

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

October 2004

NEWSLETTER AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

For this newsletter by email, contact cpug@qew.clara.co.uk

Next meeting, Saturday November 13th Clissold Park House 11.00 am – 12 noon in the Red Room, crèche provided. This will be our Annual General Meeting, reports and elections to officer posts.

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

Annual General Meeting 13th November 11am Nominations open for posts of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer – please send in nominations c/o Rangers Office, Clissold Park.

See the website for further details www.clissoldpark.com and come to the open and public meetings to contribute your views and thoughts about our Park – future dates: 8th January; 5th March; 7th April - Saturdays 11.00 Clissold Park Café, crèche provided.

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 3rd October 2004

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Present (& signed list): Ken Worpole (Chair); Penny Crick (secretary); Caroline Millar; Jim Blinko (Park supervisor), Simon Lissner, John Crisp; Danny Braverman, (tennis club); Cllr C.Sills. Hettie Sears, Don Giddings, Ayhan Aksu, Lucy Sommers. Lorraine Worpole, Mark White (Parks); Hugh Dames (SN School); Narelle Holland (SN School); Yvonne Hill; Ned Hardie-Boys; Junior Pierre; Adam Lubinsky
Apologies: Cllr. Tessler; Cllr. Aussenberg; Jen Barton, Ann McGinley;

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted.

Matters Arising:

Rangers Service – we are **still** awaiting the review of the rangers service; it is complex but this remains the largest source of problems as far as the public is concerned.

Heritage Lottery Fund – no response at time of meeting from council officers, despite a good start.

Lavatories – the women's lavatories have been improved. Has a baby changing area been supplied with access for men as well as women? Any progress on disgusting state of children's toilets in the playground? (**Check please**)

Park Manager's report

12 new **benches** have been put in, the lake is now clear of duckweed, fencing and gates around the rose garden has been completed,

Toilets have been improved with liquid soap dispensers, new toilet seats; handwash facilities in the children's toilets not working because of a broken pipe under ground – to be fixed soon.

The **Bowling Green pavilion** – heavily vandalised, door to be fixed and secured. The roof is again in a poor state with tiles smashed on right side and sliding off the back, no fascia board

and a lot of guttering missing – **action Mark.**

Traffic calming: **bollards** have been placed in the main pathway from Church Street and this has substantially reduced the amount of unauthorised traffic. Cars should only be parked at the depot and **not** around the House. The **Fireyard** has been cleared ready for autumn leaves to be piled up. (Can't the fencing around it be straightened so that they do not flatten surrounding shrubs?? Jim??) **Dead trees** in the Park will be removed from October 18th.

Summer events – complaints have been very few, all seems to have gone well.

Swans & Rangers There had been a problem recently when someone saw that a swan in the lakes was looking ill, and reported it to the rangers who would not call the RSPCA and was generally unhelpful. Mark will take this up with the rangers concerned and we were reassured that Rangers will liaise with RSPCA and will record such incidents in the incident book. (**Action Mark**)

Was the swan made sick by toxic water? 85% of all still water areas in the SE contain some botulism. But the wildfowl were OK during the warmer summer months when toxicity levels are higher.

Notice with details of how to contact Rangers, Park managers and emergency services, as well as rules of the playground re: no smoking and no unaccompanied adults allowed, to go up at playground entrance. **Action Mark**

Summer activities Following a very successful summer, the user group has £5000 available for summer activities for children in the Park next year and will apply to the Arts Council in conjunction with Hackney for music events. **The Bowling Green area and pavilion** need a lot of work to make them viable for future activities – i.e ditch to be filled in and planted, allowing for access ramps, ground to be prepared for grass seeding, the building roof and guttering to be fixed. In the longer term, the building could be altered to make it a much better base for events. Concern was again expressed at the lack of prior information about and sensible integration of activities for children and young people organised by or with the financial support of Hackney during holidays – this is being addressed by Carole Stewart (Asst. Dir. Culture and Leisure)

Stoke Newington School – Hugh and Narelle from SNS came to introduce an idea to get kids from SNS involved in the rebuilding of **the bandstand** in the Park (following recent severe damage by fire). This would be a project that would get links going between the school and the local community, part of a wider initiative to bring the facilities from school into the community and vice versa, making the school more of a hub in the community. This project would have the advantage of increasing the sense of ownership amongst local young people of the bandstand and it is well documented that such active involvement has a positive effect on reducing vandalism. The user group were very positive and supportive and will do all we can to help with this project.

Young Park user group – it was also seen that this could be the catalyst for starting an active young park users group, based in the first instance at SNSchool. However, concern was also expressed, stemming from previous poor experience in dealing with Hackney council in such joint ventures, and the issue of Licensing of Public events is a particular instance that is relevant – all very well to have a refurbished bandstand that could be a resource for all sectors of the community to put on performances etc., but the massive costs and restrictive conditions demanded by the licensing department could make it all a bit pointless....

It was suggested that we write to and invite the Licensing Officer to a future meeting to discuss these matters. **(Action Penny and Ken)**

Funding for events. A related issue is the system of funding for events which currently means that bids often cannot be put in for consideration until it is really too late to be able to make arrangement for decent events – we can't put on events in August if we only know about the funding at the end of July!! We will write to relevant Council officers and councillors about this and other events issues. **(Action Ken, Penny and Caroline)**

Trees Members of the user group had been involved in a walk around the Trees in the Park with a tree consultant and a number of problems for the park trees had been identified e.g. the

detrimental effects of Vandalism (wilful stripping of bark), Drought, Fungus, Damage caused by strimming too close to trees, some degree of inadequate maintenance over the years. A higher than expected proportion of trees are dead or dying. Park Manager is aware of these problems and is addressing them through management plans. The user group urges the Park management to work now with Hackney's tree officer, Ian Graham, and the user group on tackling these problems together with a future plan for management and stock replacement. A tree walk to be arranged asap with this in view.

Action Ken, Mark

Action re Trees, Rangers etc. – to get relevant councillors and cabinet members involved in Park issues, planning, development. **Action Ken** – write to Cllr Khan etc. proposing general Park Walk.

Big Draw 16th October We will participate in this national event with a day organised by Caroline Millar of art in and around Clissold Park House – Look out for the lovely and exciting results. More events to follow next year. Thanks to Caroline for all her work.

Cycling in the Park – a contentious issue – illegal but inevitable, OK if bikers are responsible and thoughtful, not OK if they are selfish and mindless. We need to spend a bit of time debating this one and to this end we will invite the Hackney Cycling Officer to the next meeting.

Tennis New offices in the House basement to open soon, tennis club going from strength to strength, all congratulations to all concerned.

Disability access We need to consider where we can hold our meetings so that access for disabled park users is facilitated.

Proposal to make formal meetings of the CPUG every two months, interspersed with working meetings on specific projects or issues as necessary – to be discussed at the next meeting, our AGM on 13th November. See you there.

Useful Contacts:

Mark White Parks Manager and Parks Office: 8800 1021
07958 692551
Rangers office/Tennis bookings: 7923 3660
Hackney Council: 8356 5000
Tennis Club: 7254 4235 and
info@hackneycitytennisclubs.co.uk
Clissold Park User Group cpug@qew.clara.co.uk
www.clissoldpark.com

Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13th

November 11.00am – 12 noon. Crèche available in adjoining room for anyone attending the meeting. Your active participation will be very welcome.
www.clissoldpark.com or cpug@qew.clara.com or CPUG, c/o Rangers Office, Clissold Park House.