

## **Amrit Hamechan Madhoo**

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### **Personal Statement**

I have been privileged to make Clapham my home these past four years since beginning my professional life. I have been so generously welcomed by this amazing community and naturally feel the impulse to give back for that blessing. As my name and photo might indicate, I was born and raised in the Caribbean country of Trinidad and Tobago. I came to the UK in 2008 to attend university, and something must have stuck, because when I graduated I was smart enough to choose to live in Clapham.

The Common, is to me what it is to so many of the residents of Clapham, a jewel like no other. And while it has become commonplace across so many cities to be lacking of green spaces, we in Clapham are, without a doubt, very fortunate to have such an expansive, vibrant and well maintained Common.

I have a strong interest in gardening, the natural world, community welfare and food growing. In my garden at the back of Trinity Close, I indulge in maintaining a small, but working vegetable garden. I have recently become a member of both the London and British Beekeeping Associations. And I am enrolled onto one of their training courses in the spring, with the goal of setting up and maintaining a hive at Trinity Close.

Clapham is a diverse community, and its residents have a range of cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds. If a symbiotic relationship is to continue to exist between these residents and The Common, then the way decisions are made regarding its management and its future, needs to be via continued well informed and strong ties between all stakeholders. Having grown up on a small island where a sense of community is essential, I know I can make a positive impact in Clapham by taking an active role in promoting this type of engagement as a CCMAC committee member.