

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 7 December 2023, 1900 - 2030 The Depot SW4

Attendees:

Simon Millson (SM) (Chair)	<i>Community Representatives</i>
Michael Barry (MB) (Clapham Society)	Phil Carey (and Secretary)
Cllr Linda Bray	Adrian Darley (AD) (and Treasurer)
Cllr Ben Curtis	Michael Mooney (MM)
Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common FCC)	Krishna Siva Andrew Summers

Lambeth Council

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC)

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies: Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones; Joanna Reynolds

The meeting welcomed Michael Barry as the new representative of the Clapham Society. Andrew Summers intends to remain on CCMAC as a Community Representative (to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting).

1: Matters arising from last meeting

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

- *September actions re Enforcement Team: 2C* – signs highlighting bylaw prohibitions now being prepared; *2D* (re possible ‘blacklisting’ of caterers) – report back awaited from Lucy Zaman.
- *October action 7:* meeting with Bandstand Beds now scheduled for 2 January

2: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

KC and LMB reported progress in some key areas:

- The *Events Programme* for 2024 is firming up and the formal planning notice re reserved areas is open for representations, to 15 December. Festival Republic is unlikely now to proceed in 2024, given the further delays arising from the threat of judicial review (GJ explained that, although still considering options, FCC is not currently making a legal case for judicial review). The fashion event is on track for September, but the biggest event in terms of numbers attending would be Secret Cinema: the promoters are working on community engagement, with a meeting planned at Omnibus Theatre on 17 January, and a desire to meet with estate representatives. The Neighbourhood Market promoters have pulled out, but a much smaller Vegandale market will run for two days in the summer. CCMAC urges the (Canadian) organisers to work to involve local businesses.

- *Westside issues:* KC has stepped up engagement with his counterpart at Wandsworth, Matt Eadie. Both are keen for a more collaborative relationship, with the prospect of Wandsworth, if successful in its bid to be London Borough of Culture, running events on the Common. Its planning committee has been recommended to approve the long-outstanding refurbishment of the toilet block by The Avenue, with a decision due this month. Lambeth's enforcement team is working to clear remaining vehicles parked in front of 81-85 Westside, and the Council will then install subtle no parking signs, new bollards (showing Lambeth ownership) and boulders; further enhancement will come from planting spring cherry trees.
- *Bowling Greens site:* minor improvements costing £80k will enhance the current marketability of the pavilion and kiosk, to include provision for an outside seating area; responses to the tender are expected to include refurbishment of the toilets. Lambeth will review progress with bids in January. The promoter of a 'Croquet and Cocktails' operation is developing a business case, and has expressed interest in running it as an interim operation only pending more substantive investment. (see also Working Group report under next item).
- *Windmill Drive:* reconfiguration work, due to start in March, will entail closing parts of the pedestrian and cycle routes for up to three months. CCMAC was concerned at the disruption this could cause, and asked to see the detailed plan for managing the works. GJ urged Lambeth to coordinate it with the concurrent implementation of the wetlands project, due to start in April.

Action 2A: KC to provide the plan and keep CCMAC and Wild Clapham up to date

KC and LMB also updated CCMAC on the following:

- *Benches:* about to be delivered, in batches of five

Action 2B: LMB to share the installation plan

- *Biodiversity Action Plan:* draft specification now with consultants
- The *Enforcement Team* remains under strength, given the resignation of one member and the delay in transferring in the police officer agreed in principle with the Met.
- *Holy Trinity Church:* Lambeth is currently re-rendering the portico pillars
- *Recruitment:* Lambeth will not now be proceeding with its intended candidate for Head of Parks, and KC may now consider restructuring the team to reinforce capability more broadly
- *Redgra site:* discussion of options with the Football Foundation continues. (following fuller text provided by GJ:) GJ advised that the European Commission has now banned the use of shredded-tyre crumb as an infill for 3G pitches with an eight-year phase out for pitch managers. This is due to research highlighting health concerns from micro-plastic accumulation in the environment. GJ said he hoped this would send a strong signal to Lambeth regarding future plans for 3G pitches on the Redgra Site, particularly as this site is bordered on two sides by Local Nature Reserves.

Action 2C: KC to advise on Lambeth policy re installation of 3G pitches

- *Schools use of Common:* LMB and Rudy McDonald (Lambeth's land maintenance lead) have reached agreement with Eaton House School, bringing its use of the Common into line with standard practice for groups; they will next be engaging with Parkgate House

3: Progress reports from Working Groups

- *Access, Paths & Signage:* the Group has discussed priorities when resuming the paths renewal programme with Hanna Radlowska, the Lambeth Project Manager. It will use a 'walkabout' on site next month to firm up a proposal for using some part of PIL funding in 2024.
- *Bowling Greens & Pavilions:* a recent on-site meeting confirmed that Lambeth remain keen to proceed with a padel tennis facility, given the strong demand and revenue potential. The Working Group remain very concerned about the visual impact of the court installation, and the loss of serenity; CCMAC echoed these concerns but noted the need to work constructively with Lambeth. The Group had noted that Wandsworth as planning authority would be the determinant of what impacts might be acceptable, but suggested that two existing tennis courts could be relocated to the second bowling green to free up space for the more disruptive padel tennis courts, which would then be further away from housing and closer to the noisy A205. KC has asked his Capital Team to assess the practicality of this, and warned that in any case it could be a protracted process to realise development of the site.

Action 3A: KC to share plans from Capital Team with CCMAC asap in the new year

- *Events Framework:* this sub-group is focusing on strategic priorities for the Common before engaging fully with Lambeth (KC) from next month.
- *Governance:* following publication of its three documents, the Group has gone into standby mode ahead of regular reviews of the policies.
- *Parks Investment Levy:* the new sub-Group preparing proposals for use of the 2024 fund will now be led by AD.
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology:* the hedge planting programme is making good progress, and a further batch of whips will be sourced from CPRE in January
- *Wild Clapham:* planting around the waterplay facility is now complete, and preparations are in place for seeding in March all three new wildflower meadows, the one already laid out on Northside as well as the two now agreed for Westside and by the Battersea Rise play area. KC confirmed the new, FCC-led, hedging around the play area is looking good. LMB reported it had not yet been possible to install a watering facility there, to support the new planting.

Action: MB to check what knowledge Clapham Society has of a former drinking fountain at the play area.

4: Member Group updates

GJ reported that FCC managed to submit its application to the Mayor of London's Rewild London competition, and is now approaching other potential funders.

5: Annual Meeting 8 February and officer roles

- After nine years on CCMAC, SM announced his intention to stand down from the Chair, and CCMAC altogether, following the Annual Meeting; a new Chair will need to be appointed at the March meeting.

- SM confirmed he will prepare the formal notice of the Meeting, for issue four weeks in advance, setting out the programme; all papers will need to be agreed at the January meeting. They should reference in particular (i) Wild Clapham moving from Working Group to Member Organisation status; and (ii) the need for further Community Representatives to join CCMAC. There were now likely to be four vacancies, and all members shared the responsibility to encourage interested parties to come forward. School governing boards and Estate TRAs could provide valuable opportunities.

Action 5A: MM to prepare a poster highlighting the opportunities, to be disseminated widely ahead of the Annual Meeting

6: Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 January, 1900, by Zoom

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary