



## Chair's Report March 2026

### Café and Access

Alexandra spoke to Finks regarding a user being told they were not able to sit in with a drink at a peak time and was told they operate the queuing system, so the incident may have been a miscommunication.

An update on the situation with the handrail request and removal of brass plaque displaying incorrect access information, has been requested.

Council update: We take accessibility at Clissold very seriously. Our approach with the Clissold Cafe has needed to take into account the slope and the steps at the western entrance to the building and also its listed status. Access to the cafe for visitors with mobility restriction is now via the Rose Garden kiosk, this also ensures access is along level ground and cafe staff can then assist customers.

We are in the process of reviewing the signage to ensure it is clear to customers to use this alternative entrance, and I will also arrange removal of any old signage.

### E-Bike Campaign/Crossing Consultation

Following the parallel crossing consultation the design was approved by the Council. CPUG appealed against the decision within the given timeframe and had a meeting with Cllr Sarah Young and the crossings designers, Street Scene. After putting across our concerns, comments and suggestions on improving cyclist and pedestrian safety in the park, while also pointing out the flaws in the design and consultation process, we have been informed that the Council have delayed the installation of the crossing, which was due to take place in March.

Council update: *"Following our meeting on 3 March 2026 and our recent correspondence, I am writing to update you on the next steps regarding the proposed parallel pedestrian and cycle crossing outside Clissold Park.*

*After reviewing the discussed amendments, we have concluded that we will not be moving forward with implementation of the scheme this March. Although the design changes may appear relatively small, they do alter the way the crossing would operate. On balance, this means the revisions cannot be treated as minor, and we therefore need to follow our full design assurance procedure before progressing further. As a result, the Traffic Management Order (TMO) report cannot be signed off until this necessary process has been completed.*

*As part of this review, we will be commissioning a new Road Safety Audit. This will be carried out by an independent organisation to assess whether any new risks may be introduced by the amended proposals and to ensure the design remains safe for all users.*

*This additional assessment is essential to ensure the scheme is robust and delivers the intended safety benefits for pedestrians, cyclists and park users.*

*We are now proceeding with this further work and will be in touch with revised timelines once the audit has been completed and reviewed.*

*Thank you again for the time and effort you have contributed throughout this process so far"*

Multiple User Group part of the Hackney Parks forum have expressed concerns with the numbers and speed of cycles through their parks. As a result, we have a meeting with the Council to discuss how they consult with User Groups on these processes going forward, and to hopefully bring some changes to speed limits and encourage installation of physical calming measures in green spaces.

There is currently a live consultation for chicane gating at the west entrance of London Fields due to speeding cyclists and a child sustaining a serious injury in that spot. The results of this consultation is bound to shape the way the Council deals with speeding cyclists in the borough and in our green spaces, going forward. The Hackney Cycling Campaign have urged its members to go against the chicane gating, on the grounds it is a "heavy-handed approach" and will inhibit users with disabilities or cargo bikes carrying children, but these along with other vulnerable groups, are the groups we endeavour to protect by reducing speed of cyclist, and believe physical calming measures that are accessible to vulnerable groups, can be sourced. To respond to the consultation, please visit: <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/housing-services/london-fields-westside-cycling-consultation/consultation/subpage.2025-05-19.4318078181/>

### Biodiversity

We were recently shocked to discover the smaller lake had been severely cut back and a large section of the adjacent field dug up. When questioned and reminded that they must let us know of such works before they take place, we received the following statement from the Council Parks department:

*"The works you have referred to are in fact wildflower meadow preparation using the rotavator. The Team walked around all possible areas in Clissold Park where we could add a wildflower meadow with the least possible change to current uses, where it isn't waterlogged still. This area was the most suitable.*

*The extra cutting back is just the cutting back of vegetation we do every two years. One year is one lake, the next year the other. We have left some vegetation uncut to provide nesting as part of our normal maintenance. One thing to note, leaving 'nesting' opportunities along the fence, basically means that dogs can invade when the chicks are there, as many dogs fit through the uprights of the fencing. We will review. We are also adding some water edge specific wildflower seeds in the more sparse areas so that we provide some pollinator planting along the edges of this lake to offset the reduced cover from planting which has been cut back this year. I (Georgie Brown) will provide you with an update each month in advance to capture any information from Operations, the Tree Team, and others regarding the Park."*

Council update: We finished our work within Clissold some time ago and just to clarify that the Tree Team do not manage the marginal planting around the lakes.

The Team will be succession planting in Clissold Park in the next couple of weeks. They are focusing the planting at the boundary with Green Lanes targeting areas where trees have failed or have an estimated low life expectancy. This planting is 85% native planting, with the inclusion of lots of Oaks. The new mixed, native hedging along green lanes has now all been planted and chestnut fencing has been put up to provide some security.

