteer day to dig in some soil improver and we will plant in the autumn to allow things to bed in before next year. We are hoping to organise a quiz night to raise money to buy plants. Butterfly Conservation have offered plants and provided a list of appropriate plants.

**Robberies** - There have been several robberies of students from Stoke Newington School both within and outside the Park. A meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> June in the school with youth workers, police and Quentin and Mark. We as park users can keep our eyes and ears open and can help if a young person is distressed. Victims are not reporting crimes because they are afraid. Park users can report the crime if the victim feels unable to. Quentin can help report the crime if you go to the office he can fill out the form. The more we report, the more resources can be allocated to deal with problems. It's very important to record these crimes. Also anti-social behaviour and bullying. Police are doing more walk daily abouts in the park, Hackney enforcement officers also patrol around once a week in the area. Clissold ward's quarterly meeting is due Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>,. MF will attend.

**Parks and People** - MF attended this event organised by London Green Spaces group and other user groups. They are going to coordinate and keep in touch – enhancing community.

**Dog Walkers** - MF met up with professional dog walkers. The dog walkers need to be aware that they are noticeable presence and they should be sensitive to that, especially around the house. Dog walkers are encouraged to use leads around the house. They avoid the house if they can help it. There is no limit to how many dogs you can have with you at once, but you have a legal responsibility to keep any dog with you under control.

**Toilets** - Water pressure in the house is not good due to aged and inaccessible plumbing therefore toilets blocks easily. Sometimes it is necessary to lock the cubicles in the men's outdoor toilet so the urinals can keep working at busy times.

**Survey** - There will be a park user survey later this month with online and paper versions and we will try and get as many people as possible to engage with this as possible. We could volunteer to spend an afternoon getting people to fill it out or as part of the event in the autumn.

**Biodiversity** - Richard the diversity rep would like to do a Bio Blitz to find out what we have in the park. Richard will plan it and we hope to get lots of volunteers. Schools could get involved. 16-24 people needed. Plant app can help identify different plants.

## **130<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 12-5pm**

Caroline Millar gave an outline of plans for the event which will be held alongside The house Peter Bedford Housing Association celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the bowling green area. They are a housing association specialising in providing housing for people with additional needs in Islington and Hackney. They have housing on Clissold Road.

Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> is Open House Day and Ken Worpole and others will give guided tours. Amir will give a talk on the history of the park in the drawing room at noon.

The Main CPUG event will be in the dog free area. With stalls and games

The hard standing area will welcome the fire engine, Hackney community library, Hackney Playbus (£800 cost to be covered by CPUG) CPUG is paying £1500 towards this event.

Councillor Sophie Cameron suggested Hackney Council could provide Roadshow elements, the Police too.

Other possibilities are a Tree walk with Russell Miller and Ernie the birdman (one of the rangers) could come and give a talk.

Growing Communities and the One O'clock club can contribute too.

The scouts are lending us chairs, tables (to keep costs down) and volunteers.

Can Quentin Check on recycling team.

**AOB**

The Planning application from Southern Housing for the Kennaway Estate (opposite the paddling pool) is now in open for comments and we will circulate.

Hackney council is moving ahead with some pop-up consultation events with improvements to traffic and infrastructure on Church Street and Albion Road and the area more widely.

The events are to be held:

Thurs 18 July, 3pm–6pm

Stoke Newington Church Street, near the fire station;

Mon 22 July, 4pm–7pm

Albion Road/Clissold Crescent;

Sat 27 July, 10am–2pm

Clissold Park, near the Pavilion entrance - unfortunately we didn't understand where the 'Pavilion' entrance is, but we will try to find out and post an update on Facebook and Twitter

This information is also on Facebook.

**Next meeting – Saturday 14 September 11am to noon in Clissold House**