

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) Minutes of meeting on Thursday 4 May 2023, 1900 - 2050 The Depot SW4

Attendees:

Simon Millson (Chair)	<i>Community Representatives</i>
Cllr Linda Bray	Phil Carey (and Secretary)
Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)	Nikki Marsh
Adrian Darley (AD) (Treasurer)	Michael Mooney
Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common)	Krishna Siva (KS)
Andrew Summers (AS) (Clapham Society)	

Lambeth Council

Lara Mifsud-Bonci (LMB)
Ian Ross (IR)
+ Cllr Donatus Anyanwu (DA) (*Item 2 only*)

Apologies: Cllr Ben Curtis, Joanna Reynolds (JR)

1. Matters arising from last meeting

The minutes of the 12 April meeting were approved;

LMB reported that (i) approval was in place to install three Fast Flow stations for watering; GJ will engage with Aquineo on the precise configuration; (ii) plans are being drawn up to deal with the unsightly No Parking barriers at the northern end of West Side, possibly in conjunction with removal of tarmac surfacing.

Four actions regarding the Windmill Drive reconfiguration were assigned to Joshua Learner.

Action: Chair to liaise with JL to get progress report for next meeting

Other actions from 12 April had either been completed or are picked up in subsequent agenda items.

2. Events strategy

Cllr Donatus Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Leisure and Sport, set out his approach to events strategy for Lambeth parks. It was essential to work in partnership with local communities, balancing the range of interests and aspirations, and aiming to engage as wide a mix of people as possible. The revenue from hosting events enables the Council to maintain parks, but they must be 'culturally appropriate' and support rather than limit opportunities for families.

He proposes putting in place a framework for future events on Clapham Common, determining the desired number and scale of events and how to ensure local participation. The model should be the framework now successfully agreed for Brockwell Park. Work on a framework for the Common should start with CCMAC meeting the Events team to agree the principles, and should involve Cllr Rezina Chowdhury (Sustainable Lambeth / clean air lead) as well.

In discussion, CCMAC members highlighted the importance of maximising the Parks Investment Levy contribution from events, and the need to tackle unlicensed activity.

Action: Chair to invite Events team lead and Cllr Chowdhury to next meeting

3. Ongoing Clapham Common works update

IR and LMB reported on works which are:

Under way:

- the new power supply to Megans has been installed but has not yet been activated. It has also emerged that the roof structure partly covering the terrace may be a breach of planning conditions.

Action: IR to investigate position on both issues

- authorisation for the remaining bench installation is in train, and IR is keen to fast-track this as far as possible
- new bins are now being installed as part of a rolling programme
- work on the new meadow at Northside is proceeding as planned

Starting soon:

- Green Waste Site: the Operations team have been reminded of their responsibilities for keeping it in good order, and clearing up (including the green wall) should be completed in time for summer
- fishing pegs on Mount Pond will be installed next week
- changing rooms refurbishment still awaits planning approval from Wandsworth Council, but with 6-8 week build time should still be completed in time for the autumn season (however, work on the toilet block alongside will take longer)

Action: IR to chase Wandsworth planning

- Bowling Green: Lambeth is awaiting its consultants' business case on options for the site, including the possibility of a padel tennis court on the former green further from Westside, and a sensory garden planned for the green closer to the road; it would help to understand the noise and visual impact from an existing example of a padel court, at LTA Roehampton.

Action: IR to liaise with members interested in inspection visit

- The Council's expanded Enforcement Team is now being recruited, enabling it to operate out of office hours too.

- Delayed:*
- Bowling Green Pavilion café: Lambeth yet to decide whether to work up a plan for in-house operation, or take faster option of going back to market, being clearer this time on its requirements (including operation of kiosk too and refurbishment of toilets, but excluding use of wider site)
 - reinstatement of the verges by the resurfaced footpath to Clapham South was not covered by the contract and needs to be addressed separately

4. Temporary toilets

AIJ expressed serious concern, shared across the Committee, at the current closure of the toilets by the central playground. IR explained that the Council will use CCTV in the coming week to establish whether the cause is misuse or damage to the drains. He is scoping whether and when Portaloo toilets could be provided temporarily, although the hire and servicing cost has risen sharply since last year. A strongly worded intervention from CCMAC, highlighting the role the Common plays for the wider region, could accelerate the Council's response.

Action: AIJ and Chair to email Venetia Reid-Baptiste (Lambeth's Director of Environment and Streetscene) and Bayo Dosunmu (CEO) explaining the urgent need to restore toilet provision.

5. Planning Inspectorate inquiry into events on the Common

GJ reported on further preparations for the Inquiry, expected to run for three weeks from 13 June, and lead to an Inspector's decision by October. In addition to a CCMAC submission, AIJ will be presenting her own statement. The Inquiry proceedings will be viewable on-line.

Actions: AIJ to share summary of her evidence with Chair and Member Group leads; Chair to publicise our input in next CCMAC newsletter.

6. Working group updates

Four of the Groups reported this month:

- *Bandstand Concerts*: awaiting formal Council approval for the summer programme (10 June to end July)
- *Governance*: draft policies on: harassment / bullying; conflicts of interest; and equality, diversity and inclusion, to be presented to June and July meetings for approval.
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology*: AD reported on the work jointly with FCC (and initiated by them) examining the opportunities for new hedging at various points on the Common, with a view to planting in October.

Action: AD to circulate draft proposals

- *Waterplay*: currently under construction, on target for completion early July; the composite rubber surfacing product will be tested regularly to provide assurance re any safety implications. Users would be expected to cooperate to avoid over-crowding on hot days; this self-policing approach has worked well at other sites in the Borough. AS asked what provision has been made so far for landscaping the immediate surroundings

after construction, and, as mid-summer will be too late for seeding the area, suggested temporary fencing would be needed to prevent it becoming an unsightly mudpatch.

- **Action: IR to establish what can be done**
- *Wild Clapham:* GJ will pursue the Wetland proposal with Dr Ian Boulton (Parks & Open Spaces).

7. Member Group updates

Nil reports from the Member Groups

8. Learnings from XR Camp

The Chair explained Lambeth's decision reluctantly to tolerate the unlicensed camping at the end of April, given the police's decision not to intervene and enforce, and given the time it would take the Council to obtain its own court order; Committee members however expressed concern at the precedent this has set for any unlicensed camping. It was agreed it was important to pursue XR to cover the costs of making good the spillage damage from the portals.

9. AOB

- Tennis licensing: IR will liaise with Simon Harris, Sport Development Manager, to establish how concerns raised by KS will be addressed in forthcoming consultation on new procedures.

Date of next meeting: 1 June, 1900; the Depot.

The Secretary's proposal to make The Depot the default location in future, but allowing for Zoom meetings instead when a member requires it or a guest speaker requests, was considered. Concerns were expressed about personal safety when accessing The Depot on dark evenings. Possible alternative venues such as the Omnibus Theatre, Clapham Leisure Centre or Hawksworth Hall (Oaklands Estate) were noted, but a hybrid in-person / Zoom option might be feasible in due course at The Depot given the possibility of improved wifi provision there.

Action: Chair and Secretary to discuss further

Post-meeting update: that discussion took place on 9 May; they agreed that The Depot should be the default location for now as per the proposal, on the understanding that the position would be reviewed in the autumn.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary