

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 1 August 2024, 1900 - 2100 The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (AD) (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Barry (LB)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

Member organisations:

Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common) (EA)

Alison Macnair (Clapham Society, for Michael Barry) (AM)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC) (*and Secretary*)

Petr Kaiser

Michael Mooney (MM)

Joanna Reynolds

Krishna Siva (*and Treasurer*)

Andrew Summers

Lambeth Council: Paul Smith, Head of Parks (PS); Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from Michael Barry, Cllr Ben Curtis, Carole Powell (This is Clapham), and Kim Wiper. CCMAC membership also includes: Charlee Boston

1: Matters arising from 11 July meeting

RASE 'Food & Farming Expo': there has been little development in the past three weeks; PS will report on any progress at the next meeting.

Parks Investment Levy allocations 2024/5: LMB had produced just ahead of the meeting figures showing (including carry over from previous year) £70k allocated to Clapham Common. Existing commitments already notified amount to £35k, and further funding ought to be set aside for investment in new bins, as part of a wider review of waste collection. (CCMAC will provide views on priority locations, and also encourages sharing of best practice with adjoining boroughs.). It was agreed that all the remainder, c£30k, be allocated to the path enhancement priorities identified by CCMAC in June, on the understanding that the urgent repair to the paths by Holy Trinity Church will be funded separately.

Action 1: LMB to take path enhancements forward with Hanna Radlowska, and Masterplan Delivery WG to confirm final spending decisions.

Mud Club: with no further news on previously mentioned Lambeth 'decision report' no further action required from CCMAC.

2: Clapham Fair 7 September

Katherine Henry, from the organising team at Omnibus Theatre, had written with further details of the event. They seek a donation from each participating organisation to cover costs, rather than specifying a fee. CCMAC agreed it will need a team of 8+ to staff the stall in pairs for 90-minute shifts. It should focus presentation on a pair of issues – Windmill

Drive, and the Wetlands Project were proposed – and have available a detailed map of the Common to provide a prompt to discussing any concerns Fair visitors might have.

Action 2: AD to check CCMAC banner is available, and need to coordinate rota in time for final briefing at 5 September meeting.

3: Ongoing Clapham Common works update:

On three main areas of CCMAC concern, PS and LMB advised as follows:

Enforcement activity: there have been successes in shutting down Unlicensed Music Events, but the gate enabling access on to the central Common from Windmill Drive was still too often being left open. AIJ has been able to respond promptly to many instances of incursions, but felt the Depot team must ensure, each day at around 6pm, that the gate is locked. As for fishing on Long Pond, new signing about its illegality should soon help. A key enforcement challenge now is unlicensed ice cream vans, who are not discouraged by even repeat fines. They may though be driven out by the licensed trader that Lambeth has now lined up to take up position by the Temperance Fountain with immediate effect.

This led to a wider discussion of the effectiveness of the Council's enforcement activity: despite the new Enforcement Team, and availability of a range of tools such as Fixed Penalty Notices and Public Space Protection Orders, widespread contravention of bylaws continues. CCMAC was ready to advise on priorities given the limited resources, and on where and when the Team are most needed. AD pointed to the need for an overhaul of all bylaw signing.

Action 3A: PS to provide management information on outputs from the Enforcement Team since inception, to inform a discussion with CCMAC, including of how bylaws are publicised; LB to seek views from the Clapham Town Safer Neighbourhood team. PS to instruct Depot team re daily checks on gate, and reiterate message to all authorised users re need to relock it.

Bowling Greens site: whilst negotiations with the (performing arts classes) operator of the Pavilion were nearing resolution, things were going more slowly with the shortlisted bidder for the Kiosk café. CCMAC expressed concern at any risk that the property might need to be put on the market once again. EA noted that, if a financially sustainable use for the kiosk proved elusive, one option might be demolition and re-greening, per the Masterplan policy for structures on the Common in disrepair. As for the collapsing pergola, AD had drafted a simple poster explaining that repair awaits the end of the nesting season.

