



Clissold Park User Group News

July 2022 update

16th July 2022

Attendees

Sophie Cameron – Chair, Theresa Boden – Vice Chair, Delilah Jeary – Minutes secretary, Amir Dotan, Paul Brenells, Christina – park user, Bernadette, Derek – Park user, Anne – park user

Apologies

Mark Forsyth, Yvonne Richard – Biodiversity rep, Quentin Geurs – Park Manager, Hilde Orde, Caroline Millar – vice chair, Isabelle Gore (Website rep)

Introductions and Previous Minutes

Previous minutes approved.

The Chair welcomed attendees and gave some updates by way of introduction. Unfortunately Clissold House had been broken into the night before the meeting so the meeting was slightly delayed starting. There was some damage to the cafe door and a few small things were stolen.

We also need drinking fountains, refillable water bottles – can we reinstate the fountains that we do have. Water Jugs in the cafe seems to have gone

Healthy minds and Healthy bodies walks have been happening each week.

Antiques Roadshow took place the previous week and was really well run and respectful of the park and not too intrusive for other park users. Look forward to watching the shows.

133rd birthday of the park is next Sunday 24th July.

Park Manager's report

The Chair took attendees through the park manager's written report. The park manager could not attend the meeting but he provided a written report and had met with the Chair last week.

Toilets – The park toilets are in a bad way due to vandalism and wear and tear. The Council needs to find money to redo them and has been looking at ways that they can reduce vandalism.

Cafe – the new parasols for downstairs have been purchased. There is a new Summer menu and a new cafe manager. New Kiosk by the splash pad will also be run by the Park Life cafe.

Splash park – waiting on a part for the pump but hopefully will open week after next. Some of the grass will need time to bed in so will be fenced off.

Paddling pool area – waiting until splash park has been paid for to decide budget for development of former paddling pool area. There will be additional consultation. Anne, a Park user who lives on the estate opposite was in attendance to give feedback that noise considerations need to be taken into account. The paddling pool was very noisy in the summer and she and her neighbours fear a roller-skating rink would be very noisy too.

Rose Garden/ Pleasure garden – Planting is patchy and there is a lot of wear and tear. Looking into what sort of planting there should be in this area that suits the usage. User group could also bid for funding. Need to adapt planting to changing weather patterns – a more sustainable dry garden that can withstand the wear and tear.

Pump House – Cafe concession tender is under way.

Next volunteering session is 29.07.22, 10-12.00
Quinten is happy to organise targeted volunteering sessions if anyone has an idea.

Whatsapp group for litter picking might turn into wider volunteering group.

Requests for more sessions at the weekends? We will share a link to the volunteering whatsapp group.

Facebook group is very active so we are publicising more things there

Ecology Proposal – there has been a proposal for an ecology educational area by staff at SNS in the paddling pool area – Sophie & Richard the biodiversity representative will meet with them.
Would be great to get more schools in the park.

Fireworks – No fireworks this year – decision was made by Hackney council. The event is expensive and it didn't break even. Attendees wondered if perhaps the offering was too complex, perhaps it could be paired down to just a fireworks display without all the traders and other activities.

Green flag judging session – haven't the results yet but was a thorough inspection hoping Clissold retains its status as a green flag park.

Feedback and questions from attendees

An attendee queried the drainage maintenance on the green lanes side of the park – there are several blocked drains. Also the New river is still very green and full of algae.

Congratulations were offered to the park wardens for the lovely flowerbeds and thanks were also given for their patience when closing the park and getting everyone out on late summer evenings.

It was noted that there are no benches in the dog free area – could we look into this? Better for older people to sit on a bench rather than the ground.

Dog walkers – should there be a limit to how many dogs they have? Very hard to enforce and would need to be a hackney-wise licensing issue. Tower Hamlets requires a license. Are the council considering this? The majority of professional dog walkers are responsible and are in control of their dogs – it's only an issue if they are not able to control their dogs which happens occasionally and should be dealt with.

Lime Bikes in the park were mentioned – the nearest dedicated parking bay is on Woodlea Road – would it be helpful to have a bay closer to the park? The buggy parking area could be a good zone.

There's an historical block with 1790 on it – has been listed as a boundary but an expert told us it's not that it was a foundation stone for the house and used to sit on a pillar. Possibly placed there during a renovation. It is a Grade 2 listed stone.

Water level in the lakes is very low and there is rubbish emerging -can it be removed?

Please don't feed ducks bread – the cafe stocks duck food which we will try and advertise more. We could also ask the new pump house people to sell duck food.

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,
venuehire@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

Seargent in charge: Carroll Weeden

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

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

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