

## Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 2 November 2023, 1900 - 2030 The Depot SW4

### Attendees:

Simon Millson (SM) (Chair)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common  
FCC)

*Community Representatives*

Charlee Boston (CB)

Phil Carey (PC) (and Secretary)

Adrian Darley (AD) (and Treasurer)

Michael Mooney (MM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR) (and Vice-Chair)

### *Lambeth Council*

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC) *via Teams*

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Lucy Zaman, Event Service Manager

Apologies: Carole Powell (Interim Manager, Clapham BID)

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

The minutes of the 2 October meeting were approved, and on matters arising not picked up elsewhere:

- *Sep actions 2C and 2D* (re Enforcement Team<sup>1</sup>): still outstanding
- *Sep action 2D*: PJC reported on useful first meeting with leadership of Wandsworth Common MAC, recognising shared interest despite different contexts, and opportunity to learn from WC's initiatives on personal security.
- *Oct action 1B*: AIJ is now in dialogue with the boat club and will report in due course
- *Oct action 2C*: the deadline for comment on the planning application from Meghans had passed before CCMAC had been able to consider its position
- *Oct action 3* (re West Side & Battersea Rise wildflower meadow proposals): GJ was considering quote from Bushells and options for timing. *Post-meeting update*: will have to miss autumn seeding window, with construction now to start in March. Planting the shrubs in spring rather than autumn, after the seeding, will mean more of a watering burden for FCC volunteers.
- *Oct Action 7*: JR reported that Bandstand Beds have had to postpone the meeting on outstanding issues to December

### **2: Events update**

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- <sup>1</sup> 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

LZ explained Lambeth's need to start formal notice procedures from 11 November for the 2024 programme of events, which will be posted around the Common. Depending on the scale of any objections after a 4-week period, a Public Inquiry could be required. The application is for a total of 274 event days (some would be running in parallel in different parts of the Common); this excludes Festival Republic, who have not yet confirmed their plans and are unlikely to run for the full 19 days already authorized. CCMAC established the following:

- The two events with highest attendance are, as in previous years, Moonwalk (May) and BHF Bike Ride (June); CCMAC supports these and other established smaller events.
- The longest-running event will be the Neighbourgood Market (8 weeks from start July; see minutes of September meeting). CCMAC expressed concern at the impact on the turf at the Clapham South site, and LZ is assessing whether that is best managed through shifting the precise location halfway through, or through concentrating damage on a smaller area.
- Secret Cinema will be in place for a slightly shorter period (7 weeks from start June), but with much larger numbers (up to 6,500 per day).
- With the London Fashion Week event taking up a small proportion of the main event site for 3 weeks from early September, there is the prospect of the site being in use for much of the summer, causing problems for ecology and for public access.
- The programme would generate Parks Investment Levy receipts of at least £167k, before any Festival Republic income, and Lambeth is applying extra effort to obtain higher contributions. A new Commercial Director has been appointed with an overall remit of generating additional revenue, and for Parks his team will aim to extract maximum PIL alongside 'social value'.

CCMAC was however very concerned that, with few community-oriented events, Lambeth was not proposing the balanced and 'culturally appropriate' programme heralded by Cllr Anyanwu at the May meeting. CCMAC should be advised if the Council's objectives had shifted, ahead of it being able to advise on the Events Strategy for future years. LZ explained that the 2024 programme is essentially driven by applications that come in, with Lambeth not being in a position to proactively steer the mix.

- **Action 1A: LZ will seek a response from the Council to CCMAC's major concerns regarding the likely prolonged occupation of the event site and the lack of a community component in the programme. In addition, the Commercial Team will be invited to explain their strategy to the December meeting of CCMAC.**
- **Action 1B: LZ will report back on how the impact of Neighbourgood on the Common will be minimised**
- **Action 1C: PC to schedule first meeting of CCMAC's Events Framework Working Group, with AD, AIG, LB and MM**

### **3: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:**

KC and LMB reported that:

- *Benches*: still going through final procurement stage, with installation to follow asap thereafter. CCMAC has yet to see an installation plan however. LMB to circulate.
- *Biodiversity Action Plan*: Iain Boulton still working on it
- *Bollards*: £6k of PIL money will now be used to speed up the installation programme now being finalised, with Windmill Drive the first priority.
- *Bowling Green site*: still unable to obtain tender documentation from agents. Lambeth had received a proposal for a 'Croquet & Bowls Club';

