

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 7 September 2023, 1900 - 2100 The Depot SW4

Attendees:

Simon Millson (SM) (Chair)	<i>Community Representatives</i>
Cllr Linda Bray (LB)	Phil Carey (PC) (and Secretary)
Cllr Ben Curtis	Adrian Darley (AD) (and Treasurer)
Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)	Michael Mooney (MM)
Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common FCC)	Joanna Reynolds (JR) (and Vice-Chair)
Andrew Summers (AS) (Clapham Society)	Charlee Boston (CB)

Lambeth Council

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC); Henry Umah, ASB Enforcement Team Leader (HU); Ikram Syed, Parks Engagement and Enforcement Officer (IS); Lucy Zaman, Event Service Manager (LZ). (HU and IS Item 2 only; LZ Items 2 and 3 only)

Apologies: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB), Krishna Siva, Louisa Hartwell (Clapham BID, for Jeremy Keates)

Charlee Boston attended the meeting for the first time and explained her interest in becoming a Community Representative. She is Chair of the Tenants & Residents Association of the Notre Dame Estate (since 2021), and having lived in the area for nearly 30 years has a passion for Clapham and for ensuring local people understand what the Common has to offer. The Committee unanimously agreed to co-opt her to the Committee pending confirmation at the next Annual Open Meeting.

1: Matters arising from last meeting

The minutes of the 6 July meeting were approved, and on matters arising not picked up elsewhere:

- Action 2A: Chair will post information re mowing policy on website; **restated as Action 1A**
- Action 2C: AIJ will seek dialogue with the boat club aiming at resolution re ownership of the boat house; **restated as Action 1B**

2: Lambeth Enforcement Team and Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs)

Given heightened concern about disruptive UMEs since the last meeting, KC, along with H... and I..., two members of the Council's new Enforcement Team, explained the twin-track approach Lambeth is taking to tackle illegal use of the Common:

- *Preventing vehicle access:* the larger-scale UMEs all rely on bringing kit by motor vehicle on to the Common. Lambeth is tightening the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) on its part of Windmill Drive, and are in the process of engaging with Wandsworth officers to request a tightening of the current lax arrangements on their western stretch of the road. The works to reconfigure Windmill Drive, about to start, should make parking control easier. New bollards have been delivered and will soon be installed to fill gaps and rectify damage.
- *Ensuring enforcement capability:* once the fourth member of the Enforcement Team is recruited (to be a s92 police officer funded by Lambeth) the Team will have the right combination of powers, able to require identification necessary for pursuing prosecution for contravention of the byelaws, and to obtain registered keeper details for vehicles driving on to the Common. The police have said they are unable to obtain these details unless they are on site. Lambeth officers will be asking the police to come on site to obtain registered keeper details and in lieu of that have asked the parking enforcement team if they can obtain details through DVLA. Officers will also ask the police if the weekend dispersal orders currently in place for Clapham High Street can be extended to parts of the common.

In discussion, it was noted that the illegal operators should be reminded of the opportunity to apply for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) licence, but that a nightclub on the Common must not be tolerated; operators such as 'MJR Family' were blatant in their abuse of the law. CCMAC members asked how they could assist enforcement activity. The following actions were agreed:

- **2A: HU will summarise in an email, for wider circulation, all the steps people should take when disturbed by a UME, taking account of the need to protect personal safety.**
- **2B: the Enforcement Team should collect video evidence of offences; they would need to be accompanied by a police officer, but only for a short period as a protective measure, thus reducing the demands on police time.**
- **2C: Lambeth to erect signs at key sites highlighting what is prohibited by the byelaws (KC)**
- **2D: LZ to discuss with Lambeth's Environment Health team what action can be taken to 'blacklist' caterers involved with UMEs on the Common**
- **2E: CCMAC to explore when meeting the Wandsworth Common MAC (being rescheduled for October) how to engage Wandsworth-side Councillors in tightening up their parking restrictions (Chair / PC)**

3: Planned events and proposed Framework

LZ outlined the prospects for events on the Common through to next autumn. The organisers of the *Oktoberfest* have postponed their plans to 2024, as they were running out of time to resolve risks for an event this October. They would be keen to use the main event site, dropping the funfair element given its impact on the condition of the grass; and we clarified that if the funfair remained only the fairground site would be acceptable.

