

Clissold Park User Group

Chair's report 8 May 2012

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

Date	Meeting	Attended by
27 March	Fundraising subgroup meeting	CM/YH/HO/AW
10 April	Planning for Dev Officer interviews	CM/EJ
17 April	Update meeting with Park Manager	JH/EJ
17 April	First meeting of new CPUG committee	All reps
1 May	HLF/Big Lottery pre-visit meeting	CM

2. General update on key park issues

New Committee: we now have a new committee including the elected officers and reps for Children and Families, older people, dog walkers, biodiversity, people with disabilities, fundraising and the website. We still need to find a skaters rep. Tours of the park and house are planned with the relevant reps to look at planting (especially around the ponds) and to look at access issues in the House. Liz Fewings, the biodiversity rep, is looking at the various bat studies on behalf of the user group. She has offered to run a bat walk for CPUG.

House and cafe: The cafe has continued to make small changes to its menu and service with the introduction of cheaper teas and coffee and some new, lower-priced items on the menu. We continue to receive a regular stream of comments and complaints about various aspects of the service. In addition, we have been asked about whether it is possible to create quiet zones in the house, particularly for older people or people who want to work or have meetings. As yet the promised internet access in the cafe has not been installed. We have also had complaints and questions about the inconsistent opening hours of the kiosk. Searches on the website suggest people want to know the opening hours of the cafe so we need to be clear what these are and put them up on the site if possible as we do with park opening times.

Staff and management: Eleanor Johnson remains in post as Interim Park Manager and the post has not yet been advertised. The CPUG chair contributed to the planning of the interviews for the new Park Development Officer which took place on 12 and 13 April. An appointment has now been made. A new Head of Leisure and Green Spaces, Ian Holland, has recently been appointed. We have invited him to attend our next meeting and will be asking him to talk to us about staffing issues in the park.

Pavilion: repair work is still to be done following the arson attack many months ago. The paperwork has been completed finally. Now it is just a question of getting the work done!

Planning applications: Hackney City Tennis has applied for permission to light the courts. Responses have to be made by 14 May. The application reference number is 2012/1083 and you can see the application and comment by clicking on the link on the CPUG homepage. There is also a planning application for major redevelopment of the Kings Crescent Estate opposite the park on Green Lanes which will include a number of new buildings the highest of which will be 11 storeys high. We will post a link to this application on our website in the next few days. The deadline for response is 11 June.

Tennis club/3 Queen Elizabeth's Walk: planning permission for the temporary building in the park runs out in June. The house at 3QEW will be demolished in the next few weeks. Assuming funding is secured for the tennis club work will begin on the new club building in due course.

3. Future events

Green flag inspection: 24 May 2012

HLG/Big Lottery visit: 29 May 2012

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

Open House: this is being planned for Sunday 23rd September

Big Draw: CPUG and the Council are working jointly on a Big Draw event in the house and park on 16th October 2012.

4. Membership and involvement

We have 350 people on our mailing list. Since our last meeting in early March we have had 4221 unique visits to the website, favourite pages being the home page, facilities, and sports. We have 180 members of our Facebook group. Numbers in all these areas are rising slowly but steadily. About 25 people receive our newsletter by post.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 7 July 11am to 12 noon in the House.

Caroline Millar, May 2012