

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 7 March 2024, 1900 - 2100 The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (AD) (*Chair, from Item 3*)
Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common, FCC)
Michael Barry (Clapham Society)
Cllr Linda Bray (LB)
Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)
Gareth James (GJ) (*Wild Clapham*)
Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)
Lambeth Council:
Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC)
Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Community Representatives:
Charlee Boston
Phil Carey (PC) (*and Secretary*)
Petr Kaiser
Clare Frances McMenemy (CM)
Joanna Reynolds (JR) (*Vice Chair
and acting Chair for Items 1&2*)
Krishna Siva (KS)
Andrew Summers
Kim Wiper

1: Matters arising from last meeting

The minutes of both the 4 January meeting (with one addition re renewed activity at the Model Yacht Club), and of the 8 February Open Meeting, were approved. On matters arising not picked up elsewhere:

- *September 2023 actions re Enforcement Team: 2C* – LMB is progressing signs highlighting bylaw prohibitions; *2D* – LMB was able to confirm ‘blacklisting’ of caterers would be possible if they received supplier contact details
- *Open Meeting:* PC confirmed that the updated constitution, with amendments agreed on 8 February, would be put on the website. CCMAC will review in September what further changes are needed to take account of revised ward boundaries in Lambeth.

2: Appointment of Officers

As Simon Millson stepped down from CCMAC at the last meeting, AD offered to succeed as Chair; his proposal was seconded by LB and approved unanimously. JR’s and PC’s offers to continue as Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively, seconded by BC and KS, were similarly approved. AD sought candidates for Treasurer, the post he is vacating; KS put himself forward, seconded by PC, and this appointment was also approved.

AD saw a need to raise the profile of CCMAC, and set out the case for adding a Comms Officer; two members expressed an interest.

Action 2: AD to discuss this role with those two potential candidates ahead of CCMAC making the appointment at the April meeting

3: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

KC set out recent developments in the *Events programme*: Secret Cinema had withdrawn its planned 2024 event, but is keen to proceed in 2025. Two new proposals had however come forward:

- Lightopia, organiser of a Christmas-focused festival of lights (most recently at Crystal Palace), is keen to run a Winter Trail event, which would entail enclosing a large area of the Common west of the Bandstand and charging for admission after dusk. Before it could express a view, CCMAC needed further information on dates, charges, and impact on wildlife, and assurance there would be no impact on use of paths through the area in daylight, including for Park Run.

Action 3A: KC to circulate Lightopia proposal with extra information as requested, in time for consideration at April meeting

- Irving Funfair, regular operator on the funfair site, is offering £25k to use as a second location the area between Rookery Road and Long Road. CCMAC is concerned about the precedent that would be set by running a funfair on this grass area, and endorsed Lambeth's provisional decision to reject the offer.

LMB and KC also reported on:

- *Benches*: installation of replacement benches has now begun, in batches of five, at priority sites across the Common. Several sites needed larger bases, to improve accessibility, or measures to remedy localised flooding.
- *Bins*: new standard-sized bins will be installed; AS asked that the area by Trinity Hospice be included. These would be complemented by temporary larger bins to cope with greater demand in summer.
- *Bollards*: now installed on Windmill Drive, with work under way along The Avenue. The next priorities are Broomwood Road, the north end of West Side, and the Paddock area.
- *Bowling Greens*: The Bowling Greens and Pavilion working group had just met and agreed the priorities for Lambeth's engagement this month with a small number of preferred bidders for the pavilion and kiosk leases; KC will keep the group in the loop. The Rose Garden pergola will be repaired.
- *Dog walking*: the Enforcement Team is responding to complaints and ensuring that professional walkers do not exercise more than six at a time. The planned Dog Control PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) will put a lower limit of four on non-professional walkers.
- *Drinking fountains*: alongside some renewals, the one by Mount Pond will be removed
- *Fishing pegs* by Mount Pond are being renewed.
- *Parks Investment Levy (PIL)*: KC will provide an estimate of likely 2024/5 income by early April

Action 3C: KC to share with CCMAC for initial consideration at April meeting and then referral to Masterplan Delivery working group (see Item 5) to work up spending proposals

- *Paths*: Hanna Radlowska is picking up the six priority stretches identified by the Access, Paths and Signage working group in January, with estimated cost of £150k (based on £48k cost of renewing the path section by Nursery Woods); the PIL assessment referred to above should determine what portion of this could be afforded. Care will be needed with one stretch, by the Waterplay site, which impacts on a heritage tree.
- *Waterplay facility*, now known as '*Splashpad*': will reopen in May; electrical work under way now will remove need for generator.
- *Windmill Drive*: the reconfiguration work will start in April, completion due in June.

Action 3D: KC to ensure installation plan is shared with CCMAC

A decision had not yet been made on the new structure for Lambeth's Parks teams; AIJ remained keen to discuss options.

Action 3E: KC to liaise with AIJ and AD

4: Plans for bandstand concerts

AD highlighted this priority task for CCMAC in preparation for the summer season; he was keen to get broader engagement from members in formulating this year's programme, starting in June. The working group was reconstituted, with four members (see Item 5), and will need to consider various requests to perform that have already been received. Lambeth's funding will again be £5k, but it was noted that offers to perform without payment might make it possible to extend the season into August.

Action 4: new Bandstand Concerts WG to meet asap

5: Structure and membership of Working Groups

CCMAC agreed to rationalise the structure of Working Groups, creating a new Ecology & Biodiversity group from the old Local Nature Reserve and Trees, Landscape & Ecology groups. A single Events group will take on CCMAC's role in working up the new Events Strategy led by Lambeth. The remit of the Masterplan Delivery group will now embrace Capital Projects and the application of PIL money.

This results in eight Working Groups for 2024:

Access, Paths & Signage	Bandstand Concerts
Bowling Greens & Pavilion	Ecology & Biodiversity
Events	Governance
Masterplan Delivery	Sports

The membership of each Group was agreed, and is set out in the Annex.

6: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB reported on its concern about the impacts for views from the Common of the 13-storey building now approved for the Lambeth College site on South Side; AIJ added that she had been alerted to the need to prevent any incursions on the

Paddock area during construction. MB also mentioned his interest in adding new explanatory signs for the Common presenting key aspects of its history, modelled on what has recently been installed in Kennington Park.

Action 6: MB will present some thoughts on format and content, for next meeting

Friends of Clapham Common: EA referred to increased tree-planting (with Wild Clapham, see next para), and the coordination of an enlarged watering volunteer group for the coming months. He encouraged further volunteer input to FCC initiatives such as litter picking, and the 16 March Easter Egg Hunt.

Wild Clapham: GJ announced that WC had been successful in applying for the £50k grant for its Wetland project from the Mayor of London's Rewild London fund. Good progress was also being made with new wildflower meadows, with work on the two sites at West Side and by Battersea Rise to be complete by April. GJ confirmed 93 new trees were being planted on the Common (53 supplied by Lambeth, 30 by St Thomas's school and 10 memorial trees)

7: Any other business

- Cycle paths: LMB was reminded of the need to refresh markings (give way lines, etc) on the north-south cycle path, it having now been accepted within Lambeth that responsibility for this rests with the Parks rather than Highways teams. She also reported she is exploring options for geofencing rental e-bikes to keep them to the path.
- Litter from sports groups: AS asked Lambeth to take fresh action to prevent littering, including removing offending teams' right to use the facilities.

Action 7A: to discuss at April meeting

- Mud Club: JR wants to understand basis on which the Club is able to operate at The Spinney, including the powers it has to charge for access.

Action 7B: PC to invite the operator David Beldon to present at a future meeting

- Redgra pitch replacement: AD is seeking views from on less ecologically harmful alternatives to the proposed 3G surfacing such as Rhino-Turf; and EA will join him at an inspection visit to the Battersea Park pitch on 11 March.

8: Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 April, 1900, at The Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary

CCMAC Working Groups 2024

Access, Paths & Signage

Phil Carey
Adrian Darley
Alison Inglis-Jones
Gareth James
Michael Mooney
Helen O'Malley (co-opted)
Joanna Reynolds *Chair*
Krishna Siva

Bandstand Concerts

Michael Barry
Charlee Boston
Linda Bray
Andrew Summers

Bowling Greens & Pavilion

Linda Bray
Phil Carey
Ben Curtis
Gareth James
Andrew Summers
Lambeth Council (Kevin Crook)

Ecology & Biodiversity

Ed Alnutt
Linda Bray
Adrian Darley *Co-Chair*
Gareth James *Co-Chair*
Clare Frances McMenemy
Joanna Reynolds
Lambeth Council (Lara Milfsud-Bonici
& Iain Boulton)

Events

Ed Alnutt
Linda Bray
Adrian Darley
Alison Inglis-Jones
Michael Mooney
Andrew Summers
Kim Wiper
Lambeth Council (Lucy Zaman
& Kevin Crook)

Governance

Phil Carey *Chair*
Alison Inglis-Jones
Michael Mooney
Joanna Reynolds

Masterplan Delivery

Linda Bray
Phil Carey
Ben Curtis
Adrian Darley *Chair*
Alison Inglis-Jones
Petr Kaiser
Joanna Reynolds
Kim Wiper
Lambeth Council (Kevin Crook)

Sports

Ben Curtis
Adrian Darley
Joanna Reynolds
Krishna Siva
Lambeth Council (Lara Milfsud-Bonici)