

**Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 7pm**  
**Meeting at Omnibus, Clapham**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Simon Millson (Chair – SM), Shelagh Muchmore (Secretary - SMu), Adrian Darley (Treasurer - AD), Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Nigel Haselden (NH), Andrew Summers (Clapham Society - AS), Gareth James (Friends of Clapham Common - GJ), Andrew Besso (Bandstand Beds - AB), Helen O'Malley (HOM) and Krishna Siva (KS)

**Apologies** – Joanna Reynolds, Paul Stephenson, Jeremy Keats

**Guests:** Jessica Buss, Phillippa Banister, - Street Space (Leading on community engagement) John McQueen, Rebecca Jones – PGA (Designers)

1. Welcome to the first face to face meeting since March 2020.

**2. Landscaping of Windmill Drive**

**Street Space (JB) update**

From mid-July community engagement has involved: 2 sessions at Bandstand Beds (BB), collaborative design session, 1 session at the Spinney with groups of children, SEN cohort, on-line workshop. Large posters with comments situated near BB.

Key themes:

- Cycle movement (too quick and not mindful of pedestrians),
- Expanding greenery and wildflower area
- More informal play areas including educational aspect
- Additional seating.

**RJ and JM presented the design (first iteration) – key points**

- Calm key conflict points i.e. bike paths, provide shared space – cyclists and pedestrians.
- Move closure further down on western side, maintain access to BB.
- Blend public highway into the Common, add seating on undulating wall to northern side including landscaping (provide an informal play route).
- Path and road all on one level (levelled up), curved parts.
- Design aims to 're-heal' areas which have been damaged.
- Net gain of 28m squared of green common space, this is a busy cycle and walking path so needs to provide adequate space for this.

Next stage of design to include more area for wildflowers, etc. A 3D model will be produced.

General view from CCMAC "keep it simple". Concerns raised about 'built' environment (discussions about reducing hard landscaping BB) rather than natural environment – use of logs etc, also need to be cognisant of accessibility.

Comments can be added via the QR code on posters situated near Bandstand Beds.

Funding – Lambeth Council funding.

**Thank you PGA and Street Space.**

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### **1. Approval of Minutes of last meeting**

### **2. Matters arising**

#### **Review of Action points**

- Procedure for Sec of State permissions – has been covered.
- Response from Trees team received.
- Additional bins – AB to run idea past JK. **Action point continues**

### **3. Scrubland proposals**

**GJ** circulated the proposal which is very detailed and self-explanatory. There is no overlap with Windmill Drive plans or with wildflower areas. Use of gorse evocative of common land; this existed previously and was removed to ease access to events. Hedgerow plants that can be cut and kept to a height of between 1.2-1.4m – can be cut back, unimposing – a versatile plan.

This is part of the 'Master Plan' which is a joint responsibility between CCMAC and Lambeth Council and is the driving force – is being adapted to ensure if it achievable – needs reviewing soon.

**NH** urges that projects acknowledge each other e.g. scrubland looks at paths and thoroughfares (which will be part of Access working group). All agreed on this.

Funding is ready, contractor identified, and plants being grown. Next steps – ensure IR and KC agree with plan. Aim is to start work in early October.

#### **Action point GJ to follow up with Lambeth**

### **4. Feedback on CCMAC performance from members**

Review of Strategic Objectives:

1. We will provide a voice for people who use the Common working in consultation and partnership with the London Borough of Lambeth (LBL) and other key agencies.

In general, CCMAC is a group of hugely committed people who do masses for the Common, gets stuff done and fights for money for the Common. Relationship with Lambeth Council is very constructive, although there is room for improvement, and has greatly improved over recent years.

Follow up and response times by Lambeth Council on action points is a concern. Possible reasons

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- Lack resources, loss of key personnel, level of authority and decision making capability, COVID impact, firefighting and increased workload.
- Organisation under 'Parks and Leisure' has been a positive move – new personnel have been recruited.
- Going forward CCMAC to prioritise actions, CCMAC to offer to 'take' some of the workload.

**Action point CCMAC have a 'open' discussion with Lambeth Council about what is achievable, areas of responsibility, decision makers etc.**

2. We will facilitate effective and sustainable management of the Common.

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CCMAC has worked hard to mitigate damage caused by events, for example, reducing the number of event days from over 40 to 13 this year. We also succeeded in moving Winterville to the circus site.

Events Working Group members are LB, HOM and AS. It was agreed that this group should lead CCMAC's response on events.

The PIL (public investment levy on events) has been used to fund several improvements although concerns were raised about the amount of PIL that is returned to the common

CCMAC wishes to review amount of PIL from events which can be used for initiatives - currently stands at 21%. Key requirement is that Lambeth demonstrates that Clapham Common gets a 'fair share' of money from revenues. (SM has raised this previously with Councillor Winifred).

A further discussion to clarify what is required for events to go ahead is needed. For example some people claim Secretary of State approval is required by law.

**Action point SM and KC to discuss/clarify. Also, to include a request for direct communication about events which are going to happen in 2022.**

3. We will conserve the heritage and enrich the biodiversity of the Common for the benefit of users and the local community.

The Common now has Green Flag status and won a series of awards in recent years. A number of initiatives have been successfully implemented - more trees, wildflower areas, new playground and refurbished Bandstand. It has also successfully secured £1 million investment from Lambeth Council to improve paths and signage and replace the paddling pool.

Conservation and biodiversity – lots of good and positive initiatives - including most recently the wildflower areas and bird and bat boxes. Access Working Group to look at this in more detail although inefficiency has been pointed out to Lambeth.

4. We will strive to balance the interests of the people who use the Common and the local community.

CCMAC is not a single issue campaign group but represents all users of Clapham Common. There are wide and varying points of view on the Committee, reflecting the community in which we live, but there is a need to improve representation from younger people in particular. Discussion took place about how to improve representation on CCMAC. Wider and more effective publicity and communication may be needed to raise the profile. Rotate membership from Bandstand Beds could help.

Other ideas to attract new members include:

- more recruitment with local communities e.g. parent and governing bodies in local schools
- Co-opt people onto working groups
- Revisit number of community representatives

Events coming up include: Open General Meeting in February 2022, Open Event on Windmill Drive 25<sup>th</sup> September. To fill vacancies from the community four new members are required.

**Action point SM to circulate agreement re events reached with Lambeth in 2019.**

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5. We will maintain a robust infrastructure and sustainable organisation

CCMAC now has a website and social media accounts. An active Twitter account with over 2000 followers) and Instagram account over 2400 followers) and a newsletter issued once a month to let people know what is happening across the Common. CCMAC has secured some corporate donations and has also been fundraising at our Bandstand concerts.

**Action Point SM to check distribution list of newsletter.**

**5. AOB**

**KS** What is happening to Bowling Green/Tennis courts? No presence from Council – who looks after it?

**Action point SM / LB to follow up with IR.**

Date for diaries: 25<sup>th</sup> September Bandstand Beds Feast and Car Free day.

**6. Next meeting Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Minutes completed by Shelagh Muchmore.