

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 12 April 2023, 1900 - 2030 The Depot SW4

Attendees:

Simon Millson (Chair)
Cllr Linda Bray
Cllr Ben Curtis
Adrian Darley (Treasurer)
Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common)
Andrew Summers (Clapham Society)

Community Representatives

Phil Carey (and Secretary)
Michael Mooney
Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Nikki Marsh tried to take part by Zoom but was thwarted by technical difficulties at The Depot.

Lambeth Council

Lara Mifsud-Bonci (LMB)
Ian Ross (IR)
+ Joshua Learner (JL) (*Item 1 only*)

Apologies: Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones

1. Updated plans for Windmill Drive

Joshua Learner, Lambeth's Head of Transport Strategy and Programmes, explained with the aid of detailed maps the new configuration which will begin construction towards the end of the summer. He believed that concerns previously raised by CCMAC had been addressed (as set out in his email of 16 March), but CCMAC felt that there remained substantive issues under two main headings:

- *Vehicle access*

Public parking will be reduced by some 10 spaces, in line with Lambeth's policy of discouraging car use. CCMAC expected some objection from those who feel they need to drive to access the Common but don't qualify for the additional disabled parking spaces being provided by both Lambeth and Wandsworth. It also saw some risk of abuse by Council contractors of their right to park exempt vehicles on a reserved stretch of kerb on the northern side, going beyond essential business only; this would need to be carefully monitored. GJ obtained some assurance that the procedure for registering permitted vehicle registration marks (VRMs) would be sufficiently flexible to cope with sub-contractors' VRMs not being known until the time of arrival.

- *Shared-space 'roundabout' layout at junction with the cycle path to Northside*

Lambeth understand this 'implied roundabout' is the first use in the UK of a paving design using concentric circles at a junction as a calming measure where cyclists have to share space with pedestrians. Along with CCMAC, they are alert to the threat from the small minority of cyclists who might fail to cooperate. Lambeth, seeking to avoid 'creeping urbanisation' from intrusive signing, currently propose simple Pedestrian

Priority signs on all approaches stating 'considerate cycling welcomed'. It was agreed the instruction to cyclists needed to be strengthened; and, to highlight the presence of dogwalkers, that the sign should incorporate a symbol of a dog alongside the bike and the pedestrian figures. There was some optimism that the concentric circles should be effective, but CCMAC and other Community partners continue to have strong reservations about the safety of this part of the proposal despite the proposed mitigations. It would also help to see evidence of how the concept has worked in other countries.

Lambeth will monitor performance of the Windmill Drive changes, with particular reference to these two areas of concern, 2-4 weeks after completion and again 4-5 months later; a decision would then be taken on whether to make the changes permanent, Lambeth having worked with CCMAC through that period to seek to resolve any problems.

Action: JL to

- (i) consider extending the raised carriageway further along Windmill Drive (eastwards) to make clearer the restrictions on vehicle movement;**
- (ii) assess how to make what's expected from cyclists as clear as possible, consistent with other cycle lane signing; this might entail 'STOP' surface markings at each approach;**
- (iii) add a dog symbol to the signing; and**
- (iv) share with CCMAC summary reports on the effectiveness in other countries of concentric circles as a calming measure.**

2. Matters arising from last meeting

The minutes of the 2 March meeting were approved; the two actions that had either not now been completed or been picked up in other agenda items being (i) the need for more Fast Flow Stations for use by volunteers watering trees; and (ii) the unsightly No Parking barriers at the northern end of West Side, both assigned to LMB. Overlapping leave by relevant officials and Aquineo has delayed a response on these two points, so deferred to the next meeting.

3. Ongoing Clapham Common works update

IR and LMB reported on works which are:

Under way now: – the new power supply to Megans should be completed next week, although full reinstatement of the path may take some time.

- Starting soon:*
- new meadow at Northside, from 14 April;
 - Waterplay, now clarified as using for the surface a shredded tyre product, assured by the contractor, with no evidence to date of leeching. This is nonetheless a highly visible project which CCMAC will need to monitor closely.
 - changing rooms refurbishment, from end April.
 - further bench renewals: extra funding coming through, plus three donated benches to be installed.

- Delayed:*
- confirmed that the Bowling Green Pavilion now has no operator lined up, and little progress so far with the mooted in-house Lambeth replacement.
 - refurbishment of the old toilet block (by changing rooms), given need for some challenging preparatory works first

- Unresolved:*
- responsibility for litter collection on the grassy knoll by CC tube station

4. Planning Inspectorate inquiry into events on the Common

The Chair has taken part in preparatory sessions for the parties led by the Inspectorate, ahead of the Inquiry scheduled for June. Participants are urged to coordinate their input to avoid repetition, but will also want to ensure all grounds of objection are covered. He will therefore meet soon with Cllrs Bray and Inglis-Jones (plus possibly Cllr Curtis), along with Mark Leffler (Clapham Society) and Ed Allnut (FCC).

Action: Chair to arrange through Doodle poll

As part of its preparation, Wild Clapham is keen to see the Council's contract with Idverde.

Action: as advised by IR, GJ to submit FOI request to Lambeth

5. Working group updates

- *Access:* first path resurfacing (in rolling programme through 2023) in SW corner successfully completed
- *Bandstand Concerts:* programme (10 June to end July) to be announced very shortly
- *Governance:* work now under way drafting policies for CCMAC on dealing with harassment / bullying, and on conflicts of interest; aiming to report back by June meeting
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology:* CCMAC-led volunteers focusing on wildflower area on weekly basis from Saturday 15 April.

Finances: The Treasurer reported that reimbursement from Lambeth for 2022 concerts is now imminent; we will also shortly receive CCMAC's share of income from film crew parking.

6. Member Group updates

- *Wild Clapham*: GJ advised that recent rains mean all trees and shrubs are in good health, and perennials have recovered well. He is promoting the *change.org* petition in support of the 6-Acre Wood proposal, independently of CCMAC. The Committee considered Wild Clapham's new proposal to create a Wetland just to the west of Eagle Pond; this was endorsed by CCMAC, IR having been assured that ongoing maintenance, including of the proposed wooden boardwalk, would be the responsibility of volunteers.

Action: GJ to discuss with IR next steps for Wetland proposal, including whether any SoS approval would be needed.

- *Bandstand Beds*: not present at the meeting, but LMB reported on discussion with them, including need to replace current chestnut fencing on their site. Several members reported criticism of the replanted border to the south of the Green Waste site, which is likely to remain unsightly for several seasons until the new whips have grown sufficiently to provide a screen. **Action: IR to consider what remedial measures Lambeth could take on to improve the screening.**

7. AOB

- JR proposes we invite the Mud Club organiser to a CCMAC meeting to learn more about its work
- JR proposes to present to the Tenants & Residents Associations at the Notre Dame and Oaklands estates highlighting CCMAC's work and encouraging participation, with the aim of boosting diversity on the Committee.

Date of next meeting: 4 May, 1900; the Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary