

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Thursday 6th October 2022 - 7pm — held by Zoom

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Simon Millson (Chair – SM), Shelagh Muchmore (Secretary – SM), Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Ben Curtis (BC), Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ), Gareth James (Friends of Clapham Common - GJ), Helen O'Malley (HOM), Jeremy Keates (Clapham BID JK), Krishna Siva (KS) and Kevin Crook (Lambeth Council – KC)

Apologies – Adrian Darley, Joanna Reynolds, Andrew Summers, Bandstand Beds and Ian Ross

1. Update from Lambeth Council

KC

General Update

Climate resilience – Friends leading the debate and Lambeth Council are conscious that a strategic document is needed which is being worked on. Clapham Common will lead the way on this and be a trial bed for some initiatives which will be extended to the rest of the borough.

An initiative being looked at is to increase number of local nature reserves - SM volunteered Clapham Common at the Lambeth Parks Forum and Dr Iain Boulton (IB) is keen to establish one on CC. Lambeth need to go through a formal process with Natural England, publicise commitment. This may help with sourcing grants / funds.

GJ - What will that mean for spread of robinia etc? KC confirmed that this initiative would not prevent us doing anything about this.

Next steps — identify area and IB applies through Natural England.

BC asked about the request he had received about scout camp on Westside – need to ensure safeguarding — in principle Lambeth approve – KC to advise how to progress – Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB) to lead through events team.

Windmill Drive – mediation session held with residents. Lambeth will present a 'package to offer them' on 22nd October. A second mediation session will follow.

Events

- Planning Application for events on Lambeth side of the Common due end of November - Moonwalk
- Application to Wandsworth for other events - Nickleodeon, Luna Cinema, Skyline (London-Brighton cycle) and International Circus - to be made mid December
- Negotiations ongoing with George Irwin for Christmas
- Festival Republic's application for 2024 is due on 21st October. Seeking clarity on FR contract
- Awaiting applications from other regular bookings
- Events site for next year — enquiries have been received for non-music events.

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Having previously agreed that the Events Site was oversized and needed to be reduced, KC said he had re-checked with IB (who had based measurements on the 1877 map) and now thinks it is the right size at 10%. GJ challenged this view but agreed a Public Inquiry was not the place to discuss discrepancies. KC said he would forward details of how this has been calculated.

Future capital projects

Disused toilet block business case for capital bid — decision November – capital available next year £70k — est. £330k required to restore the building.

Capital required approx. £1m for toilet block, restoration of football and Redgras pitches, and development of bowling green. SM reiterated with KC that the projects had to be discussed and agreed at CCMAC.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes approved

3. Matters Arising

CCTV – 6 cameras ready to be installed in agreed locations. SM to follow up with Ian Ross.

4. Annual Meeting – Scheduled for 2nd February 2023, Omnibus Theatre

Ten community representatives to be elected. All current reps will need to be re-elected. All attendees asked to promote involvement in local community.

SM reiterated that any amendments to the constitution need to be raised at the next CCMAC meeting.

GJ suggested now is the time for CCMAC to introduce a clause on climate change that encourages events and developments to have a commitment to becoming carbon neutral or climate positive. This is not intended to be prohibitive but to keep the Common in line with Lambeth's 'Climate Action Plan' to decarbonise the borough. GJ and AIJ to work together on a possible clause for next meeting.

HOM suggested that CCMAC formalise affairs by making policy statements — she agreed to bring draft wording to the next meeting.

5. Member group updates

Friends

15-16 Oct Pumpkin Patch event for families will be held. Tickets being sold through schools — games, activities with 1000 pumpkins available to buy. GJ noted that the Operations team have very supportive — all funds raised will go to Wetlands.

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GJ is working with John Mackie (from Lambeth Trees) as Lambeth may be planting up to 30 trees this autumn. The Friends will plant an additional 20 trees to make a total of 50. Species and locations to be agreed with John Mackie.

Bandstand Beds Report provided by email:

September was a busy time for Bandstand Beds; running the weekly garden sessions, harvesting the remainder of our crops and of course making preparations for the annual Feast and Car-Free celebration held on 24th of the month. The feast was a great success. For the second year running the weather was kind to us.

We received generous donations for the food prepared by our volunteers. We also received some excellent prizes from local businesses which we were able to award for the various competitions and raffle. The storytelling and scarecrow building activities were as popular as ever. We're also very grateful for the support we received on the day from CCMAC, The Clapham Society, Froglife, Dr Bike, Wheels for Wellbeing and Heathbrook School.

6. Working Group Updates

Waterplay

SM updated. In response to the tender two submissions have been received — both companies have a good track record.

After reviewing both one company has been selected and the approval process is now underway. Timescales are likely to be as follows:

- November contractor appointed.
- Detailed design and consultation process
- Construction begins February 2023
- opening spring/summer 2023

Wild Clapham

Wild Clapham members met with IB and LMB, and now have provisional approval to continue to develop the design for the new larger wetland next to Eagle Pond. The location will be key to sustainability issues. It will probably need Sec. of State approval as it will include a viewing deck and a boardwalk across the wetland. It is planned for autumn 2023. CCMAC has previously approved the idea and any developments will be reviewed and approval sought from CCMAC at future stages.

IB has also approved an additional 9-11 scrubland islands in the 'dog walkers' area and behind the Pear Tree café. Iain also approved planting of alder buckthorn and dog roses around the new wildflower meadows.

Wild Clapham is applying to become a member group of CCMAC and also registering as a charity. A statement re differences between Friends and Wild Clapham was read out by GJ and is attached to the minutes.

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7. AOB

SM said wildflower seeding to commence week of 17th October at locations agreed last year. It will include a wildflower meadow on Northside close to Trinity Church. This is being priced and will probably cost circa £10k. SM agreed to send recirculate the map of the areas to be seeded.

GJ met with IB and LMB to confirm the need for three new fast-fill watering stations in preparation for volunteers next year. Both Iain and Lara approved the idea and Lara is investigating costs with T Loughman contractors.

LB has also raised the need for these with Cabinet Member for Parks, Rezina Chowdry.

Clapham BID

A meeting was held with several CCMAC members (LB, SM and GJ) and JK re site behind the Tube Station – several initiatives in the past have not worked well (grass not lasting, high footfall etc).

Grassy knoll — wildflower seeds have been put down, not established yet.

Public art installation – Studio Voltaire has expressed interest — broad support for this to be looked at in more detail

It was agreed that a wider discussion about appropriate use of this space is necessary, and a follow up meeting will be arranged. Will be added to agenda for next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting - Thursday 3rd November

Minutes drafted by Shelagh Muchmore.

Attachment – Wild Clapham Input