

Clissold Park User Group

Newsletter and Minutes of Meetings

March/April 2006

EVERYONE WHO USES CLISSOLD PARK IS PART OF THE USER GROUP – EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

To join the Clissold Park User Group (CPUG) mailing list and for this newsletter by email, contact clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk or see www.clissoldpark.com

Next general meeting

Saturday May 6th 2006

11am – 12 noon

Clissold Park House, red room in café

All meetings are open, public meetings, anyone can attend and active participation from park users is always needed and very welcome.

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 4th March 2006

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), John Hudson (Co-Vice Chair), Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Yvonne Hill (secretary), Paul Foinette (Area Parks Manager), Jim Blinko (Park supervisor), Gary March (Park Ranger), Bron Allen (LBH Street Scene), Penny Crick, Betty Manning, Sylvia Anderson, Daphne Kemp, Jonathan Shattock, Cllr Sills, Anthony Joseph, Ann Mc Ginley, Don Giddens, Hettie Sears, Diane Knill, Lorraine Worpole, Raoul Putta, Simon Lissner.

Apologies: Mark White (Operation Manager), Cllr Tessler, Cllr Aussenberg.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as true record of meeting. Don Giddings and Hettie Sears sent apologies.

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Foinette new manager was welcomed.

Clearing of leaves has been completed and rose-beds composted. A new sensory garden by butterfly tunnel is nearly complete, just awaiting plants which will be planted by a local school.

Shrubs have been planted in line with the Green Flag management plan. 15 new commemorative trees have been planted and 3 new benches have been installed.

Green lanes fence line has been repainted and gates repaired. The fence around the bottom lake has also been repainted and a new fence has been installed along the border of Queen Elizabeth estate.

Work on the children's toilet block has started and will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Nappy-changing facility to be installed.

Fencing around the new river has commenced and the duck weed and litter has been removed.

Works on the edging of the pathways was stopped as specification regards digging near trees was not being met. Meetings are now taking place to ensure all work around trees complies with national guidelines.

Installation of further benches and bins and repair works to the playground are planned. Consultation meetings planned with local schools to identify requirements.

It was confirmed that no additional tarmacking will take place and that all contractors will be reminded not to cross grass in vehicles.

Park Opening times were discussed and it was agreed that these would be posted on the gates as well as in notice-boards. Bell warning of closure is very useful.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

TEENAGERS' TRIM TRAIL

Keep fit circuit to be set up, possibly in red gravel area.

3 QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WALK

Still being assessed, since November 05? Disappointment was expressed that there is still no progress. This rests with HACKNEY emergency housing department.

CHAIR'S THANKS

Were extended to Paul and his team.

LOTTERY BID

The Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for a substantial investment in Clissold Mansion and Park has been suspended suddenly. This is a great disappointment, especially as no reference/communication was made to the CPUG who are important partners and fellow

stakeholders. Hackney officers were invited to this meeting but again, disappointingly, did not attend.

There is a proposal to use the mansion as a heritage fire museum and an obligation to explore this before the bid can progress. This could provide income but CPUG did not feel this is a viable option and is adding, yet again, damaging delay to the bid.

Discussion ensued as to the importance of sport as part of the bid and for the park to become a potential Sports' Area of Excellence. There needs to be an integrated approach between e.g. the park, the Leisure Centre and Hackney. The tennis club and the café have created a core of successful activities which must be built on.

ACTION: KEN WARPOLE to contact Mayor Jules Pipe.

CAROLINE MILLAR and JOHN HUDSON to attend Project Reference Group meeting on Friday 17th March.

CLLR SILLS to raise at Stoke Newington Forum meeting on 28th March.

TREES

Concern was expressed by CPUG and The Tree Musketeers about the damage which may have been caused to trees following the recent edging work along the path leading to Queen Elizabeth's Walk. (See Park Manager's report). Hopefully very little damage has been done.

Action: Park Managers to seek advice from Ian Graham, Hackney's tree expert, as necessary.

CARS IN THE PARK

In reply to John Hudson's query Joyce Guthrie, Head of Parks & Leisure Services, confirmed that there is currently no council policy regarding this issue.

Discussion ensued and it was felt that the principle of a "no car" policy should be upheld. However it was recognised that minimal, essential access was necessary but the criteria for this should be made explicit and permits issued. It was also felt we should explore the use of Town Hall parking.

Whilst this was being resolved, it was agreed that the tennis club be allocated two car parking spaces, ideally in the depot area, in consultation with the Park Manager.

ACTION: KEN WARPOLE to write to Carole Stewart re sports strategy.

DAPHNE KEMP to contact Town Hall to explore car parking spaces.

BRAN ALLEN to facilitate council policy.

BANDSTAND

Planning permission has been given. Watch that space!

ACTION: SYLVIA ANDERSON to continue to liaise with Zeta Lomax, Stoke Newington School.

SUMMER FUN EVENTS

Caroline Millar has undertaken organisation of Summer Fun for the last three years on a voluntary basis. These very successful and popular events involve considerable work and planning. It was felt strongly that Hackney should be responsible for this which can be divided into areas: under fives, over fives, plus Saturday evening concerts. It is also important that fliers be distributed to schools well in advance of the Summer programme.

Other options were discussed including advertising for volunteers (already tried unsuccessfully) and liaising with the One O' Clock Club and The Learning Trust.

ACTION: ANTHONY JOSEPH to contact Alan Wood, Director, the Learning Trust.

STREET SCENE FUNDING

The Chair welcome Bron Allen of LBH Street Scene who explained that funding was available from Transport for London for a green corridor cycle programme. Although this would not be suitable within the park, the group was enthusiastic about a cycle path on the park perimeter. In addition, funding was available for lighting and walking paths.

ACTION: BRON ALLEN to contact Carol Wright re bid.

SPORT

After discussion it was agreed that there would be no objection to rugby posts for the youth team on a temporary basis for each match.

ACTION: ANTHONY JOSEPH to investigate portable rugby systems and to invite Carole Stewart to a CPUG meeting to discuss Hackney's sports' strategy in relation to the parks.

AOB

The group was invited to a tree-planting ceremony after the meeting in memory of Christine Disney, CPUG founder member and former Chair.

CONTACTS

Clissold Park User Group Website

www.clissoldpark.com

1. Join CPUG at:
<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/clissoldpug/join>
2. Once joined, email other members at:
clissoldpug@yahoogroups.co.uk
3. Contact the CPUG secretary directly at:
clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

Contacts for The Park

Parks Manager/Office, Mark White:
8800 1021 & 07958 692551

Rangers' office/Tennis bookings: 7923 3660

Tennis Club 7254 4235 and
info@hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk

Head of rangers' service:
balavant.barber@hackney.gov.uk or 07985 692585

Hackney Council 8356 5000

Dates of next general meetings

Saturdays May 6th, July 1st

11 a.m.–noon

Clissold Park House, red room in café

ALL WELCOME!