

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)
Thursday 1st July 2021 at 7pm
Zoom meeting

Minutes

Present: Simon Millson (Chair – SM), Shelagh Muchmore (Secretary - SMu), Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Nigel Haselden (NH), Cllr Tim Briggs (TB), Andrew Summers (Clapham Society AS), Gareth James (Friends of Clapham Common GJ), Jeremy Keates (This is Clapham JK), Helen O'Malley (HOM), Paul Stephenson, Krishna Visa

Apologies – Bandstand Beds, David Dandridge, Joanna Reynolds, Raffaele Principe

Guests: Cllr Sonia Winifred, Lambeth's Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture
Kevin Crook and Ian Ross (Lambeth Parks and Leisure Services)

1. Cllr Sonia Winifred

Welcome to the meeting.

Cllr SW thanked CCMAC for their support. She then gave an update of the measures / issues that have impacted the Common (and other public open spaces in the Borough) during the period of the pandemic – e.g. litter, antisocial behaviour, additional toilets facilities etc.

Cancelled events means that revenue have been adversely hit. Lambeth Borough is constantly reviewing and monitoring conditions of the Common (in particular the events site) and want to ensure that a 'balanced' view is taken with regards to events etc. She reported that responses to surveys show that many local residents support events and that some of our young people feel safer attending events within Lambeth rather than travelling to those in other locations etc.

The major event going ahead this summer is 'Festival Republic' which will take place in August.

AS reported that members of the Clapham Society are 'pragmatic' and understand the benefits of events i.e. revenue generated etc. but the concern is that the balance is too much 'the other way' in favour of events and the impact on the Common amount and time to rig and de-rig cause significant disruption. There are also concerns about the damage events have caused in the past, site has been closed for so long and the worry is that excess damage will be caused again leading to further closures and need for restoration. Residents and members are losing confidence that the council is listening to these concerns.

AS asked about alternative revenue generation -- have other options have been considered e.g. in ring fencing money and weigh this up against lost revenue, increase in council tax etc.?

LB added that CCMAC / residents and other groups are not totally against events – the issue is rather that the events site is being enclosed and residents are locked out of it for a considerable period of time e.g. a month in August when residents want to use the Common – children on holiday at this time. Seems to be contrary to the 'Commons Act' to enclose such a large area of the common.

SW Reported that Lambeth has been working in partnership with event partners and have made a lot of progress with events policy – feeling is that Lambeth does drive a 'hard bargain' with event partners e.g. Winterville and other events have been moved to Redgra and Circus site – so limited damage.

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She also added that she is not sure that it is illegal to enclose the Common and will check this. A lot to consider and requires continued dialogue so we can reach common ground.

For Festival Republic, Events Lambeth have been required to seek permission from Sec of State – this is unprecedented.

Kevin Crook reported that the application has been submitted and consultation has taken place – feedback is that it will take a long time to complete application, it is uncertain as to status of this.

GJ asked about the procedure if permission is not given from Sec of State. **KC** reported that the legal team looking into this – he will keep CCMAC updated.

Action point KC

SM asked about other issues that have been recurring during lockdown measures, anti-social behaviour, litter, late night drinking, drug dealing etc.

SW reported that extra portaloos have been installed and fines for littering have been issued. Efforts to tackle this are ongoing / resources are an issue so needs to be supported by police.

SW Will take away and look at in more detail.

Encampment moved from Shepherds Green on 18th June – groups joining inc. anti-vaccine protesters. There are now 70 tents and concern that this will become even larger. High Court papers have been served but a possession order has not been granted - communicating with police.

KC update – it is noted that the protesters are calling for support via Instagram and don't plan to leave. On Monday 5th there is a meeting with legal team to re-apply for possession order. It is a significant operation to move the encampment and is taking many man-hours to try to solve. Police are reluctant to intervene until possession order is granted.

Information re 'damage', anti-social behaviour could support the case for removal of the encampment. To date a trench (fire pit) has been dug, site is quite clean – woodland was left in a good condition - no litter etc.

IR added that the hearing judge invited the protesters to put their case to judge by 19th July meaning that the whole process is being prolonged.

AD What is recourse after the judgement – do we have to put up with smaller encampments?

TB what is being asked for? An interim order?

AS is there any scope for the Council to make life 'less pleasant' e.g. spotlights – problem is we don't want to appear antagonistic etc.

LB lack of park benches – complaints about this – lots have been removed due to dis-repair. Can funds be made available?

SW Some of capital being allocated to the common or PIL – this will be considered / actioned by the Access Working Group

Could the council promote the idea of memorial benches e.g. on Love Lambeth?

Thank you, SW

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2. Updates from Lambeth Council - Kevin Crook

Encampment moved on from Hammersmith and Fulham - large number of complaints being received. Call on members to write to parks@lambeth.co.uk with complaints/ objections etc.
KC Will speak to Legal tomorrow to see if papers can be prepared ASAP

Capital Investment

Capital Programme – not good news still struggling with requirements finance had insisted on – need to try and simplify process. Conscious that we need to get on with projects in Masterplan – hope it will be resolved in next couple of days and money / budget codes will be released.

IR

- Portaloos a further 8 have been installed.
- Litter borough wide figures in April showed a 70% increase over last year, May a bit better down by 23%.
- 74 fixed penalty notices have been issued on Clapham Common, over 250 across Clapham.
- IR is now part of a pan London 'Litter Action Group' supported by GLA and London Environment Directors network.
- Looking at additional capacity i.e. bins (not people) and an additional dust cart to empty bins more regularly.
- Paddling pool will not reopen this summer, not many complaints at moment. Plans for redevelopment.
- Green waste site - in the final throws of clearing this – entrance resurfaced – boundary to be planted Autumn
- Tennis court toilets – regular vandalism – no water in men's toilet, deep clean etc. taking place soon. Café good at keeping an eye and reporting school pupils who are vandalising it.
- Grounds Maintenance Association taking samples from Sports pitched to benchmark against others – develop a long-term plan to improve quality of grass pitches.
- Minor renovations have been made to Battersea rise playground.
- Winterville question about when 28 days begins - meeting with Wandsworth planners to clarify.
- Toilet block – conditions survey done needs £2125k spend to make building safe – unsafe at moment so no internal viewings possible. Looking to make videos to send to interested parties and progress from there.

GJ asked for assistance in dealing with / getting a response from the trees Team
Action point GJ forward to IR who will pick it up with AJ.

TB what is timeframe for paddling pool? Reliant on capital programme – aim is May / summer 2022.

KS drinking fountain by tennis court. Not commissioned due to Covid restrictions – should be back once tested / checked etc. once these have been lifted.

Thank you, Kevin

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1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting:

NH Megans should have stated '3 phase electricity supply'.

2. Matters arising

Bandstand concerts

From 24th July for a month or so seeking volunteers stewarding – SM will send a note to all.

Eaglet Pond Proposal

GJ has sent an email with a brief outline

The viewing platform purpose and material choice was explained:

Pond sits in a crater so a problem protecting bank edges – aquatic planting will provide a barrier and chestnut paling around it. Small viewing deck gives a near panoramic view – timber decking not as suitable as material chosen – recycled milk cartons / looks like wood and is used around other ponds.

CCMAC support initiative / project

3. Working group updates

Sports

Park run delayed nationally assumption that it will start again after 19th July.

TLE

RP returning to Italy so group need to meet to discuss impact.

4. Members update

Friends no further update

Clapham Society

Survey which includes over 1000 comments is being reviewed.

Bandstand Beds

Can colleagues promote funding links (detailed below)

Update provided by **David Dandridge** via email:

"Busy month in the garden as we enter peak growing season. Harvested good quality broad beans, onions and beetroot but generally cropping is extremely late due to the adverse weather. Earlier this month, [London in Bloom](#) visited us. Very positive feedback about our growing spaces and the whole Common. Results come out in September. Fingers crossed both BBA and the Common have done well.

Preparations are ongoing for our autumn Feast & Car Free Day Celebration to take place on Windmill Drive on Saturday 25 September – Covid permitting. As well as *feastilicious* food cooked using our homegrown produce, and wildlife activities, the event will be used as a consultation platform for the closure of Windmill Drive, part of CCMAC's masterplan drawn up in 2007. [Vauxhall City Farm](#) will be attending the event and we've launched a [GoFundMe](#) to cover the costs. Donations welcome – please circulate among your friends and local business who might like to support the event.

Some of you may have seen the really interesting piece on the [Love Lambeth](#) about our partnership with [Froglife](#) and the Wild Times sessions they are now running as part of our

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Grown-Up Gardening sessions on Mondays, 2 to 4pm. This is a fantastic project for us to be involved with and to have on Clapham Common.

We will hear about our Awards for All application later this month. If successful, work on the composting bays on the GWS should be able to start late August.”

Litter management idea from BB – suggestions to liaise with Jeremy Keats in first instance.

Action point SM will share document.

AOB

Next meeting Thursday 2nd September – plan to be face to face if possible.

Action point AD to contact Omnibus re booking a meeting room.

Minutes completed by Shelagh Muchmore.