

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

November/December 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 meeting:

Saturday January 6th 2007

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 November 2006:

Present: Ken Worpole (Chair), Yvonne Hill (Secretary), Paul Foinette (Area Parks Manager), Jim Blinko (Park Supervisor), Anthony Joseph, Don Giddens, Hettie Sears, Simon Lissner, Penny Crick, Lorraine Worpole, Brassett (Park Ranger), Jonathan Clark (Rector St Mary's), Jorge Samaniego, Caroline Millar (Co-Vice Chair), Betty Manning, John Hudson (Co-Vice Chair), Chris Sills, Keith Magnum, Councillor Matthew Coggins, Maxine Young, Chris McIntosh, Ann Mc Ginley

Apologies: None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Accepted as true record of meeting.

AGM

Election of Officers agreed as follows:

Chair: Ken Worpole. Thanks were extended to Ken for his excellent work throughout the year.

Vice Chairs: John Hudson, Simon Lissner, Caroline Millar. Exceptionally, three vice- chairs were elected as the group felt it was good to capitalise on such enthusiastic volunteer support.

ACTION: VICE CHAIRS TO DEFINE THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES/ AREAS OF INTEREST.

Newsletter Secretary: Yvonne Hill

Post Secretary: Betty Manning

Email/ Communication Secretary: John Hudson.

It was felt to be useful to share the secretary's load by splitting the roles as above. To further improve efficiency and communication, Paul Foinette has kindly agreed to download newsletter directly and ensure speedy, wide-spread posting onto notice-boards.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

AFTER NOTE: there are currently 80 active CPUG members: 40 members on the email list and 40 who receive post. Between 18 and 25 people attend meetings.

Treasurer: Barbara MacFarlane (elected, with permission, in her absence.) The annual balance sheet was tabled and therefore will be scrutinised at the next meeting. **ACTION: CHAIR**

PARK MANAGER'S REPORT-Paul Foinette

Green Flag status has been retained and the assessment result improved by five points, taking it up into the next 'band'. Feedback on action for further improvements focussed on improvements needed on sustainability of wildlife, and recycling. All agreed the park is looking magnificent.

Paul reported on two attempted break-ins to the House, which must continue to be monitored by the alarm company.

'Tunnel' under house has been re- fenced to provide improved storage for sports equipment and for a local disability group.

L B Hackney is to provide a ramp to house/café under the Disability Discrimination Act. **ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH HACKNEY**

Two new goats have been introduced to keep the lone one company...and terrapins have received positive publicity! Is this a good thing?

The leaf-miner moth affecting Horse Chestnut trees nationally should, hopefully, not cause long term problems. Composting rather than burning fallen leaves should be sufficient to reduce impact.

The tree sculpture is to be replaced and a new commission is sought. Three newly-instituted rugby pitches are to be used in rotation to prevent permanent damage.

3 QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WALK.

Still no news on this empty council property.

A couple of old signs from the Stokefest and Tennis courts need to come down. Dead trees, one half way

down Queen Elizabeth's Walk, the other, in the garden of 3 QE walk, need attention.

ACTION: PAUL FOINETTE

The **CHAIR'S THANKS** were extended to Paul and his team and congratulations offered for successful renewal of the Green Flag status.

TREE MUSKETEERS

Free, guided walk available to all on Sunday 12th November at 2pm. These walk are professionally led and highly recommended.

LOTTERY BID

A Stage 1 Plan for the Heritage Lottery Bid has now been submitted. The Heritage Lottery Fund assesses the bid and if successful, approximately six months later, a Stage 1 Pass provides monies via the Hackney for Stage 2 planning. Ultimately £8.3 million is available with LBH funding £3.3 millions.

The Plan includes funding for housing of Parks' Management and a separate Park Manager for Clissold House and grounds. Some aspects of the plans are firm such as the reinstatement of the New River, and other aspects are sketchy such as the arboreal plans. Establishing the key views of the house, and the visual detractors will be important.

Clissold Park Users Group was applauded by the Land Use Consultants in their proposals for the Heritage Lottery Bid.

The real hard work and detail goes into Stage 2. In the interim, our efforts must focus on ensuring this initial stage is successful.

ACTION: KEN WORPOLE TO REVIEW STAGE ONE PROPOSAL.

ANTHONY/JOHN TO EMAIL USER GROUP. DOCUMENT CAN ALSO BE DOWNLOADED FROM COUNCIL'S WEBSITE.

It was felt imperative to have a greatly improved consultation period in Stage 2, should the bid proceed. It is accepted that the House needs renovation but other aspects of the plans, such as the New River, are contentious. There are also outstanding issues such as the lack of coordination between the proposals for the park, the church and the assembly rooms.

The quality of questions and research in Stage 2 will be crucial. CPUG wish to be involved in the wording of the questionnaire. Relative costs will need to be explicit so that people understand the relative choices i.e. the priorities in relation to cost efficiency.

The Stage 1 proposal has been professionally assessed, and a very welcome milestone has been reached. CPUG are insistent that the project manager and management of the next stage should

be re-tendered to ensure best possible competitive appointment.

BANDSTAND

This was originally envisaged as a Stoke Newington School project. Progress is slow but getting closer to fruition: Anthony is donating material; there is £10,000 available in the school plus £2,500 in donations - but the costs are estimated at £25,000. The possibility of fundraising by CPUG was discussed.

Is it our priority/ within our remit? Or would it be better to provide quicker, cheaper alternative? Is it cost effective? There is pressure within the park from organisers of activities.

ACTION: PAUL TO CONTINUE TO LIAISE WITH ANTHONY AND ZETA (STOKE NEWINGTON SCHOOL).

AOB

A small group is trying to raise funds for a new history of the park.

CONTACT: KEN WORPOLE

CONTACTS for the User Group

- Clissold Park User Group Website

- www.clissoldpark.com

- Join CPUG

- <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/clissoldpug/join>

- Contact the CPUG secretary

- clissoldpug@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS for The Park

- Park Manager: Paul Foinette:

- 8800 1021 & 07958692551

- paul.foinette@hackney.gov.uk

- Rangers' office and 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

Next meetings:

Saturday January 6th 2007

**then Saturday 3rd March 2007
and Saturday 5th May 2007**

**11a.m.-noon
Clissold Park House, red room in café**

ALL WELCOME