

Clissold Park User Group

Chair's report 14 January 2012

1. Meetings and events attended by CPUG officers since last meeting

Date	Meeting	Attended by
15 th November	Stakeholder Forum	CM and John Hudson (JH)
18 th November	Meeting with Eleanor Johnson re. Survey of local children's views about park and developing work with schools	CM and Lisa Gormley (LG)
22 nd November	Council Licensing Committee re licence for house	JH
22 nd November	Stoke Newington schools cluster meetings	LG
24 November	Project Board	CM and JH
29 th November	Meeting with Timeline (local history charity)	CM
6 December	Meeting with Simon Dedeney re Midsummer Night's Dream in park 2013	CM
6 December	Meeting with Aaron from East London Lines website	CM
8 December	Project Board	CM
14 December	Celebration event for CPUG officers past and present in House	
3 January	House opening day	CM, JH
5 January	Meeting with Park Manager re guided tours	CM, JH, KW
11 January	Meeting with Aaron from East London Lines website	
12 January	Meeting with Park Manager	CM
Various dates	Meeting with Company of Cooks	JH
	Meeting to discuss older people's use of house	Sylvia Anderson

2. General project update

House and cafe: Having worked throughout the Christmas and New Year holiday period, Company of Cooks opened the house on 3 January. Only the upstairs part was opened that day mainly because of the appalling weather. The downstairs was fully open by the following weekend. The Pump House kiosk opened on 4 January but is still not opening for the full hours. There are plans to open at least one other outpost in the playground to help reduce demand on the house. The cafe served 5000 in its first week. There have been articles in the local press and some blogging. Feedback is very mixed from the highly enthusiastic to the highly critical. Lots of practical issues to iron out, particularly around access and flow through the house.

There have been various events as part of the marketing of the house including an open day for people thinking of having weddings in the house. The formal opening event for the house will be on 19th January, sadly by invitation only. Private rooms can be booked via Emma Finch emma.finch@gll.org.

Free guided tours of the house take place on Saturday and Tuesday afternoons in January, led by Council staff and CPUG volunteers. Contact Emma above or via CPUG or Council website. Email Emma as above.

Staff and management: Eleanor Johnson who has been helping to manage the project has been promoted, on an interim basis, to the new post of Park Manager. She has overall responsibility for the park and house. David Woodhead will update us on the restructuring of the park staffing service. Once it is implemented, Eleanor will have responsibility for managing the rangers and gardeners. Company of Cooks and GLL respectively have contracts with Hackney Council to run the cafe and venue (room hire for events etc) but there are close lines of joint working between the teams in the House. Eleanor is now based in the office on the ground floor of the house along with Emma Finch from GLL.

The substantive, permanent post of Park Manager has not yet been advertised. Nor has the post of Interpretation Officer. We are investigating this delay.

Skatepark: closed on 31 October and reopened on 9 December. Repairs to address water seepage seem to have worked but still being monitored.

Pavilion: repair work is still to be done following the arson attack many months ago. We urgently need to get this done so that we can start using the pavilion which will be free for educational use during the week and available for hire in evenings and at weekends.

3. Future events

Olympic torch: will be going through the park on 21st July 2012.

Bid Draw: CPUG is planning a Big Draw event in the house and park in October 2012.

Shakespeare in the park: the Midsummer Night's Dream community project is being delayed because it clashed with the Olympic plans and also to allow more time to secure funding.

Other events: We are keen to secure better information for park users about events happening in the park this year.

4. Membership and involvement

We have 324 people on our mailing list. Since mid November we have had 2635 visits to the website, favourite pages being the home page, facilities, sports, history and restoration project. We have 158 members of our facebook group and 90 people who like our facebook page. The numbers are going up slowly over time.

5. Annual General Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 4 March at 11am. This will be our Annual General Meeting at which we will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary. We will also review the additional posts for other reps. If you want to stand please let John Hudson know via the cpug email address at least a week in advance.

Caroline Millar, January 2012