

CLISSOLD PARK USER GROUP

July/August 2010



Work on the new river summer 2010

Minutes of meeting held on 10 July

Apologies – Ken Worpole, Cllr Karen Alcock, Michael Dixon, Yvonne Hill

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Olympic Cycle path

CPUG are having an ongoing dialogue with the Council regarding the proposed Olympic Cycle route that will run through the park there are concerns about the volume of cyclists that this will generate and the impact this will then have especially at certain pinch points in the park.

This then led to a general discussion on cycling in the park with a feeling that levels of dangerous and irresponsible cycling in park are seemingly on the increase. Suggestions were made to John Wade of Hackney Council: one being perhaps this issue should be addressed by some form of education by the council on safe and responsible cycling in the park. Another suggestion was that the park rangers could be more vigilant and use their role to insure that there is a safer level of cycling in the park.

Action: The issue of cycling and the Olympic route are ongoing and will continue to be addressed at the next CPUG meeting in September

Events & Events strategy

John Wade of Hackney Council is putting together an events strategy for the park and this will be presented to the Mayor and Cabinet soon, as well as at the September CPUG meeting.

A discussion was had on events: There was concern that the recent Anatolian festival overran, seemed to exceed noise limits and created parking problems for residents who live near to the park. John Wade's feedback was that there was council officer at the event measuring the noise and the event did not exceed environmental limits. The officer also reported that the event finished on time. John Wade said that he would look into a possible breach of the finishing time and report back. There was also concern about the size of the Lolibop site and cost of tickets.

A musician asked about performing some jazz in the park at the area of the old bandstand to add some atmosphere. The consensus around this was positive and the musician was asked to approach the council to discuss the matter further.

Upcoming events were discussed and there was firm opposition by all users present to the proposal of Manning's funfair returning to the park in August. This was noted by John Wade of Hackney Council and the view of CPUG would also be communicated via email to council events officer.

The presentation of events information was criticised and the Council was also urged to consider only those events deemed suitable for a park of Clissold's size, design and use.

There was a strong feeling from those users present that more organised activities in the park and fewer events would be welcomed.

Project / Park update

John Wade provided some feedback. Simon Biss, the previous project manager, has now moved and been replaced by Hyder Ajmi who has previously worked on the project. Comment was made that Simon Biss has, during his tenure, done a good job and was excellent at providing information regarding the project to park users and CPUG officers and at responding to requests and queries. It was stated that this excellent level of communication should continue with Hyder.

John Wade stated that the Lakes are almost completely finished (there is a planting programme and some minor work still to be done) and work will now start to focus on the New River. Work has also started on the Aviary and the animal enclosures.

John Wade reported that work in the park is currently one week behind schedule. There has been no more slippage with the house in terms of time scales.

The appointment of House and Park manager is going to be possibly filled via an internal secondment from the council and it is scheduled that the person be in post by September of this year. The point was raised that the individual who fills this role needs to be of a very high calibre, enthusiastic and creative and that should the council not be able to indentify such an individual via the internal secondment process or should the person not prove to meet the level of performance that the job requires, then the council should look further afield for suitable candidates.

John Wade also reported that they are now looking for tenders for caterers to run the cafe in the house and the kiosk on the Green Lanes side of the park. CPUG requested that they are involved in the process and the decision taken to discuss what this involvement should and what users want at the September CPUG meeting. CPUG will then, after the September meeting, be involved in the tender process.

Issue was raised concerning the ongoing problem of refuse, especially when the park is at peak use during the summer. There do not seem to be enough bins or large enough bins to cope with the volume of litter. John Wade commented that he has been trailing a scheme in London Fields to deal with high levels of refuse during the summer and that this maybe something that can be introduced to Clissold. Suggestions were made that more recycling bins be available and some signage on the existing bins suggesting users take the rubbish home or recycle it and increase in collection rate. As part of the project there will, next summer, be 63 bins in the park.

A secret pilot was recently run for 4 days where the park was not locked at night. This was not something that the public were aware of and what feedback was received (by people who had discovered that the park was unlocked and had then directly contacted the council to report this) was according to John Wade around 50/50 in terms of positive and negative comments. It was not revealed how many people contacted the council. A paper is being written by John Wade about the pros and cons of the park being locked and will be presented to Cllr McShane the new cabinet member responsible for Park for consideration. It was decided that further discussion of this issue would be needed at the September CPUG meeting.

John Wade is also putting together a proposal regarding the Park Rangers Service to be submitted to the Mayor. The outcome of this meeting will also be feedback to CPUG at the September Meeting.

Caroline and John Hudson had, as part of the stakeholder group, attended a meeting regarding the signage that will be used in the park. The design team working on this will have something to show the user group at the 11 September meeting.

Local residents have been invited to attend a meeting to discuss how to make the entrance on Green Lanes and Church Street safer. It was confirmed that the Dog Free area that had been omitted from the maps of the park after the project has been completed will return.

Trees

The point was raised that soon the tree planting and felling stage of project will be started and that for some users this will be a concern. It was felt that the project manager needed to make sure that as far as possible users were fully aware of what is happening and why. It was stated that there are less than 50 trees being removed and over 300 planted as part of the project and some trees that are healthy, such as the Silver Birch, will be relocated. The Tree Musketeers have been involved by the council already and are aware of the felling and planting programme. It was suggested that a user friendly diagram of where the tree are being removed and where they are being planted be provided so people could gain a quick understanding of

what was happening. It was also suggested that an updated pamphlet/booklet regarding the 'Trees of Clissold Park' could be compiled and published.

Planning applications

Three Queen Elizabeth Walk - This application is being considered on the 28.07.10

The lights for the Tennis Courts - there is no update regarding this proposal as yet.

AOB

CPUG has applied for some funding from East End and City Grassroots Grants and ideas on any activities that CPUG could use the funding on where canvassed from those present. It was felt that some organised tours of the park especially during the restoration might be a good activity.

Next CPUG Meeting

Future dates are Saturdays 11th September and 13th November and the Church rooms are booked for these dates.

Contacts

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To join Clissold Park Users Group: contact clissold@googlemail.com and browse this website (www.clissoldpark.com) - or [join our Facebook Group](#) - or just come to the meetings!