

Clissold Park User Group

NEWSLETTER & MINUTES

April 2002

**EVERYONE WHO USES CLISSOLD PARK IS A MEMBER OF THE USER GROUP
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2002

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MINUTES BY EMAIL, GIVE ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:
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NEWS:

Café - mobile café has been set up... but how long before we can get back a proper café in the House?

HERITAGE LOTTERY MONEY - Here we go again! A new application to be made, but much simplified, so fingers crossed...

Paddling pool and animal enclosure - Children's activities to be organised for later in the summer. See below and on the website for further details
www.clissoldpark.com

NEXT MEETING

**11 am Saturday,
1st June 2002**

Red Room, rear of
Clissold Park Café

Present:

Ken Worpole (Chair);
Penny Crick (secretary);
Mark White (Park Manager);
Bob Chivers,
Lucy Sommers,
Kate Last,
Michele Guimarin (Hackney Council), John Hudson,
Will Richardson,

Lorraine Worpole,
Daphney Kemp,
Sylvia Anderson,
Don Giddings,
Hettie Sears,
Barbara Read.

Apologies:

Betty Manning,
Barbara McFarlane,
Anita Young

Park Manager's Report:

Mark White gave his **Park Manager's Report:**

The picket fencing (+gates) has arrived and will soon be put around the Rose Garden making it a dog controlled and thus picnic area. New fencing is going up around the existing dog free area and in response to points raised, Mark will look into putting a second gate there. Four new cast iron benches are to be placed along the Green Lanes side of the Park. The toilet refurbishment is now complete - go and try them out! Tennis courts refurbishment is going well and without too much disruption to the Park or people. A bollard preventing cars entering the Park has been placed at the Queen Elizabeth's gate and there will soon be one at the White House gate on Green Lanes. The drains that block up have now mostly been cleared and a new drain has been installed near the lakes which will hopefully stop the flooding of recent years. Tarmacing of crumbling paths has been completed. New signs are soon to be erected at Park gates giving information on location and features of the Park. All newly planted trees are being watered and Trees for London have inspected and found no signs of distress. One large unwell chestnut is to be treated with crown reduction. Butterfly tunnel is due to open in late April.

Events:

The events for this year in the Park have been agreed now and they have been spread out to avoid the problems of 'bunching' them on lots of successive weekends (see list at end). A couple of events have been withdrawn recently and the Stoke Newington Festival will only be using the Park for a Campsite event and a four day Art event (acoustic music only and finish by 12.00pm). Stoke Newington Festival will attend the next meeting of the user group (June 1st). An event organised by the **Non Violence Federation** as part of a programme of events around London has been proposed to take place in the Park (around the end of August) and it would link with work with local schools on non-violence. It is being organised in association with the GLA, the Met. Police, Blue Peter and others and the day (ending at 8.30 pm) in Clissold park would be one of four to be held in Parks in London. There was considerable discussion and the organisers will send someone to talk to the user group about the details. It was reported that

some bids have gone in to charities that would fund organised activities with children in the Park around the animal enclosure and paddling pool later in the summer/autumn.

Café:

A temporary mobile café is now in place and has an initial 8 week agreement. The leasing agreement for a permanent café to run from the House that was to have gone out to tender some while ago has still not been completed and is currently with Hackney's legal department/Core Properties (at Hackney Council). There was general agreement that the whole situation is really dreadful. Mark is seeking to get it all speedily resolved. But... in the meantime, complications for the current plans for the café could arise from the...

Lottery Bid:

which is now up and running again, much to the cynical pessimism of some present who have been here before, but also to the optimism and hopefulness of others who feel that there is a different climate prevailing that might get things done that will genuinely benefit the Park and its users. This is the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and it could be a means of an injection of money into improvements and developments in the Park, but it does mean that there are certain conditions that pertain to the 'heritage' bit - e.g. the House could have a lot of very necessary work done to it to make it more functional and useable by the community but it would mean that work would also involve a restoration of the House that would have big implications for the café for a start. (E.G. restoring the front part of the house where the main room of the café now is would mean reinstating the original walls, thus opening up to the stair case inside the house and also dividing that room in half...) So any lease now for the café would need to take into consideration this sort of thing. Any future tenant would need to be happy for this sort of work to be going on. But even if all goes well, the work itself would not start for probably 2 or 3 years or so. Another complicating factor is that any Lottery funding would require matched funding from Hackney Council... Enclosed with this newsletter is a one page summary of the current proposals within the Lottery bid - as those familiar with previous bids will see, these are a little less ambitious than before. (on-line recipients, please see website www.clissoldpark.com for this summary.) Other things like the value of using the house to provide tennis club facilities, educational resources etc. will all be taken into account in drawing up the application. It was suggested that it might be timely to produce a potted history of the Lottery Bid with an idea of the sorts of sums of money involved - Michele Guimarin said she would do this.

Hackney Parks Forum:

This is now a constituted body that represents all the various park User Groups in Hackney. Ken Worpole is attending and is seeking a second member of the Clissold User Group to join him in representing us.

One O'Clock Club:

There are rumours that the one o'clock club is under threat of cuts... the User Group will do all that it can to support the very popular, well used and needed One o'clock club against closure. Lorraine Worpole will talk to the staff there to find out what is going on and what Park Users can do to help. Cllr. John Hudson will also speak to Ian Peacock to clarify the position.

Revenue idea:

Lucy suggested that one way of helping to encourage people to feed the animals in the enclosure properly, which would also contribute to their upkeep financially, would be if little packs of suitable food could be made available for sale, say from the Rangers' office. Parents could then buy these for their children to use to feed the animals. Mark will look into the feasibility.