



Chair's Report January 2026

Café

Alexandra put questions regarding discounts to Fink's co-owner Mat, and was told the Seniors Discount is available to anyone of a pensionable age that asks for it. No proof of age is required and the discount includes a tea or Americano for £2. The discount is advertised in all Fink's spaces and on menus, though the main price boards have still not been painted up.

Update from Finks:

"We've now been open three months, and it's been a fantastic time getting to know so many friendly faces, ironing out the kinks and of course serving loads of hot coffees and great food."

Since opening at Clissold House, we've served 50,000 hot drinks, had almost 40,000 returning visits, given away about 600 free hot drinks through our Fink's loyalty cards, sold 180 packets of birdseed (with all proceeds going to CPUG), served 3,760 tables in the dining room, and given free treats to 45,000 patiently waiting dogs (ok, maybe that one's just an estimate).

We've been pleased to see the customer flow working well in the space (given the obstacles the beautiful building presents), and have been focused on keeping coffee wait times as low as possible. Our average wait time for a takeaway is currently 4 minutes, with peak times seeing maximums of 12-15 minutes. Given that it takes 90 seconds to make a coffee, we're pretty pleased with that, but always looking to make busy times more efficient.

As we've settled in we've had more of a chance to get stuck in to some community-focused activities. We're delighted the bird seed has been selling well, and raised £189 for CPUG in December. Evan from our team has drawn an amazing cartoon of Clissold House (complete with some of the team waving out the windows) which we've been giving out to kids to colour in the dining room. We commissioned artist Hal Haines to create a beautiful collage image of the house, which we are now selling as a greetings card with future proceeds coming to CPUG also (watch this space). We had great fun putting on a community festive sing-along with free hot drinks and a collection for the Hackney Food Bank"

Alexandra contacted Hackney venues regarding the energy use and out of date boiler at the house, and received the following response:

"In short, the heating is on a timer - separate inside the house to the cafe as we operate at different times. So it is not on 24/7. If the cafe would like to adjust the times they can contact us to let us know directly, as far as I am aware we have not had a request about this from them."

The boiler is indeed old and will be replaced with a heat pump - this year hopefully. The project is being managed by the decarbonisation and energy team within the council so I don't have a scope or full information on where we are with this at the moment, but it's been in the pipeline for about 18 months or so to date"

Brass plaque displaying the wrong contact information for the café has still not been removed.

Fliss and Sade to update group on handrail.

E-Bike campaign/crossing consultation

Based on responses to the CPUG User Survey and reports received by the group, we submitted the group response to the consultation which is on display at the back of the room, was sent to CPUG subscribers and posted on our social media platforms. The following response was received from Streetscene:

"Thank you very much for taking the time to review the proposals and for sending such a detailed set of comments. We appreciate the effort you have put into gathering feedback from park users and your insights are very valuable to our decision-making process. Your comments will now be incorporated into the assessment of the scheme, alongside the wider consultation responses. Once the final decision has been made, we will share the final report with you. Thank you again for your time and commitment to improving the park entrance."

Biodiversity

We have been granted the funding for the tiny Forest School in the park. Alexandra and Richard will be meeting with the project managers at Earth Watch and Hackney Council next week, to discuss plans.

CPUG biodiversity rep Richard Crawford invited Hackney biodiversity Cassandra Li to the meeting today, unfortunately she was unable to attend due to personal reasons.

Self Closing Gates

Awaiting results of tender put out for wall and railing repairs in 2026, hoping the gates in Clissold Park are prioritised.

Park Animals

Alexandra has asked for an update on the deers limp, but is yet to receive one.

Defibrillator

Model looked into. CPUG Fundraising Reps Hilde and Yvonne to update group.

Playground Renovations

CPUG Children and Young Persons Rep Emily Robson asked for an update on design, timeframes and public consultation and received the following response from project manager Bruce Irving at Hackney Council:

"We have appointed Ground Control to design and construct the play areas at Clissold Park, Millfields and London Fields north. We worked with them to construct the previous phases of the park play area refurbishments including Butterfield Green, Stoke Newington Common and Hackney Downs. Earlier this week we had an initial kick off meeting and are in the process of confirming dates for the initial round of engagement with park users. The initial engagement will include an onsite drop in at the play area for everyone to tell us what they think is good about the existing play area, what is not so good and how it could be made better. It is likely that the drop in session in the park will be on a Saturday at the end of January / early February. The information from the engagement will be used to help inform an initial design of the play area which will then be publicly consulted on."

Rose Garden/Fencing

Faulty and dilapidated temporary fencing flagged with park management. Alexandra and Park Rep Georgie are still in the process of getting a true to scale map of the Rose Garden produced, and a plan put in place where CPUG can assist with the regeneration of the space.

Prohibited Action Signs

No update on design flaws.

Paddling Pool Area

Requested signs to inform the public of the status of the space, have not been hung.

Park Keepers Lodge

No change since last meeting. Plans for staff to utilise the space while the depot is being renovated.

Rough Sleeper

Rough sleeper that was living in Clissold Park then Butterfield Green has now moved on. Sade to update group

CPUG Signs on Gates

We have been assured by park management that any event signs or notices erected in the park or on railings at entrances bearing the CPUG logo, will be left in situ until after the event has taken place, or a member of CPUG removes notifications.

Quote for Noticeboard

Measurements of existing plexiglass sent to Council, waiting for quote for replacement and installation.

Leaf Blowers

Park users and residents living around the park reported use of loud leaf blowers early in the morning and raised this disturbance with the Council, suggesting electric blowers and a change in the early morning schedule. The following reply was received from our park Rep Georgie Brown:

"We do undertake reviews regarding the use of blowers and also speak to other local authorities regarding the methods they employ for leaf / detritus clearance so we can consider new methods or practices. We will continue to reduce blower use where we possibly can and continue to purchase battery powered blowers to replace petrol blowers as they are a lot quieter and have lower emissions."

I have raised your points with the Team and they have explained the following operational issues which affect timings and which as you can see are pretty much set;

Firstly, the blowing has to be done before the Tennis courts are used, they tend to be booked most of the day and we have to ensure they are playable before they are used.

Secondly, the team also has to prepare leaves so they can be collected with the Trilo - this means they need to be blown in strips before the Trilo arrives on site, again, from 08.00.

Hopefully the switch to electric blowers will help"

Duck Ramp

Faulty ramps reported to park management

4. AOB