



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our January 11th 2020 meeting

Present: Mark Forsyth (Chair), Kath Willgress (Secretary) Daphne Kemp, Betty Manning, Richard Crawford (Bio-diversity rep), Amir Dotan (history rep), Sam Cooke, Renée Willgress, Sylvia (Old people's rep) John Hudson (Vice chair) and other park users
Quentin Guers (Park manager)
Apologies: Caroline Millar, Theresa, Delilah Geary, Daphne Steel

MF apologised for late reminders due to new Mailchimp security measures. Meeting reminders posted on Twitter and Facebook

Minutes of previous meeting approved

Park Manager's Report from Quentin Guers

The café has new operators since November and will have a new fit out soon, dates to be posted by café operator and shared by Quentin. Alternative service areas will be provided during refurbishment

The Café is trialing a mobile coffee stand e.g. for people with dogs who can't go in the café, please give feedback.

Sylvia commented that coffee price was astronomical.

Quentin encouraged feeding back to café operators about prices and confirmed that the Quiet Room behind the Café is public space and people may sit there without purchasing anything. Feedback cards are available at the cafe counter.

Quentin responded to JH's enquiry that none of the Development boards decisions have changed.

House maintenance: the main internal door in the basement is due to be fixed after damage due to slamming and wear and tear. The external doors are heavy and difficult for elderly and those with mobility

issues. Some solutions e.g. push-button mechanism may not be possible due to Clissold House's listed status.

New **free bi-monthly learning sessions** start on Saturday 25th January with a dog training session led by Patricia aimed at improving your dog walking experience. If successful similar sessions will be offered 6 times a year, e.g. ecology workshop. Suggestions welcome at Park Office.

Filming in the park on Thurs resulted in £500 donation to the Butterfly Dome.

Bi-monthly volunteering sessions commence on Saturday 25th Jan, with Litter Picking from 1-2pm, meet at the House. These events will be promoted on Social media and on the Park Noticeboard. 450 people responded to the **Park consultation** (comparable to Shoreditch Park survey).

Rats: A pest control assessment is scheduled. Humane removal will happen if numbers exceed a certain level. Multiple park users demanded new notices against feeding bread.

Work on prevention of escalating rat numbers could focus on improved information around feeding ducks on the ponds.

Feed ducks with "floating" food like grapes or oats rather than bread. A park user suggested a positive approach e.g. having a volunteering session called "How to look after our ducks".

Anti-social behavior: there are daily police patrols. Park users are urged to report any incidents as they are included in Quinten's weekly report and influence use of police resources.

New River: new pumps have been installed and tested. Some clearing of debris needs to be done before they can operate efficiently

Green Flag status: this will be judged in the spring

Jogging track: bark chippings will be put down and some areas re-seeded with warning notices.

Large plane trees next to the wheels park: the Tree musketeers will do a full report in the coming months, the trees are currently judged safe.

Updates since the last meeting

There's a proposal for part of Brownswood Ward to become a Conservation area. Info at Hackney.gov.uk
Flooding at the north end of the park is likely due to heavy rain and a high water table.

Sylvia requested **rebuilding of outside shelters** for old people to sit in. In the past these were vandalised and demolished. Quinten responded that demands for spending in Hackney parks far exceeds supply and suggested undercover outdoor seating is available at the Old Bowling Green and downstairs at the Café. In summer there will be notices giving priority to less advantaged people.

The Café: an assessment is due about the large quantity of tables and chairs outside the café. Are there too many?

Daphne asked about bringing the Pump House back into use. Quinten has been pushing this for a few years but has been frustrated by Council procedural delays. Other factors against using the Pump House as a Café include its relative remoteness - staff have felt unsafe there on their own and there are electricity supply issues.

JH asked about the **Farmers' Market**. There are some legal and procurement issues. Further details will be made available as they come up.

Diversity report: Richard would like to introduce a Notice board for species seen, similar to the one at the Wetland Centre. The peregrine falcon that nests in St Mary's church spire has been spotted. There has been a decrease in biodiversity in the tree canopy. Hoping that finches will return. Registers thanks for installing new pump which will benefit Mallards, Moorhens and Coots, and thanks to our wonderful Rangers.

Sam Cook asked that a single page **minutes be put on notice board**. Questions were asked about how to attract participation? Good to engage children and families.

Betty always sends park information to local Primary Schools.

Joel, who is a user of the skate park asked about an update on the draft report on **Wheels Park**. Quinten said that Full Report will be available first or second week of Feb. Joel was asked if he, or another user of the wheels park, could come to next CPUG meeting, which is also the AGM, and stand for role of Skateboarders rep

Next CPUG meeting is AGM and will be held on Sat 14th March

We are always looking for people to get involved, do please let us know if you would like to participate. The roles are not onerous, there isn't a lot of work involved. info@clissoldpark.com