



Clissold Park User Group News

22nd June 2024 update

Attendees: Committee members – Sophie Cameron (Chair), Caroline Millar
Apologies: Cllr Fliss Premru, Cllr Sade Etti and Yvonne Hill

Matters arising from the last meeting

The issue of **disabled access** to Clissold House has been deprioritised as the cafe is now shut. No action has been taken on the matter of advertising CPUG meetings in the park but this will happen before the next meeting.

The **splashpad** opened late this year because of some issues with a missing part. No concerns have been raised recently. Sophie is chasing GLL manager for a meeting to discuss how to provide better information to users about access and booking of the splashpad.

There is an outstanding issue with the quality and adequacy of **signage in the park**. It was agreed that there is a lack of both general information and interpretative signage. There has been no progress on this matter so far. The possibility of CPUG doing its own review was discussed. We will look for volunteers to help with this work and seek views from park users.

The **toilets** in the house were closed for some days this week. The toilets in the splash pad were open but they were blocked. Funding for maintenance and improvements to the toilets has been agreed but we do not know what the timescale for improvements is yet. It was agreed that when the toilets are closed there must be appropriate signage directing people to the toilets in the splash pad. Would it be possible to have permanent signage to this effect? Could there also be signage to discourage people from using the bushes as toilets. Some questions were asked about the main signage in the park and whether it was up-to-date. There was a suggestion that there is no signage to the splash pad but this is not in fact the case As new

signage for the splash pad has been added to the main signposts.

Drainage in the park there has been no activity to address this in the last three months and the issues remain.

Self-closing gates in the play area. These have been promised for at least 10 years but have never materialised. Sophie will chase. One of the goats has died. There was general concern about the wellbeing of the other goat, Grommet, who may be suffering from loneliness and missing Wallace. The exact state of Grommet's mental health is not known. It was noted that many park users feed the goats inappropriate food but there is no suggestion that this was the reason for Wallace's death. Questions were asked about the status of the proposed consultation on the use of the old paddling pool area. No further information is available but Sophie will pursue this.

Chair's report

Sophie has prepared a list of other organisations that use the park with the intention of contacting them to ask them if they wish to become more closely involved in the work of the User Group.

There are currently no **volunteering** sessions being run in the park because Quinten is no longer based in Clissold Park and is therefore unable to commit to regular dates for these sessions. Sophie asked whether anyone present would be interested in helping to reinstate these sessions on behalf of the user group.

We have received some complaints about **cyclists** going too fast in the park. A day of action has been proposed but we need to find some volunteers to lead on this. Hilde offered to help with this.

Concerns have been raised about the rough sleepers in the park. Users are advised to report anyone who is sleeping rough in the park to the charity Streetlink. Council officers are aware of these individuals and are engaging with them.

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

There has been some **damage to the new planting in the cafe garden**. Signs have been put up to discourage children from activities that cause harm to the plants. Adults with children are encouraged to take some responsibility for this too.

We are not aware of any further progress on procuring a **new provider for the cafe** in the house but there is a possibility that there may be a coffee cart in the near future.

Biodiversity report

Richard Crawford presented a report on behalf of the biodiversity group he briefly summarised the findings of a recent study carried out by volunteers to establish how many species of plants there are in the park. On the day of the sampling, 61 species were identified. In addition, 20 breeding species of bird have been identified. It was noted that the paddling pool area has reverted to a wild area and Richard is keen that we do not lose the benefits that this has brought in terms of biodiversity. The CPUG biodiversity group has produced a list of steps which would lead to improved biodiversity.

Some lavender, paid for by the user group has been planted around the dome to encourage pollinators.

Contacts

Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile so please leave a message.

Park Areas 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:
lan.Holland@hackney.gov.uk

Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Parks:
caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /
Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group