



Chairs Report 10th May

Café

After a few delays and essential works being carried out, FINKS officially got the keys for the building in late April and are hoping to be open within 3 months. We will arrange a meeting with the owners at Finks with regard to the CPUG merchandise area etc.

Cycling day of action and speed roundels

Laurence at Dr.Bike has apologised for his delay in responding and sent us a booking inquiry form, which I have filled out and am waiting to hear back on. Cllr Fliss Premu waiting to hear back from Hackney Council, for a contact for the cycling department.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity Rep Richard led a bird watch and walk on 26th April, and was joined by bat expert Angela Clare, in hosting a guided bat walk on 9th May. The water lillies for the ponds/river have been purchased and are set to be installed.

Tennis Courts

No update.

Self closing gates

After emailing the parks department, Cllr Sade Etti received the following reply from park management.

"We asked a contractor to look at options for a self closing mechanism on some of these gates, as part of a fences capital programme of works a few years back. The contractor came back at various points with a suggestion to trial, which we did, but none of the self closing mechanisms we explored were fit for purpose. The key challenges are the design and construction of the existing gates, along with the potential for gates to remain in an 'open' position if pushed too hard, over extending the mechanism. Any suitable solution would likely require changing the existing gates and design altogether. Because of these reasons, we have not explored this any further."

Park Animals

Alexandra met with park manager Quinten at the beginning of April, to discuss user concerns for Gromit and was informed a vet had diagnosed him with arthritis. He was put on medication but his condition deteriorated, and I'm sorry to pass on the news that he was put to sleep, as further treatment for his condition would have caused him distress and discomfort. Park management release the following statement:

"Clissold Park's goat, Gromit, was put down after veterinary assessments showed that he had severe arthritis and was in pain. The vet and Clissold Park staff made Gromit as comfortable as possible in his final weeks, but unfortunately, nothing more could be done to help him. We will now take some time, alongside the Clissold Park User Group, to consider the future of the goat enclosure."

History Boards

History boards have been installed in the café, ready for when it opens.

Meeting with Hackney Venues and use of Clissold House for CPUG fundraising events

We've been in discussions with Hackney Venues and The Mayor. We used to get free use of a room in the house for fundraising quizzes, and we are trying to get this reinstated, as without this it will be difficult to make a good profit on fundraising activities in the house. Hopefully these issues will be resolved soon. In the meantime, we will be spending current balances. Defibrillator was discussed with park management and we were informed that the maintenance costs for it, would need to come out of the park revenue budget, which is already very small and overstretched.

Paths/Planned Resurfacing

Park management have informed us that the resurfacing of paths in parks across the borough is assessed every summer, and is sorted in a traffic light system, with the worst areas being costed and resurfaced first until the budget runs out. The parks basketball/football court has recently been resurfaced and repainted.

Playground Renovations

Hackney Council is due to refurbish the playground in 2026. The Children and Young Persons and Disabilities and Accessibility Reps Emily and Ruth, are poised for the public consultation.

Toilet Renovations

The facilities officially opened at the beginning of April.

One O’Clock Club

New signage has been put on the gates of the club, aswell as posters for upcoming events.

Paddling Pool

Alexandra raised the issues of cleanliness and lack of maintenance of the area with park management, and was told the area would now be included on the regular maintenance list.

Rose Garden

Alexandra raised user concerns on safety and ideas for dead hedging with park management. Deadheading was already trialled and failed due to people taking the sticks out of the structure. Park management hopes people will deter their children from climbing on existing fencing, and fencing from around what is known as “the climbing tree” has been removed.

Rats

Population rise flagged with park management.

X/Twitter

Alexandra hopes people have had a chance to look into X/Twitter, and would like to discuss.

Ducklings and Ponds

Ramps have been purchased by CPUG and are due to be installed.

Regular litter picking

We had the first session on the 26th of April and they will take place on the last Saturday of every month, going forward.

Chicken Coop

This area was being used for a run for Gromit, and composting and will also compost for the café when it is open. Alexandra is yet to discuss depot renovations with park management and possible relocation of composting area, to free up chicken coop for other uses.

Tree pruning and felling

Alexandra spoke with Parks Development Manager Oliver Hayes at Hackney Council and was informed there may be some reactive work required before the next inspection, after high winds for example, but pruning is generated largely from the three yearly inspection. That has just taken place, so there will be no programmed work now until 2027 or 2028. Oliver has now seen the User Group Protocol, and has agreed to keep us informed on future reactive or planned works in the park.

Eurobins

We have been informed by park management that these are usually in situ a couple of weeks before Easter.

Water leak near keepers lodge

Park management say this is not a leak but simply where water naturally pools after wet weather, due to the incline of the park. Subsidence and subsequent flooding is an issue in the park, and is regularly flagged to the sustainability team.

Maps

Alexandra still in discussions with Anna Hymas and Amir Dotan, as to what the new design should incorporate.