



Clissold Park User Group News

January 2022 update

Attendees: Mark Forsyth (Chair), Theresa Boden (Vice Chair), Caroline Millar (Treasurer), Daphne Steele (dog walker's rep), Isabelle Gore (Website), Quinten Geurs (Park Manager), Hilde, Yvonne, Mary and Julie (park users)

Apologies: John Hudson

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed without amendment.

It was agreed at the previous meeting that some sort of online participation should be available for some user group meetings, and for the first time three park users attended the meeting online. This seemed to work well and will be repeated for some, although not necessarily all, future meetings, with joining information being sent out with the meeting invitation.

Historically printed minutes from the previous meeting were available for attendees, but following the pandemic the person who printed them for us is no longer able to. The park manager, Quinten Geurs, said that he or one of his team could print the minutes for future meetings.

Park Manager's report

Councillor C Woodley for Cazenove Ward would like to be informed of dates of future meetings as she would like to attend. If any CPUG members have questions for her, she can answer them at meetings. MF will ensure that Councillor Woodley is told about future meeting dates.

Clissold park Capital Works:

SuDS: sustainable drainage systems – data and measurements are being taken at the lower end of the park and Hackney Council will be appointing a design company to attend to drainage to prevent future flooding of footpaths in that area.

Tennis Courts: repairs to the fencing are set to commence on 14th Feb for a few weeks. Welded wire mesh is being installed - it's more secure against damage and vandalism.

Path Repairs: contractors will be carrying out repairs to park pathways on and off from 7th Feb until 8th March 2022

Splash pad: the tender closes on the 4th Feb and once fixed costs are known a contractor will be appointed. The costs will indicate how much money is left in the capital allocation for re-development of the old paddling pool site and a new consultation will then be done on possible re-development. The results of the previous consultation were very varied, so a revisit is now needed, taking into consideration budget constraints on what capital funds are available. The proposed start date for Splash pad work is before the end of spring 2022. User group officers will be attending the next Park Development Board to find out more and will report back to the next meeting.

The timing of the redevelopment of the existing paddling pool site will depend on the available funds and the final decision on what will be done on the site. The park management will provide detailed plans and timings to the user group when they are available, and they will be shared on our website and Facebook page and added to the minutes if possible.

Volunteering project for 2022:

Hackney Council aims to standardise the procedure for volunteering being implemented in Springfield and Abney Park and implement the programme in Clissold Park and aims to provide volunteers with some training in horticulture. This is not to reduce the park gardeners' workload or hours, but to add visual aesthetic. It is hoped to start the programme at the end of February and to use a ticketed response to ensure clarity on numbers and the work planned.

QG will share details with MF and CPUG when they are finalised. It was agreed that the user group will contact our existing volunteer mail list as well as the broader CPUG mailing list to engage and update details of volunteers. QG to share an update and link that volunteers can click on to book a session.

Clissold house:

Park users may notice cherry pickers working around the house – this for increased cleaning and drainage of the gutters to reduce the risk of flooding and damage to the house.

The house will also be undergoing a light re-furbishment – painting and repair to skirting boards and door frames etc. Once re-decoration has been completed images will be selected for the seating area on the ground floor and walls – the existing will be re-framed and CPUG can suggest images or pictures for inclusion for a changing display. Hackney Design team will be asked for advise.

There is currently no fixed date for the re-opening of the house to the public – hopefully we may know more later in the year.

Updates since the last meeting :

The **New River pumps** are now working.

Amir Dotan, the user group history rep, asked at the previous meeting about possibly installing a **plaque explaining the story of the drinking fountain** on the north side of Clissold house. QG will chase a decision from the Conservation Officer as the park also wants to place a plaque to replace a temporary notice at the back door of the house detailing disabled access.

QG will consult with Amir and Ken on the question of the **interpretation panels** which need correction.