Action 3B: PS to report back asap on next steps for the kiosk agreed with the Council's property advisor, and on the opening date envisaged for the Pavilion. LMB to confirm she is content for the pergola notice to be displayed. AIJ to liaise with Wandsworth Councillor Jo Rigby to establish position with planning application for the Pavilion.

Operations effectiveness: PS will be discussing with Kevin Crook the scope for enhancements to how Lambeth Landscapes manage day-to-day operations

Action 3C: PS to engage CCMAC on plans as they take shape

Works issues also include (in alphabetic order):

- *Bandstand flooring*: AM will continue seeking Clapham Society expertise on appropriate colour to be used.
- *'Old Toilet Block' café*: some delay to completing conversion work because of asbestos, but should be tackled this month.
- *'Sports Container'*: LMB reported that this storage unit needs to be moved out of the garden behind the 'toilet block café', probably to alongside the Changing Rooms; AD asked that CCMAC be consulted on the specifics of the change.

Action 3D: PS to report on next steps with both the café and the Sports Container

- *Toilets at Pear Tree Café (PTC)*: these are in a poor condition and inadequate for the demand at busy times. Lambeth should investigate if PTC is meeting its obligations under the alcohol licence, food hygiene regulations, or its lease.

Action 3E: LMB to liaise with Lambeth property team; LB will make a member's enquiry highlighting the problem.

- *Vegandale*: CCMAC highlighted concerns it shares with Nightingale Lane residents that this one-day event in July was a (loud) music event rather than the food market as had been initially presented. Even if, as seems likely, the event does not return, there should be lessons for how the Lambeth Events team scrutinise proposals.
- *Waterplay*: the facility has been extremely popular in recent weeks; there are no formal limits to capacity, but on several occasions recently the system has cut off for safety reasons, when the quality of water being recycled falls below standard. Users have complained, but it should be reset after around 20 minutes. There also seems to be a significant issue with litter inside the Wetplay area during the school holiday period; CCMAC will take part in a review of bin provision.
- *Windmill Drive*: The extra layer of road surface will be laid next week, and cameras installed in mid-August. LMB is urgently discussing with the project team what adjustments might be made to the layout to ensure that, in the absence of a continuous footpath, it safely functions as a shared space.

4: Progress reports from Working Groups

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: should turn its attention to signage: noting the obstacles Lambeth have in authorising and installing official signs, CCMAC should propose its own signs, subject to checking wording with LMB.
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: to deal with cases of cancellation due to poor weather, AD is applying a cut-off point of the Wednesday beforehand to determine if weather forecast justifies cancellation. Given concern at insufficient deckchairs being set out, PS will check if it is indeed the case that many in the stock are broken. Looking ahead to the 2025 programme, the WG will endeavour to diversify the range of performers selected.
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: (progress to await Action 3B)
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: the biodiversity report from the London Wildlife Trust has still not been delivered; it is important that it adds maximum value.

Action 4: PS to liaise with Kevin Crook to ensure that LWT engage with the relevant Community groups in formulating the Management Plan section of the report.

- 5) *Events*: MM still awaiting next draft of Strategy from Lucy Zaman.
- 6) *Governance*: PC reported Group will carry out mid-year review on 6 August.
- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: (AD to advise on next steps at September meeting)
- 8) *Sports*: (AD to advise on next steps at September meeting)

5: Member Group update

- *Wild Clapham*: expect to be carrying out the Windmill Drive planting, in mid-September. GJ explained this was not ideal timing, but the plan is a diverse one, attuned to the challenges of the site (several shady areas, high sand content). On the Wetlands project, the planning consent is still awaited; a range of private donations are being lined up to complete the funding package, now that the National Lottery Heritage Fund has confirmed it will not support.

6: Any other business

There was clear appetite for a discussion of the challenges of the 'Grassy Knoll' site by Clapham Common tube station, but this is held back to the next meeting when This is Clapham can take part. Cyclist Behaviour should also be on the agenda this autumn.

7: Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 September, 1900, at the Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey, Secretary