The Tiny Forest project was postponed due to excessive water in the area. The plants have been delivered to the Depot and are being watered. The planting has been moved to 19<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm.

We will be cutting back some of the yew hedging in the Park and hope to use some of the cuttings in the former butterfly dome and plant them in P9 pots to hopefully plant out in a year or two.

We also have instructed a contractor to repair the fountains, pumps, and electrics where needed on both lakes, and have instructed them to carry out repairs and reconditioning of the circulating pumps for the New River to get the wear operational again.

### **Self Closing Gates**

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

Council update: We have inspected the gates in the pleasure garden and the dog free area with the contractor who has proposed a possible solution to have a self closing mechanism. Two components have been ordered to install and test on a gate and if this is successful, will be ordered for the other gates in those areas. Note: We are not planning on putting a self closing mechanism to the double low gate which is located on the LHS of Clissold House when facing the public toilets as these are of a different style and type (1) are used for vehicle access (2) and are most likely part of the original features of the House/grounds and would be part of the Grade 2\* listing.

### **Park Animals**

Unfortunately, after a short illness and despite the best efforts of staff and veterinary professionals, one of the doe passed away. We are awaiting news on why this happened and will share it once we receive it.

Park Animals Rep Sally Hall emailed Parks Rep Georgie Brown, to suggest closing off the middle section until the cause of death with this was established, along with other precautionary measures but has not yet received a response.

Council update: Refurbishments to the Aviary and Feed store building are being costed at the moment as we've had damage to the wall panelling due to blocked gullies and water ingress. This, if within budget, will be done over the next couple of weeks. The aviary will be planted up with some fresh planting, suitable to the birds in the aviary. We hope that these plants will last a little longer.

We have currently removed the bamboo from the aviary to 1) let it recover as most of it was used for nesting, and 2) remove the nesting opportunities for the mice and rats we've had recently. We will arrange for our Hygiene team to bait this area, around the House, around the Lakes, and the Depot area.

### **Defibrillator**

The defibrillator has been purchased and delivered. The previously allocated location has now been deemed unsuitable and we are due to meet with Parks Rep Georgie Brown for a walk around, to establish the best location.

### **Playground Renovations**

Awaiting results of consultation days held in February.

### **Rose Garden**

Council update: The Team have consolidated the planting in the pleasure garden this week and planted new planting in one of the large beds, the two beds in front of the entrance, and the bed along the Wisteria. We are also seeding in some wildflowers here, which are a mix of perennials, annuals, and biennials. The planting bed near the Cherry Tree has been reduced significantly and will be rotated next week. We will seed this area with grass seed and put some temporary fencing up.

### **Prohibited Action Signs**

No update on design flaws.

### **Paddling Pool Area**

No signage erected. No update on plans for the space due to other works and renovations in the park taking precedent and budget.

### **Park Keepers Lodge**

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

### **Rough Sleeper**

Alexandra was due to add the Street Link process and contact details to the noticeboard. Unfortunately this was unable to be done as the noticeboard has been locked, and we no longer have access.

### **Quote for Noticeboard**

We have been quoted a total of £440 by the Council for the repairs. Although we have not been able to locate the key for the noticeboard for many years, it was recently locked on one side meaning we can no longer hang posters and updates. Subsequently, we have also asked for a quote to replace the lock, and are awaiting the response.

Council update: We have been struggling with finding the right key for this so it is probably best to put a new lock in, and we can ensure Parks and CPUG have copies. I will contact the Sign services to add this onto the quote

### **Leaf Blowers**

No change to leaf blower behaviour or timings, and electric leaf blowers have not yet been purchased.

### **Duck Ramp**

User reported duck ramps were too steep for water fowl to get up onto the island.

### **Hackney Mosaic**

Alexandra emailed Hackney Mosaic to see if we could arrange some of their artwork for Clissold, but is yet to receive a reply.

### **CPUG Officer and Representative Openings**

We are currently looking for a secretary, Cycling Rep and a Café Rep. We have secured a new treasurer and Website Rep, who will put themselves forward at the AGM in July.

### **Fountain and Drains**

Council update: We have turned off the water to the Memorial fountain as we received numerous complaints about the tap leaking. We have had contractors out to look at this numerous times this year, but given that it is a design failure, are not sure what options we have - bar replacing the taps. Do CPUG have any ideas on things to try

There is a drain which has been tarmaced over when the resurfacing works happened around Christmas. When the water drains away, we will look at opening this drain again which we hope will avoid the area flooding in the future.

Most drains in Clissold have been cleared and are now draining properly.

### **Splashpad Toilets**

Council update: We have instructed Danfo to replace the toilet pans in the Splashpad toilets to be replaced with single cast pans, as in the refurbished Clissold House / Park toilets. This will reduce wear and tear and the need to replace toilet seats. This is part of a wider repair / replacement programme across the Borough.

### **4. AOB**