



Chair's Report May 2026

Café Access

The brass plaque displaying the incorrect access information has now been removed.

Alexandra asked to discuss the possibility of a handrail on the steps further, as some with mobility issues can navigate the ramp but would like to support on the steps, and received the following response from the Council:

“As we previously said on this, 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.”

E-Bike Campaign/Crossing Consultation

No update.

Biodiversity

The Council are currently reviewing quotes for replacement pumps for New River.

Council statement re tree management plan and recent fallen tree:

“Inspectors will visually inspect every tree in communal housing areas, parks, or along highways at least once every three years. This inspection checks for hazards, visible from ground level, that pose an unacceptable risk of injury or damage before the next inspection. If an inspector finds such a hazard, they will instruct control measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The only exception is woodland trees, which will be inspected only if they are within falling distance of a path, highway, building or infrastructure. Trees growing next to play areas in Parks will be inspected annually. We currently manage over 45,000 trees across the Borough.

The Sycamore tree adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Walk showed no obvious visual features or defects that would have prompted the inspector to recommend its removal. Trees are dynamic, living organisms, subject to changing conditions. Their health or stability can deteriorate and in adverse conditions even healthy trees can fail. Removing tree risk altogether would require removing all trees, which is not desirable. The wind gusts were recorded at 41/42mph on 12th March 2026.

A few Horse Chestnuts along the boundary with Queen Elizabeth Walk have deteriorated since the last inspection in 2024.

Therefore we will issue some ad hoc pruning work along this stretch in the coming weeks. As professional tree managers we will continue to routinely inspect all trees within Clissold and the rest of the Borough. Clissold Park is next due for inspection during the financial year 2027/28.”

Self Closing Gates

Update from parks rep Georgie Brown on mechanism trials:

“Unfortunately the mechanism installed is not quite what we are looking for. I am waiting to hear the next steps but looks likely we need to commission new gates. This requires further budget and discussion internally. Currently I am awaiting a new poster to be designed saying NO DOGS IN THE ROSE GARDEN and I will place this at each gate. I hope it will be A3 size and with a red background so it will be more prominent.”

Park Animals

Hackney Parks Officer Mia Guercini has been in contact with Abi, and will soon meet the head gardener to discuss next steps to improve the aviary.

Defibrillator

Council awaiting quote for an electrician to install the defibrillator at the splash pad.

Playground Renovations

Awaiting results of consultation days held in February.

Rose Garden

CPUG hosted 8 corporate volunteers on Friday 8th May for Rose Garden maintenance, and the group also installed 3 Tit boxes and 2 Robin boxes in the parks wooded areas.

Prohibited Action Signs

There are no plans to change the design to make the rings on the signs more robust, the Council welcomes suggestions on design improvements.

Paddling Pool Area

Fallen metal fencing has been removed, Council in process of producing informational poster on what is happening with the space.

Park Keepers Lodge

Still being used by park rangers. Tours are possible.

Rough Sleeper

There has been a person occupying a tent in the wooded area of the park, for a number of weeks. The Council and Street Link are aware and are supporting the occupant. The tent and rubbish was removed on 8th May.

Quote for Noticeboard

A quote for a new lock has been requested.

Leaf Blowers

After an email from a resident to the former Mayor, we were informed that electric leaf blowers should be used where possible and not until after 9am. Park staff have been reminded of this

Duck Ramp

Ramps are currently in a good condition and working well for water fowl.

Hackney Mosaic

Still no reply to enquiry on whether some artwork can be created for Clissold Park.

CPUG Officer and Representative Openings

We are currently looking for a secretary, Cycling Rep and a Café Rep.

Fountain and Drains

The memorial fountain has been adjusted and the water turned back on. The Council hope this is a permanent fix.

Growing Communities

Update from Sophie Verhagen:

"We have welcomed our 2 new trainees in food growing at the Growing Communities' site and they are well into the traineeship one day a week (for 7 months). We continue to have both existing and new volunteers who are enjoying spring at the site. Together we have almost finished planting up our bean, cucumber and tomato beds in the polytunnel and have planted 2 of our outside salad beds. This week we found about 10 frogs and toads and several newts in the polytunnel feasting on slugs under a tarpaulin in the polytunnel! We've also spotted a couple of ducks recently (male and female) by our pond and a mouse in our compost heap. Ladybirds and hoverfly larvae are also appearing. We've had in the region of 100 visitors over the past couple of months not including ad-hoc nursery visits".

Hackney Parks Rep Georgie Brown

Unfortunately, Georgie's works schedule does not allow for her to be available to attend a Saturday daytime CPUG meeting.

4. AOB