



## Chair's Report November 2025

### Café

Alexandra had a meeting with Mat from Finks on the 6th of November to discuss affordable menu items, seatings, CPUG merchandise area and discounts.

Alexandra highlighted contract commitments *"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"*. Senior discount has been added to the temporary menu, all agreed discounts to be discussed and displayed on permanent menu, which is being painted.

More affordable items have been added to the menu and some ingredients changed, so prices could be lowered.

Bird seed is now available in the café and all proceeds will go to CPUG.

An artist impression of Clissold House has been commissioned by Fink's, and all proceeds will go to CPUG.

Seating for the rose garden being looked at.

Cllr Floss Premu and Cllr Sade Etti have contacted the council requesting a handrail at the steps of Clissold House.

Fink's waiting for brass plaque displaying wrong number for access, to be removed.

Fink's planning Christmas event at the café in December.

Coffee grounds not to be available for customers as benefits of it for gardening are limited, instead grounds are sent to First Mile and turned into green energy.

Fink's reported issues with energy use at Clissold House to Hackney Council, as the heating in the building only has one level and is left on constantly, even when the house is empty.

### E-Bike campaign/crossing consultation

Hackney Council have published a consultation, for a shared pedestrian and cyclist crossing at the Clissold Road entrance of the park. These plans have received mixed reviews, some thinking it will improve safety, others that it will increase the speed and number of cycles in the park, encourage cut-throughs and put pedestrians that would be sharing the crossing, at further risk. Alexandra has proposed a dedicated meeting, to be held way before the consultation ends on the 27th of November. Group to discuss, and update sign-up sheet provided.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity rep Richard Crawford drafted a response to the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which has been sent to relevant people at the council and to park management. Richard has invited Hackney Parks Biodiversity Officer Cassandra Li, to talk at the next CPUG meeting in January.

### Self Closing Gates

Alexandra emailed Bruce Irving at Hackney Council, regarding the importance of prioritising self closing gates in the park, and received this reply:

*"Once the contractor is appointed we will review the works which need to be undertaken. Please rest assured that I will feed your comments into the prioritisation process and do appreciate that the group have been asking for this to be resolved for a number of years. I can confirm that the changes to the play area will include self closing gates as part of the works, these are included as standard whenever we refurbish a play area."*

### Park Animals

Park Animals Rep Sally Hall drafted an email to park rep Georgie Brown, highlighting the mistakes made with Gromit, as well as the importance of careful consideration of animal welfare, breeds and natural behaviours of that breed, if goats in the park are to be considered in future. Georgie has informed the group that there are currently no plans to house goats or for the enclosure in general, but that we will be informed if/when discussions start.

### Defibrillator

After returning from annual leave, park rep Georgie Brown is looking into defibrillator models and will update the group when a model has been approved by the council.

### Playground Renovations

Update from Bruce Irving:

*"We will be looking to harvest information from the local community this autumn, to help inform the initial designs of the play area, which will be refined and then be publicly consulted on. The initial engagement will include opportunities on site for users of the play area to feed in their thoughts"*

*on what is currently good about the play area, what elements are less successful and how it could be improved. We will also specifically target other local groups and stakeholders including local schools. I am currently scheduling dates and will be in touch shortly to confirm."*

#### **Rose Garden/Fencing**

Alexandra raised issues with fencing and weeds with parks rep Georgie Brown, who is looking into how CPUG can help with improving/maintaining the area, and getting a true to scale map generated.

#### **Prohibited Action Signs**

No update on design flaws.

#### **Paddling Pool Area**

Alexandra has requested signs be erected to inform the public of the situation of the area.

#### **Litter Picking**

Alexandra suggested reducing the litter picking sessions to trimonthly in 2026. Some regular attendees have asked for it to be kept to monthly sessions and offered to host them if Alexandra is not available.

#### **Park Keepers Lodge**

Cllr Sade Etti received a response to her query to the council:

*"In the short/medium term the Lodge will be used for staff welfare facilities whilst Clissold Park Depot undergoes refurbishment later this year. During this period the Council will consider the future use of the Lodge".*

#### **Rough Sleeper**

The rough sleeper has left the park and is now situated in Butterfield Green.

#### **4. AOB**