The proposal for CPUG to pay for and **plant more hedging** in the park. QG will confirm prices and look into the best final position for the hedge. The proposal is to build on, and extend, the existing hedge by the old paddling pool by 25 metres. There are increased bio-diversity opportunities in a quieter area of the park and it would not affect or encroach on the width of the pavement on Church St. CPUG will take the lead from the park staff and gardeners on this. Native species are favoured and there would be training available for volunteers to help maintain the hedge.

Another £700 has been paid to the user group from the sale of tea towels at Know and Love on Church Street, including those featuring the park map designed by Anna Hymas, for which the meeting expressed thanks to all of those involved. This means that the **user group currently has a healthy bank balance**, and possible ways to spend it were discussed. Suggestions include:

- planting more hedging in addition to the current plan for a new hedge
- paying for refreshments for people volunteering in the park. We will speak to the cafe management to see if we can agree a reduced price which would be paid from our funds
- the cyanotype prints produced as part of the bioblitz carried out last year have been offered to the cafe but need to be reframed. The meeting agreed that the user group will pay for new frames and donate them to the cafe with the prints
- Theresa Boden proposed that a public access community defibrillator could be installed in the park. An obvious location would be on the bowling green pavilion, as a power supply could be provided as part of the redevelopment work for the splash pad. Costs are thought to be between £800 and £1,500 but it is possible that Hackney Council or the British Heart Foundation might be able to provide some of the funds. Theresa will investigate further and liaise with QG.

AOB

Yvonne asked again whether the **water feature in the playground** could be either repaired or replaced. The council have looked at removal, but the costs are high

and there are no funds available. Repair is not thought to be sustainable as the positioning of the feature is so close to the sand pit it means it will fail again. Further options will be investigated and discussed at the next park development board.

Caroline Millar attended the re-launch of **Stoke Newington Business Association**, whose committee is trying to build membership and fundraise and run events to help make Stoke Newington more of a destination – including regenerating the Levy Memorial Garden off Church St. ‘See You In Stokey’ adverts can already be seen in Church St area. They are keen to attract local community organisations as members, but it was felt inappropriate for CPUG to pay membership. We will ask if there are other ways we can engage with SNBA, possibly along with other organisations such as the Stoke Newington Literary Festival.

There have been conflicting reports that the **pond fountains** either aren't working or have disappeared altogether. Further investigations will be carried out.

The **railway sleeper bed** by Queen Elizabeth Walk gate seems to have been neglected. This may be because upcoming SuDS works may disrupt the bed so that could be reason for it not being maintained or replanted, QG will look into it.

There seems to be a lot of cars in the park at the moment, possibly linked with the COVID-19 testing van which is now located on the hard standing between the house and the playground. It was re-stated that only authorised vehicles are allowed in the park, and also that **electric scooters and cycles** are not allowed in the park at all. A request will be made for the enforcement team to be more present in the park, and additional signage will be considered.

A **volunteer session in the butterfly dome** was arranged for Sunday 30th January, the day after the meeting. Another session will be held on Sunday 27th March, just come along to the dome at any time from 1-3.30pm. There will also be litter pickers and bin bags available at the time if anyone would like to do a bit of litter picking. Please bring gloves and dress in the expectation of a bit of mud.

The **next meeting will be our AGM** where a new committee will be elected. We are keen for some new faces, so if you or somebody you know might be interested in becoming more involved, please let us know.

The **AGM will be on Saturday 12th March** at 11am in Clissold House, with the option of joining via Google Meet

Contacts

Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile.

Park Manager: Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 4215

Café Management: new details coming soon

Clissold House Venues and Events Officer, Christine Rupprecht: christine.rupprecht@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505

Head of Leisure and Green Spaces

Ian.Holland@hackney.gov.uk

Lead Councillor for Parks:

feryal.demirci@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Sergeant in charge: Carroll Weeden

Carroll.L.Weeden@met.pnn.police.uk

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

Sign up for our latest news and browse this website / join our Facebook Group / and just come to the meetings!