

# Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

## Minutes of meeting on Thursday 5 October 2023, 1900 - 2030 The Depot SW4

### Attendees:

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Simon Millson (SM) (Chair)                        | <i>Community Representatives</i>      |
| Cllr Linda Bray (LB)                              | Charlee Boston (CB)                   |
| Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)                    | Phil Carey (PC) (and Secretary)       |
| Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common FCC) | Adrian Darley (AD) (and Treasurer)    |
| Louisa Hartwell (Clapham BID, for Jeremy Keates)  | Michael Mooney (MM)                   |
|   | Joanna Reynolds (JR) (and Vice-Chair) |

### *Lambeth Council*

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC)

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies: Ben Curtis (BC), Andrew Summers, Krishna Siva,

### **1: Matters arising from last meeting**

The minutes of the 7 September meeting were approved, and on matters arising not picked up elsewhere:

- Action 1A: Chair is working on an article on mowing policy for publication on website
- Action 1B: AIJ's multiple emails to boat club contacts have had no response.

#### **Action: Chair to advise on alternative contacts there.**

- Unlicensed Music Events: Action 2B noted by Enforcement Team; re Action 2E, PC will be meeting Wandsworth Common MAC leads on 16 October and will report back.

#### **September Actions 2A, 2C and 2D outstanding, require progress report from John Gandhi (Enforcement Team lead) or KC**

- Action 3A: KC understands that Neighbourgood did levy a modest entry charge at peak times for its recent Edinburgh event.
- The Planning Inspector's Decision Letter on Festival Republic's application to take over a portion of the Common for 19 days next August had issued today, granting consent subject to a limitation on the extent of the enclosure. KC would liaise with Festival Republic on their plans in the light of this, including the layout within the reduced site consented, and the status now of their contract with Lambeth. It was noted that the decision provides helpful clarification on the precise extent of Clapham Common. CCMAC's work to advise Lambeth on the Events Framework proposed by Cllr Anyanwu in May could now proceed.

#### **Action 1C: Events Framework Group comprising AD, AIJ, LB, MM and PC to meet before November CCMAC meeting**

## 2: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

KC and LMB reported that:

- *Benches*: one further approval procedure was needed to complete procurement, with installation to follow asap thereafter.
- *Biodiversity Audit*: LMB and Chris Jude, with AD, GJ and SM, will meet to discuss measures for the Local Nature Reserve.
- *Bollards*: installation programme now being finalised, giving priority to filling gaps along Windmill Drive, then along The Avenue. LMB suggested that PIL funding for labour overtime costs (£300 per two-person team per day) would speed this up.

### **Action 2A: LMB to confirm funding need and implications**

- *Bowling Green site*: no update received from Property team.

**Action 2B: KC to follow up** (noting Action from July meeting: LMB to share revised competition documentation, and CCMAC to determine whether it needs to set a time limit for completion of the tender process)

- *Green Waste Site*: a skip will soon be provided to enable this to be cleared.
- *Mount Pond*: New pegs will be installed only if funded by PIL. To be discussed at the November meeting.
- *Planting of new trees*: GJ will discuss with John Mackie (Lambeth Arboricultural Officer)
- *Redgras site*: the on-site briefing with local MPs and the Football Foundation (proposed funder) has not yet taken place. CCMAC stressed the importance of being closely involved as Lambeth carries out its engagement with local users.

### **Action 2B: KC to report to GJ and JR on next steps**

- *Surface markings on cycle paths*: refreshed markings needed for safety reasons; as Highways team deny responsibility, falls to Parks team

### **Action 2C: LMB to establish when work can be carried out**

CCMAC noted that Meghans had submitted on 30 August a planning application for replacing and expanding the terrace structures around its café on Rookery Road.

### **Action 2C: CCMAC to review and consider its position by next meeting**

## 3: Parks Investment Levy (PIL) – next steps

Committed spend agreed last month included £8k to fund winter weekend litter collections. Following a request from PC, KC agreed to consider in Lambeth's future years' assessment of resourcing plans what scope there might be to spread existing non-overtime capability more thinly over 7 days rather than 5.

LMB advised that, following additional spend on bollards, £31,250 of the 2023 money remained uncommitted. GJ expanded on the proposal he had shared in advance for two new wildflower meadows on the western side of the Common, one near the Battersea Rise playground and one by the fitness area opposite Broxash Road (selecting one of two alternative sites). His soundings, through FCC, had shown general support locally. PC, focusing on the pair of alternative sites, reported some concern from his soundings with

local residents as to the loss of amenity space, and some broader misgivings about the Common becoming 'untidier'. GJ and AD emphasised the imperative of increasing biodiversity on the Common, while recognising that amenity and sports were also core strategic objectives. A balance needed to be struck. GJ added that this year's window for effective seeding of the sites would close by November. CCMAC agreed in principle with the plan for the additional wildflower meadows, but confirmation would await being satisfied with the choice of sites.

**Action 3: AD to arrange site visit focusing on the West Side options for w/b 9 October, following site visit by LMB in weekend beforehand.**

There could be substantially higher PIL receipts available next year, depending on Festival Republic's plans. This should be clearer in time for CCMAC discussion of 2024 PIL options at its November meeting.

### **5: Progress reports from Working Groups**

- *Access, Paths & Signage*: no activity over summer; Hannah Radlowska (Project Manager, Lambeth) is scheduling first meeting of expanded Group
- *Bandstand Concerts*: after a successful 2023 season, planning for Summer 2024 will begin in March
- *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: WG to reconvene in order to renew momentum from Lambeth

### **Action 5B: LB / KC to schedule meeting**

- *Events*: Group will follow on from direction set by Events Framework workstream (see Action 1C)
- *Governance*: revised version of the three papers had been circulated for approval, but the Group now needs to consider late comments from FCC, just received.

### **Action 5A: AIJ/JR/MM/PC/ to review papers and submit for approval at November meeting**

- *Local Nature Reserve*: Group will determine next steps in light of biodiversity audit meeting (see Item 2)
- *Masterplan SM* reported separately on successful meeting 18 September
- *Sports*: AD reported on discussions with Parkrun about an alternative routing, 1½ longer laps to replace current 2 laps which are having some adverse impact on the Common. Pressure of numbers (typically 700 taking part each week) may be eased if Battersea Park also now host Parkrun (Wandsworth Council now more supportive). AD will re-engage with Pear Tree Café on their re-installing the defibrillator
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology*: planning two more plantings of whips over next six months
- *Waterplay*: very positive feedback coming through from current survey. Minor defects now being remedied, following closure for season. The Working Group has now completed its work.
- *Wild Clapham*: GJ reported that the Group's application for charity status is progressing well.

### **6: Member Group updates**

- *Friends of Clapham Common*: FCC has appreciated the support from all watering volunteers this summer
- *Clapham BID*: focusing on improving the grassy knoll by Clapham Common Tube Station, and on shutter on Clapham High St.

**7: Any other business**

JR will meet Bandstand Beds to discuss outstanding issues.

**Action 7: MM to accompany her; AIJ or BC to be note-taker.**

**8: Date of next meeting:** Thursday 2 November, 1900, The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary