

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Thursday 1 December 2022 – 7pm — Zoom

Clapham Common Depot, Windmill Drive

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Simon Millson (Chair – SM), Adrian Darley (AD - Treasurer), Cllr Ben Curtis (BC), Krishna Siva (KS), Gareth James (GJ - Friends of Clapham Common), Helen O'Malley (HOM), Joanna Reynolds (JR), Daisy Everingham (DE - Bandstand Beds) and Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB - Lambeth Council).

External presenters: Dr Iain Boulton (IB), Lambeth Council, Local Nature Reserve on Clapham Common

Apologies – Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ), Shelagh Muchmore (SMu), Andrew Summers (AS - Clapham Society), Jeremy Keates (JK - This is Clapham - Clapham BID) and Ian Ross (IR - Lambeth Council).

1. External Presenters

Local Nature Reserve on Clapham Common

IB outlined a proposal to create a Local Nature Reserve on Clapham Common and provided a map of the proposed area. This was met with universal approval. SM said CCMAC did not want a nature reserve in name only but a firm plan to develop the area identified as such. IB agreed and will have an application ready for submission by March 2023.

IB to circulate previous submissions.

2. Approval of minutes: The minutes of the meeting on November 3 2022 were approved.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising in the meeting but SM will raise an outstanding issue with JK who was absent from the meeting.

4. Annual meeting: CCMAC's annual meeting will take place at Omnibus Theatre on Thursday 2 February.

SM presented the notices and community representative form which were approved.

Amendments to the constitution as drafted by SM (Chair - CCMAC), GJ (Friends of Clapham Common) and AIJ (Clapham Society) drawn from the outputs of the strategic workshop in July and circulated for comment before the meeting were accepted and recommended to be submitted to the annual meeting in February 2023.

SM to circulate to Legal Services at Lambeth Council.

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5. Working Group Updates

Masterplan Delivery Group

SM reported that the contractor building the waterplay upgrade on Clapham Common will be confirmed shortly. After some internal paperwork, they will be appointed on 9 January to start the detailed design phase which will be ready for discussion and comment towards the end of January. The Masterplan Delivery Group has already given directional feedback on some outline designs.

Phase 1 of the work to upgrade the paths on Clapham Common will now most likely begin in mid January. In a programme of works, obsolete and out-of-date signs will be removed from 5 December.

An inclusivity consultant has been appointed to do some research into creating a blueprint for Clapham Common to be a "model park for accessibility" which is the first step in a plan to access National Lottery funding.

Wildflowers

SM reported that quotes have also been obtained detailing the cost of installing a second meadow beside Clapham Common Northside. If approved works could begin in the new year.

Wild Clapham

WC has now completed planting the scrubland area with over 90 new 10lt. shrubs, including - hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*). WC has also planted 5 small, coppiced hazels (*Corylus avellana*). The Friends has covered all plant costs.

Lambeth is planning to plant an additional 30 trees across the Common and we will be meeting with Lambeth's Tree Team and Lambeth Parks to discuss tree species and site locations. No date has been set for this and it looks likely to be in the New Year.

The site modelling for the Wetlands project is now underway and WC should have a first draft of the 3D designs within the next few weeks. These will be sent to all members of CCMAC for comments and feedback. All design costs have been covered by the Friends.

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WC current focus is on climate resilience in preparation for next year. WC has meetings in the next two weeks with Ajay Joshi (Head of Lambeth Trees) and Lambeth's Biodiversity Forum to share information and discuss best ways forward.

7. Member Group Updates

Friends of Clapham Common

The Friends has now completed this autumn's tree planting with 34 new broad-leaf trees, in a series of 'groves', to provide much-needed shade for the future. All tree species and site locations have been agreed and approved in advance by Lambeth's Tree Team and Lambeth Parks. The Friends has agreed to start substituting the failing horse-chestnut species with Indian horse chestnut as they are less prone to bleeding cankers and the leaf-miner moth. Sadly, the Tree Team now considers horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) to be a 'doomed' species.

The Friends and Best of Clapham are hosting a carol service at the Bandstand on the 11 December at 3.00pm. The Pear Tree Café is providing mulled wine and mince pies (at a discount) and all profits are going to Trinity Hospice. The next litter pick will be in January.

Clapham Society

Nothing to report.

Bandstand Beds

DE said Bandstand Beds (BBA) volunteers have been busy weeding the edge of the depot beside the community garden ready to plant 200 hedgerow/wildlife whips from the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) on Saturday 4 December.

BBA will hold a festive get-together on Saturday 10 December. This will be the final gardening session for this year.

8. Any other business - None

9. Date of next meeting - Thursday 5 January - virtual meeting.