



Chair's Report September 2025

Café

Alexandra enquired about opening, low cost menu items and discounts to reflect the agreement:

- *The operator will offer simpler, affordable high-quality items alongside those with more expensive ingredients to make a menu that has an affordable entry point*
- *The bidder is committed to discounted offers including seniors coffee mornings, free drinks for park volunteers, discounts for Jobseekers and NHS staff, as well as a loyalty scheme.*

Statement from Fink's:

"We're thrilled to say we'll be in soft launch of the main space of the cafe tomorrow (Wednesday 10th October) and will be gradually expanding the menu and range over the coming days. The dining room and sit in menu to open within a couple of weeks. We'll get all the formal info over to you as soon as we have issued the press release as promised! There currently is a Seniors Discount on black/white coffee and tea at The Pump House, and the same one is available at the Rose Garden too, but we are still waiting for menu painting there, so it's not yet advertised. There will be a variety of discounts and activations for groups including seniors, park volunteers. In the dining room too.... We'll announce them all as soon as we're able!"

Cycling day of action/E-Bike campaign

Alexandra and Cycling Rep Richard Bryant, held the cycle repair and marking event with Dr Bike and the Met police on Tuesday 29th of July. Lots of people attended to have their bikes serviced and marked, and many shared their gratitude for the event being put on by the User Group. During the event we handed out the cycling safety flyers to remind cyclists of pedestrian priority, speed limits and cycle lanes on roads surrounding the park. CPUG were cc'ed in on an email from Cllr Soraya Adejare to Hackney Council, regarding concerns for safety of the public in the park, due to increased e-bike cut throughs. Alexandra has asked Soraya for an update, but has not yet received a response.

Biodiversity/Eco volunteering

In August our eco volunteers built up the dry hedges in the wooded area. There are plans to hold another session on Saturday 11th October at 12pm.

Bat walk planned for Saturday 19th September.

Self closing gates

Update from Buce Irvine at Hackney Council:

"I've discussed the gates with the Quinten who is supportive of the gates becoming self closing. This autumn we will be going out to tender for a walls and railings contract to undertake works across the borough's parks for the next three years. I will add the replacement of the gates to the list of potential works to be delivered. However, the works will be prioritised on annual basis and so there is no guarantee that they will be done as works relating to health and safety will need to be prioritised."

Park animals

No update on Animal Reps meeting with Georgie Brown at Hackney Council.

CPUG Quiz Night

Held on Thursday 11th September. Finks generously paid for security and donated a voucher as a prize. Fundraising Reps Hilde and Yvonne to update group.

Defib

Will have an update once all funds have been raised.

Playground renovations

Disability and accessibilities rep Ruth Spencer reported her disappointment with a new swing that was installed in the playground, and made a complaint to the council. CPUG were not made aware that there was to be an installation and it seems inadequate equipment was fitted. After discussions between Bruce and Ruth, the swing was replaced and is now fit for purpose.

Alexandra has reached out to Georgie and Bruce regarding public consultation on the playground, and suggested a event similar to the one held for the Hackney Downs Sports Courts. Awaiting response.

Rose Garden/Fencing

Email has been sent to Georgie Brown regarding the lack of roses and abundance of weeds, suggesting the council or CPUG fund some new planting in the area.

Hazards of fencing raised with park management, who have said broken fencing will be removed. Chair suggested that if new planting is approved, the area could be one CPUG helps to maintain, and could be included in the monthly eco-volunteering sessions.

Rats/Signs for lakes

New signs were designed and erected, promoting responsible behaviour around the lakes, feeding of water fowl and displaying a QR code link to park bylaws.

Prohibited action signs

No update on design flaws flagged with manufacturer.

World Clean Up Day

CPUG are taking part again this year on Saturday 20th of September 10am to 12pm, please come along if you can.