Six smaller scale events are still scheduled for this autumn, and further regular events, including *Moonwalk* and *Race for Life*, are lined up for next spring. A newcomer may be *Neighbourgood*, an operator of open-air food and drink markets; they have requested use of a site near Clapham South to base some 17 businesses over a 6-week period from mid-May. CCMAC's initial reaction was supportive, if there would be no (or minimal) charge for entry to the site and if they prioritise bringing in local businesses, including restaurants whose trade might be affected. It was concerned however about the impact of such a prolonged stay on one area of the Common, and urged Neighbourgood to relocate a couple of times during the stay, and take the opportunity to refresh the range of local operators.

Mid-June might see both the return of *Luna Cinema*, and *Secret Cinema* for the first time; the latter has greater ambition, seeking to occupy up to 58,000m².

Alongside *Festival Republic*, on which the Secretary of State is due to make his decision this month, the biggest potential revenue generator would be hosting a *London Fashion Week* event, in September / October 2024. Although only a short invite-only show for a major brand, the organiser would take over part of the events site for 3-4 weeks to set up its tailor-made pavilion. Kennington Park has successfully hosted a similar event, although it generated some local criticism. CCMAC felt that the exclusive nature of this proposal might not be welcomed, but this might be mitigated by taking place after the summer, and taking a smaller footprint than Festival Republic, if approved. The Committee would oppose Lambeth consenting to both Festival Republic and the Fashion event in close succession.

- **Action 3A: LZ to check what, if anything, Neighbourgood plan to charge for entry, and to clarify the area requirement submitted by Secret Cinema**

Work on the Events Framework for the Common, as introduced by Cllr Anyanwu in May, would begin as soon as the Festival Republic decision is out, including the CCMAC sub-group led by Cllr Bray (comprising also JK and AS). KC warned that the pressure on the Council for revenue generation will intensify, given it needs to make £38m of savings over the next four years. Whilst CCMAC and FCC would scrutinize any proposals carefully, it would be important to counter any sense from the Cabinet that they were inherently hostile to events activity.

4: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

KC explained that approval was imminent for new capital investment funding of:

- £150k to convert the toilet block by the Westside changing rooms into a café (to be run in-house), subject to (long-awaited) planning approval from Wandsworth; and
- £80k for the bowls pavilion area to facilitate conversion to a café, aiming for that to be operated under contract. Operation of the site will be put out to tender shortly, seeking proposals for generating revenue for Lambeth by reviving some form of sporting use (including possibly a return to bowling). Cabinet members remain interested in the padel tennis option.

- **Action 4A (repeated from July meeting):** KC to share revised competition documentation, and CCMAC to then determine whether it needs to set a time limit for completion of the tender process
- **Action 4B:** Chair to provide KC with CCMAC summary assessment following Roehampton site visit in July.

On other works, KC reported that:

- Waterplay: the contractor Ustigate is investigating a number of snagging issues, including re the toilets, and some service shortcomings are being surveyed by the supplier Aquaneo.
 - **Action 4C:** KC also to request better signing for users of the re-activation button which overrides the regular safety cut-off.
- *Laying new pitches on the Redgras site: local MPs will shortly be briefed on-site. Despite there being no available details, there was a primary disagreement within CCMAC over the use of plastic rather than real grass for the surfaces.*
 - **Action 4D:** KC / LMB to brief next meeting on specific proposal
- Path resurfacing: now no funding available for work on further paths beyond the priority stretches already addressed; KC will update shortly on what can be done.
- Tree planting: locations being identified for planting a further 100+ trees over the next three years.
- Windmill Drive: alongside the new layout on which work is about to start, CCMAC flagged the need for clearer signing as to which of the parallel paths to north and south of the road is the cycle path.
 - **Action 4E:** LMB to arrange refreshing of surface markings

5: Parks Investment Levy (PIL)

The 2023 allocation has already now funded £6k for a new water fountain at the basketball courts, and £5k on the first batch of new bollards (LMB will lead on accelerating the installation of bollards at vulnerable points across the Common). CCMAC approved the proposal from the Chair for allocating £13k of the remaining £50k available to two projects: £8k to fund Sunday litter collections through the winter (as in previous years); and £5k for landscaping the waterplay area.

- **Action 5A:** Chair to prepare a proposal for comment by members ahead of the October meeting, for use of the remaining c£37k, to include investment in a further wildflower meadow (location to be confirmed). CCMAC should then aim to agree its decision on uses of PIL by the November meeting.

6: Any other business

Two planned agenda items (Progress reports from Working Groups; and Member Group updates) were postponed to the next meeting because of lack of time. A third item (Policy Statements for Approval) was also postponed in order to take account of some late comments received.

7: Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 October, 1930, The Depot. A new date of Thursday 8 February was agreed for the CCMAC Annual Meeting; and Committee meeting dates will be confirmed for the rest of 2024 as the first Thursday of each month.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary