

**Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**7pm, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**  
**Omnibus Theatre**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting**

**CCMAC:** Simon Millson (Chair – SM), Shelagh Muchmore (Secretary – SMc), 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), and Krishna Siva (KS)

**Lambeth Council:** Cllr Rezina Chowdhury, Cabinet Member for Sustainability; Kevin Crook, Head of Neighbourhoods (KC); plus officers Ian Ross, Lara Mifsud-Bonici, Dr Iain Boulton and Lucy Zeman

**Special Guest:** Florence Eshalomi, MP for Vauxhall

**Apologies:** Bandstand Beds

**Other Attendees:** 60

**Update from CCMAC -** Welcome from Simon Millson (SM), Chair of CCMAC

**1. Treasurer's Report – Adrain Darley (AD)**

Accounts presented. £3,800 balance but awaiting 2021 final payment of concert costs. Other sources of revenue include fees from film crews using the common (a fixed percentage paid to CCMAC by the Film Unit).

**2. Chair's Report - Simon Millson (SM)**

Overview and brief introduction by SM to CCMAC, its members and aims. Lambeth Council and CCMAC work together to manage and run Clapham Common. SM thanked KC and Lambeth Council for the £1 million investment in 2022.

Improvements are guided by measures that tackle climate change, improve mental and physical wellbeing, and encourage people to socialise enhancing community spirit and social cohesion.

Achievements and important developments since the last annual meeting held in 2020:

- Lockdown – more people used the Common and discovered its value, but unfortunately this came with some anti-social behaviour, for example, unlicensed music events and extra litter
- Sarah Everard memorial – this was an extraordinary national event. SM took footage of the Bandstand as the floral and other tributes were placed around the Bandstand. IS and SM came up the plan to clear the flowers and tributes sensitively

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with the flowers composted and used in Lambeth's parks and toys donated to local charities

- Illegal camping anti-establishment, anti-vaccine camp raised important issue i.e the Common is open so difficult to move people on. KC confirmed measures were about to put in place to address this issue.

### **Improvements**

- Refurbished Bandstand
- New playground by Windmill Drive
- New perimeter bollards along Windmill Drive (although a lot more to do)
- Refurbished basketball courts
- Closure of a section of Windmill Drive
- Reconditioned "events" site
- New composting facility
- 30 new bins installed and 70+ big bins cleaned and repaired
- Addition of 37 new light columns
- Wildflower havens and meadow
- New trees and shrubs
- 50 new bird and box boxes
- Removal of obsolete and out of date signs
- Two new cafes - Megans and Pear Tree Cafe
- Two CCTV cameras (plan is for one more)

### **What's coming in 2023**

- New pegs (platforms) around Mount Pond
- Landscaped Windmill Drive
- 50+ new benches
- Bowling Green Pavilion – café
- Wildflower meadow
- All bins will be uniform design

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- Modern waterplay to replace old and disused paddling pool – Planning Inspectorate visit expected in April. Contractors appointed and design work underway. Works will include rebuilding and relocating the plant room and construction of a new toilet. Request for watering point to be included – **Action point Lara Mifsud-Bonici will follow up.**
- Paths are being restored and repaired in a rolling programme of works.
- Local Nature Reserve to be established – papers will be submitted March 2023 – more trees, bushes and wildlife. LNR status gives a new layer of protection for biodiversity. Should be ready by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Battersea Woods toilet block to be remodelled to a café from May 2023. Changing rooms to be updated ready for new football season.

**Volunteers:** SM gave special thanks to all volunteers who give their time freely and willingly, for instance, to plant and water trees and shrubs, organise and marshal the Bandstand concerts, and the numerous litter picks that take place on the Common.

### **3. Election of new Community Representatives and approval of amendments to the CCMAC constitution**

**Community Representatives:** The meeting endorsed the appointment of eight CCMAC community representatives. SM thanked Shelagh Muchmore and Helen O'Malley who have resigned and welcomed new members - Michael Mooney/Clare McMenemy, Nikki Marsh, and Phil Carey.

**CCMAC Constitution:** proposed changes and amendments to the CCMAC constitution were approved at the meeting. The updated constitution will be published on CCMAC's website.

### **4. Members Group Updates:**

#### **- Friends of Clapham Common – Ed Alnutt**

The Friends have undergone many changes over the past few years - it now has charitable organisation status with limited liability. 700 members. Over past 18 months the Friends have raised over £700k.

Achievements include a wildflower meadow; new scrubland islands with 200 indigenous plants; over 100 new trees planted inc trial species to address climate change; and plans for a new Wetland adjacent to Eagle Pond.

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- Special thank you to CCMAC, Simon Millson and Lambeth Parks for their support and the 60 watering volunteers including some from Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- This year the Friends campaigned against Putt in the Park and plans for Festival Republic.

- **Clapham Society - Andrew Summers**

Clapham Society's mission is to improve quality of life in Clapham – the Common is part of this. The Society now has 800 members.

**5. Update from Florence Eshalomi, MP for Vauxhall**

Flo addressed the meeting praising the work of volunteers, the improvements made to Clapham Common, and reinforced her commitment to supporting the work of Lambeth Council and CCMAC. Concerns and issues raised include the increase in ASB, rough sleeping, impact of rent increases. Flo agreed follow up with the price and those concerned. SM thanks Flo for her support and contribution.

**6. Update from Cllr Rezina Chowdhury, Lambeth Council Cabinet Member for Sustainability**

- **Climate Action Plan** - Lambeth's goal is to become net zero by 2030.
- **Kerbside Strategy** – 94% used for car parking and this needs to change – launched in January 2023. First of its kind in the country.
- **Active Travel** - £70m infrastructure investment to transform street layout with low traffic neighbourhoods, cycling and walking infrastructure, and public transport are the priority networks.
- **Air Quality** - Eight key priorities identified to reduce pollution.
- **SUDS** - sustainable urban drainage. Some £6m to be invested to reduce flood risks and introduce more wetlands and trees.
- **Tree Planting** - 5000 new trees to be planted over the next 4 years.

**7. Update from Kevin Crook, Head of Neighbourhoods, Lambeth Council**

- **ASB** – Lambeth has created a dedicated parks enforcement team in place from March/April.

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- **Events** – Income pays for the team, community events, and bandstand concerts. Fixed 22% is ring-fenced for PIL (funds projects for Common) and will increase to 25% from April. Commitment made to apply for Secretary of State approval for temporary structures for events. Decision expected 2-3 months. Live Nation has a contract with Lambeth but decided not to go ahead with FR this year but will do so in 2024. 500 representations against this. Public inquiry at the end of summer, over 4 days (virtual).
- **Sports** - Football Foundation recommendations are under consideration. Changing rooms will be renovated, floodlight improvements, and online booking for tennis courts.
- **Investment** - A further £1 million investment was confirmed - on top of the £1 million awarded last year - for Clapham Common

### Other items

- Playground storeroom converted to refreshment kiosk to open in March as first directly managed refreshment outlet by Lambeth Council on the Common.
- 70 plus new benches bequest costing some £220k will be ordered for Clapham Common.

### 8. Questions from audience with action points

- The locks on tennis courts broken – **IR to review.**
- ASB on Windmill Drive – **KC to arrange consultation with Windmill Drive residents.**

SM closed the meeting by thanking the speakers, congratulating the new members of CCMAC and inviting a round of applause for the announcement of the **additional £1 million investment in Clapham Common** by KC.

Minutes drafted by Shelagh Muchmore.

**Date of next annual meeting - Thursday 1st February 2024**