**Action 3A: LB to convene early meeting of Bowling Greens & Pavilions WG to advise KC on next steps** (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")

- *Holy Trinity churchyard*: Lambeth renewing agreement with Church to continue public access in exchange for maintaining the grass
- *Parking at north end of West Side*: granite kerbs are lined up for installation whenever the tarmac is clear of parked cars, preventing vehicles returning ahead of converting road to soft landscaping
- *Redgras site*: it proved impossible to line up the on-site briefing with local MPs, so Lambeth is proceeding to discuss options with the Football Foundation (proposed funder), including possible back-up locations.

**Action 3B: KC to report to CCMAC on next steps**

- *Surface markings on cycle paths*: awaits confirmation of budget for Parks team to refresh them.
- *Toilet block by changing rooms*: work delayed by further questions on planning application from Wandsworth BC
- *Tree planting*: five new contracts lined up, with work to start Borough-wide later this month
- *Windmill Drive*: no update re start of works, but plan also now to provide four parking spaces temporarily prior to extending the soft landscaping

CCMAC established that Lambeth plan for January a repeat of the *Christmas Tree recycling service*, but asked that this be the last time, given its concerns about the obstruction caused and the generation of car journeys.

#### **4: Parks Investment Levy (PIL) – options for 2024**

CCMAC should have a minimum of £125k (£167k less 25% which is shared with smaller parks in the Borough who have little access to money for investment) at its disposal next year; its priorities have already been established as ecology, and bollards, but specific proposals should be worked up, in line with the Masterplan.

**Action 4: SM to lead meeting of a PIL Working Group on this with AD, GJ and CB**

#### **5: Policy statement for approval**

PC presented revised versions of the Conflict of Interest paper, taking account of helpful clarifications sought by FCC, and the Complaints paper. After careful consideration, CCMAC

judged that it should not be necessary to depart from its normal arrangements for reaching decisions when it came to possible reinstatement of members. Both papers, along with the unchanged statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, were approved by CCMAC.

**Action 5 (updated post-meeting): SM to publish the three documents on website, once CCMAC has confirmed in email exchange appointment of Vice-Chair as CCMAC Grievance Lead (role specified in the Complaints paper).**

#### **6: Progress reports from other Working Groups**

- *Access, Paths & Signage:* the expanded Group ought still to have its first meeting, even if at present no funding stream is available.

#### **Action 6A: JR to chase Hannah Radlowska (Project Manager, Lambeth)**

- *Events:* Group will follow on as needed from direction set by Events Framework workstream (see Action 1C)
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology:* 200 hedging whips to be planted from this month and next, with a focus on Windmill Drive
- *Wild Clapham:* GJ reported on the intention to negotiate down the higher than expected quote for setting up the new Wetlands, but there could be contributions from FCC as well as from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Mayor of London's new Rewild London Fund; it would help to have a letter of support from CCMAC to aid the latter application. It remained important to coordinate the timing of the Wetlands work with the Windmill Drive reconfiguration. Wild Clapham has now got confirmation of its Registered Charity status; it will therefore be represented on CCMAC in future as a Member Organisation rather than a Working Group (subject to approval at our Annual Meeting)

**Action 5B: Chair to draw up letter of support from CCMAC for Rewild London Fund application, by 27 November deadline**

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

No substantive reports

#### **7: Any other business**

- The Chair confirmed Omnibus Theatre has been booked for the Annual Meeting on Thursday 8 February. He pointed out that there remain at least two vacancies on CCMAC for Community Representatives

**Action 7: current Representatives to let Secretary know by next meeting if they intend to stand down, and all to prepare to raise awareness of vacancies in advance of Annual Meeting on 8 February.**

- AS explained that he has stood down from the Clapham Society committee, who will advise us of his successor in time for confirmation at our Annual Meeting. AS intends to put himself forward as a Community Representative on CCMAC.
- LMB reported that agreement has been reached to mark out a Flag Football pitch on West Side (rotating seasonally between the dog-free area and the area to the north, to reduce impacts).

- LMB has also discussed with the Manager of the Pear Tree Café the poor state of the toilets there, and the scope for reinstalling a defibrillator.

**8: Date of next meeting:** Thursday 7 December, 1900, The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary