

## Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 6 March 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

### Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*) (AD)

Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

*Member organisations:*

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common – FCC)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

*Community Representatives:*

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Andrew Summers (AS)

*Lambeth Council:* Paul Smith (PS)

Apologies received from: Charlee Boston, Ben Curtis, Lara Mifsud-Bonici and Lucy Zaman (Lambeth Council), Krishna Siva, Kim Wiper

### **1: Matters arising from previous meetings**

- *Christmas tree disposal:* LH had established that Wandsworth urges its crews to clear piles of trees left in the wrong places through historic local behaviour, but they sometimes have difficulty accessing; it will consider revised instructions to residents this autumn.
- *Green Investment Scheme:* JR offered assistance to PS in investigating potential to replicate this LB Hammersmith & Fulham initiative in Lambeth, as suggested at the AOM.
- *Artwork on bins:* PS reported some enthusiasm for the competition proposed at the AOM, and will pick up in his litter strategy review.

**Action 1: PS to report on both AOM initiatives by May meeting**

### **2: Election of officers**

Four newly-elected Community Representatives proposed themselves to continue in post: AD, as Chair, seconded by CFM; JR, as Vice Chair, seconded by PK; PC as Secretary, seconded by GJ; and KS as Treasurer, seconded by LB. PK will continue in his second year as Comms Officer.

JR advised we should avoid the risk in future years that all four office-holders are subject to re-election at the same time.

**Action 2: PC and the Governance WG to propose how best to vary terms of office**

### **3: Events update and implications for PIL**

In LZ's absence, AD summed up current expectations, including Moonwalk, on the main events site from 12-21 May; the Race for Life and Pretty Muddy in late May; and newcomer Winestock 21-31 July by Nightingale Lane. The Street Food Market should comprise 12 stalls on summer Sundays, concurrent with the bandstand concerts. The Oktoberfest promoters have applied to use the Redgra site again each year to 2028; and the Lights Festival is expected to return in the winter. As it now seemed likely that RASE will postpone its Food & Farming Festival to 2026, PS reported that Lambeth are seeking smaller events to fill the gap in the programme, with a three-day music festival, up to 15k attendees each day, having just been suggested for September.

**Action 3A: LZ to provide further info at or before next meeting, including detail on Street Food Market plans; AD and Events WG to liaise with LZ to discuss and then agree the boundaries of the Circus/Funfair site for Events (Action 1A from January meeting)**

There was still great uncertainty on what this revised events programme will mean for PIL income in 2025/6, and there needs to be greater clarity on how CCMAC will exercise its role determining how the money should be invested. We agreed the priority now should be paths renewal: a fresh walk-around was needed to identify key locations for enhancements, as well as where urgent repair (funded by Lambeth separately) is needed. There was an imperative to remedy all potholes deemed to be a trip hazard (25mm or deeper), and the existing list of reported defects needed updating. Some PIL funding should also be used to continue the programme of renewing bollards and benches.

**Action 3B: JR (Access & Paths WG) to liaise with LMB.**

#### **4: Enforcement activity – future plans**

PS explained the Education and Enforcement Team was being disbanded, as it had proved impossible to reach the full complement for the Team and empower the officers. Alternative strategies now being pursued include engaging Wandsworth's Parks Police to operate on the Wandsworth side of the Common, and/or bringing in private contractors. Fixed Penalty Notice powers re breach of bylaws will be a valuable tool, and could be in place by July. CCMAC noted that better signage was needed to highlight what the bylaws mean, and there was a role for volunteer activity to engage pre-emptively with the public on days of peak risk of contravention; this must not however become vigilante activity. JR offered to assess the potential in the Safer Neighbourhoods Team that she chairs.

**Action 4: PS to update CCMAC on Lambeth plans following Team disbanding; JR to share date of next SNT meeting with PS and LMB to ensure that relevant officials attend (including possibly from Wandsworth – PS has contact with Northcote SNT).**

#### **5: Ongoing Clapham Common works update from PS**

*Cafés:* no decision yet on whether the Woodland Café (ie by Battersea Woods) would be leased out or operated in-house; the playground café would need to be bundled in, as it is not a viable operation on its own (and cannot be staffed at weekends whilst the current uncertainty continues). Similarly, no progress on the Bowling Greens kiosk: the planned lessee has not so far been able to reach agreement with the immediately local residents and

may feel it has to proceed with applying to Wandsworth for an alcohol licence. The Commercial team is finalising negotiations with Pear Tree Café, including for the overdue toilet improvements. Meghans have passed their lease on to a new operator Ollies House / Common Pizza; PS is concerned that this flexibility in the lease reduces the ability to control impacts such as litter.

**Action 5A: given the range of impacts, PS to ensure Commercial Team shares its deadlines for resolution and expectations for 2025**

*Litter:* the summer programme will start from 1 April, with a four-strong team on Saturdays and Sundays, but until 3pm only. There could however be problems this month, with staff sickness and leave meaning even the reduced winter cover could not be guaranteed. The central Eurobins will be moved to the front of the Pear Tree Café to reduce damage from waste truck access in wetter conditions. Bookers of football pitches have been reminded they may be banned in future if they cause litter problems, although unauthorised use of pitches is the more likely cause.

*Sauna:* the pop-up facility on the Waterplay site has missed this season's window but should start in the autumn.

**Action 5B: present detailed plans for CCMAC consideration in good time.**

*Private schools' use of Common:* new arrangements for all schools should be in place by end April.

*Green Waste site:* the screening should be improved by substituting evergreens for alternate shrubs in the existing hedging.

*Fishing pegs:* the renewal has been delayed because the wrong components had been procured.

**Action 5C: PS to get update from Ian Boulton, Lambeth Parks Officer**

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

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* see Action 3B for next steps
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB reported that 15 bands have been lined up for the 15 Sunday slots. It was disappointing that Pear Tree Café had in past years refused to help publicise the concerts; CCMAC noted it was worth a fresh attempt to get their support, perhaps even a financial contribution. MB noted that Shirley Kermer of FCC could be an effective interlocutor on CCMAC's behalf. We also needed to ensure sufficient deckchairs will be put out, and whether there was still a need to seek donations from local businesses.

**Action 6A: WG to meet this month to allocate dates for each band and commission audit of deckchair stock; MB to request help from Ms Kermer.**

- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion:* as noted in 3, no progress re the Kiosk, but change of use permission now granted for the Pavilion and Lambeth optimistic that the new activities centre will start soon.
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity:* GJ has met London Wildlife Trust to talk through its 10-year Ecology & Biodiversity Management Plan, but most of its recommendations are

already in train. He focused their attention on the priorities of restoring the health of Battersea Woods and Nursery Woods, aiming to get LWT, with its perceived greater authority, to take the lead on the need for change. GJ and AD will alert PS to any concerns re the quality of the LWT report, and recommend taking the necessary time this spring and summer to finalise an effective 10-year Plan.

- 5) *Events*: on hold awaiting substantive input from LZ. EA shared with CCMAC a lengthy recent submission from residents around Brockwell Park re events management there which may be relevant to the challenges facing Clapham Common.
- 6) *Governance*: WG should reconvene to consider how CCMAC should carry out its role overseeing use of PIL monies; it should also review how best to work with Clapham BID in future. The updated Register of Interests was noted.  
**Action 6B: PC to schedule meeting** (and see Action 2)
- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: no recent activity
- 8) *Sports*: AD circulated a note of its latest meeting, focusing on enforcement priorities. PS reported that, if a current trial is successful, Lambeth will install timers on the doors to the Bowling Green toilets, meaning they could stay open later without incurring overtime costs.

Some adjustments were made to the membership of the Working Groups in the light of adjusted priorities and the election at the Annual Open Meeting; the revised make-up of Groups is attached. There is additionally a Litter Action Group, led by AS.

## **7: Member Group updates**

*Clapham Society (CS)*: CS's daffodil planting on the grassy knoll and surrounds has been successful, but extra shrubs would be useful in stopping people making short cuts through the areas; Wild Clapham can get this under way once a water supply is available. The Society is also drawing up a roster of volunteers to back up the limited time input its gardener Paul Day can devote to tending these areas. MB also mentioned CS's initiative in conjunction with the London Festival of Architecture to enhance the appearance of the railway overbridge by Clapham North station.

**Action 7A: MB to let GJ know when water is connected**

*Friends of Clapham Common*: EA encouraged CCMAC members to help publicise the Easter Treasure Trail event on 23 March

*Wild Clapham*: GJ reported on:

- the Wetland Project, on track for completion end March, although it will look a 'muddy mess' until July. The path between it and Eagle Pond is prone to flooding and so needs extra hardcore to keep it usable. Lambeth needed to be ready to manage visits by local schools.

**Action 7B: PS to let GJ know who will be contact for schools' booking requests**

- the need for additional planting of resilient species in the scrub islands in the LNR, which was approved by CCMAC.
- Windmill Drive planting is about to begin, to be complete by end April

- Agreement has been reached on making the most of the 'ecological jewel' that is the strip of land behind the houses on Leathwaite Road; this entails minimising cut-back, but opening up an arc through the strip to increase access. AD had spoken to one resident who remained opposed to this element of rewilding, but understood that all others were on board.

#### **8: Any other business**

PK undertook to add some worthwhile news stories to the website, and, as he sees fit, to Instagram; one suggestion was the new planting around the Green Waste site. He should also work with CFM to finalise and use a new poster format that she had worked up for CCMAC announcements around the Common.

#### **Action 8A: PK**

AD mentioned Rudy McDonald's desire to procure longer-lasting stencils for painting cycle / pedestrian signs on paths, and asked PS to ensure that this did not hold up the very urgent need, on safety grounds, to mark the paths now. There was also a need for a sign instructing cyclists on Windmill Drive to proceed through the new layout in slalom style.

#### **Action 8B: PS**

**9: Date of next meeting:** Thursday 3 April, 1900, at the Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)