

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 4 January 2024, 1900 - 2030 by Zoom

Attendees:

Simon Millson (SM) (Chair)	<i>Community Representatives</i>
Cllr Linda Bray (LB)	Phil Carey (and Secretary)
Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)	Adrian Darley (AD) (and Treasurer)
Gareth James (GJ) (Friends of Clapham Common FCC)	Michael Mooney (MM) and Clare Frances McMenemy (CM)*
Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)	Joanna Reynolds (and Vice Chair)

Lambeth Council

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods (KC)

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies: Michael Barry (Clapham Society), Charlee Boston, Krishna Siva, Andrew Summers

* The Committee noted that, as part of the joint membership arrangement for MM and CM, CM will be the lead participant during MM's absence on business in the coming months.

1: Matters arising from last meeting

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

- *September actions re Enforcement Team: 2C* – LMB is progressing signs highlighting bylaw prohibitions; *2D* (re possible 'blacklisting' of caterers) – report back still awaited from Lucy Zaman.
- *October action 7:* AIJ will share note of 2 January meeting with Bandstand Beds

2: Annual Meeting 8 February and officer roles

The Chair has issued the formal notice, and thanked MM for drawing up a poster promoting the event and appealing for new applicants for Community Representative. Committee members will seek to get the poster displayed both on notice boards on the Common and on estates and other concentrations of Common users. One applicant for Community Representative had already come forward, and the Chair reminded all members of their responsibility to encourage more, given the four spaces to be filled.

Action 2A: AIJ, LB, MM, PC, SM to place poster; all to seek further applications to join CCMAC.

AD will arrange for accountant sign-off of the accounts. The Committee approved GJ's formal request for Wild Clapham to be given Member Organisation status, but it will need to be endorsed by the Annual Meeting. FCC will need to nominate a new representative to succeed GJ.

Action 2B: GJ to propose Wild Clapham membership at Annual Meeting, PC to second.

3: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

Redgra site:

KC reported that the Football Foundation (FF) is now preparing concept design drawings for public consultation, based on new pitches smaller than the existing extent (97x61 metres, within the current 140x95m) and creating new biodiverse meadow on the substantial margin around them. CCMAC suggested some of that margin might be used for Park Run start and finish, and a possible running circuit. The project would be jointly funded by FF (70-75%, plus design costs) and Lambeth, who would benefit from all income from usage charges.

The application to Wandsworth for planning approval would also include a new changing room and a tractor shed; KC felt that maximising the soft landscaping would increase the chance of approval. Lambeth was also itself keen to ensure a strong element of community participation in the proposals.

GJ reiterated his concerns about the use of tyre-crumb rubber as an infill for 3G pitches following the EU's legislation banning microplastics. KC acknowledged these concerns and stressed this was high on the agenda with the FF, and referred to Sport England's position statement on its website. KC also thought that a 'roll back' regarding its use for 3G pitches might be possible. There is ongoing research into sourcing alternative infills (eg cork) but there is currently no approved alternative in the UK or the EU.

Other updates:

- *Benches:* **action for LMB to share installation plan remains outstanding**
- *Bowling Greens and Pavilion:* KC reported active interest in the current marketing by Lambeth's agent Sanderson Weatherall, from which he will shortly make recommendations for next steps. Alongside that, sports consultant Knight, Kavanagh & Page is carrying out an options appraisal of the scope for relocating two tennis courts and adding four padel tennis courts (part of advice to Working Group, see Item 5).
- *Depot works:* improvements from 9 January will necessitate several HGV movements in preparation, and removal of some fencing to enable kit to be installed by crane.
- *Events:* consultation on usage of the Common by various non-Festival Republic events has now closed, with no responses received from Member Organisations. Secret Cinema will hold their community engagement meeting on 17 January, now at Notre Dame Community Hall. PC had been informed by the Enchanted Group of their revised plans for Oktoberfest for this autumn, and will circulate follow-up advice received on their policy re usage of disposable glasses.
- *Long Pond:* one of the proposals for increasing income in Lambeth's Medium-Term Financial Strategy is to revive the plans for a boating concession on Long Pond; details to be agreed with the Cabinet Member. LB noted that the Clapham Model Yacht Club had become more active in the past month, including hosting an Open Day.

- *Storm damage:* several more trees have fallen victim to Storm Henk this month; any larger boughs will be left in situ or used around the Common to mark boundaries. BC highlighted the need to address in particular the blockage of the cycle lane by a fallen tree. KC warned that current short-staffing may mean the team's response to the storm will be slower than he would like.
- *Team recruitment:* KC is considering a revised structure for the Parks service and offered to meet interested CCMAC members to be clear on their priorities and possible changes to staffing arrangements

Action 3: Having expressed strong interest in this, AIJ to meet with KC.

- *Toilet block:* Wandsworth postponed its consideration of the planning application for converting the old block into a café to its January meeting.
- *Tree planting:* the Tree Service Manager John Mackie has proposed 30 locations for planting this winter. GJ added that he had met Poppy George, the new Tree Planting Programme Officer, and will finalise with her and the Trees and Operations teams this year's tree species as well as site locations.
- *West Side parking:* removal of vehicles at the north end is progressing well, ahead of cordoning off with bollards and replacement of tarmac by wildflower planting.
- *Windmill Drive:* KC awaits agreement from residents to the revised parking arrangement, and was reminded of the outstanding action from the last meeting:

Action 3B: KC to obtain the installation plan from project manager Hanna Radlowska and keep CCMAC and Wild Clapham up to date

4: Events Strategy

PC, for the sub-group also comprising AD, AIJ, LB and MM, had circulated a short paper summarising CCMAC objectives for events, to feed in to work in the coming months with Lambeth to draw up an Events Strategy specific to the Common. KC felt the paper was constructive and helpful, and no other comments were made; he would set up a first meeting later this month.

Action 4: KC, with Sub-Group to confirm which members will take part.

5: Progress reports from Working Groups

- *Access, Paths & Signage:* the planned 'walkabout' with Hanna Radlowska to firm up its proposal for 2024 has had to be rescheduled to 29 January. It will feed in to AD's sub-Group on plans for using the Parks Investment Levy this year.
- *Bowling Greens & Pavilions:* the Group awaits advice from Lambeth's Capital Team.
- *Trees, Landscape & Ecology:* led by FCC, planting of the next batch of hedging whips will begin on 16 January. AD also reported he is working with KC on hedging around the Battersea Rise play area. We had advice from MB (Clapham Society) that they had no record of where a water source in that area had been.
- *Wild Clapham:* GJ reported on a busy period and said the plans for the Wetland project are now with Lambeth's Planning Dept. The Mayor of London's office should notify the FCC by mid-January as to whether their application to the 'Rewild London' fund has been successful. Landscaping of the Wetplay area had now been completed, but GJ sought CCMAC's advice given the potential toxicity of the new yew hedge. Whilst there will be no yew-berry production (cutting will remove the flower

parts and prevent fruit from forming), and the site will be closed for public access from late summer, the leaves are also toxic when ingested in sufficient quantities. LMB said signage at the entrance would make it clear that adults and carers needed to be responsible for young children and other vulnerable people. KC explained Lambeth is in fact currently increasing its use of yew hedging throughout the borough, as a pollution-reducing substitute for pest-damaged box hedging, and it considered the risks from ingesting yew to be very low. CCMAC therefore agreed to retain the hedge on the Wetplay site.

6: Member Group updates

FCC: GJ reported:

- successful fundraising for Trinity Hospice from its Carol Service at the Bandstand;
- Thomas's School will fund the planting of 30 trees this January and February;
- his concern about some degradation of Eagle Pond from a growing parakeet roost alongside;
- the need for a long-term plan for the Green Waste site, which is currently being used well below its future potential;

Action 6: Secretary to note for future agenda

7: Any other business

LMB and MM raised the poor condition of the Paddocks area on South Side, in particular the need to renew bollards (lower priority than Windmill Drive, West Side and The Avenue), and damage from moped parking. KC recognised the need to work up a holistic plan for the strip.

8: Date of next meeting: Annual Open Meeting on 8 February, 1900, at Omnibus Theatre

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary