

## Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 3 April 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

### Attendees:

Joanna Reynolds (JR) (*Chair*)

Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

*Community Representatives:*

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Kim Wiper (KW)

*Member organisations:*

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

*Lambeth Council:*

Paul Smith (PS)

Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB) and Lucy Zaman (LZ) – part

Apologies received from: Adrian Darley (AD), Charlee Boston (CB), Ben Curtis (BC), Krishna Siva, (KS) Ed Alnutt (EA - Friends of Clapham Common – FCC), Petr Kaiser (PK), Phil Carey (PC), Andrew Summers (AS)

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

- *Green Investment Scheme:* PS has reviewed additional information regarding this LB Hammersmith & Fulham initiative with potential to replicate in Lambeth, however, further investigating still required in terms of how it generates income. He is meeting with a colleague from LB of H&F over next month and should be able to respond at June meeting
- *Artwork on Eurobins:* PS reported no further movement at this time and will pick up in his litter strategy review.
- *Website:* CFM to liaise with PK re updating website with new stories and finalise general posters

**Action 1: PS to report on Green Investment initiative by June meeting**

**Action 2: CFM/PK update website and posters**

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

LZ summarised key events proposals under consideration now that RASE would not go ahead in summer, 2025. RASE remain keen and are looking to hold similar scale and size of event in 2026. LZ will be negotiating contract and securing a financial commitment over next few months. Full planning and common land application will have to be secured again. Aim is to have this completed this year in advance of event in 2026.

Outline proposal has been submitted for a Light Trail Event over winter months to include light installations and ambient music to take place across a fixed route during December and January evenings. Environmental impact and mitigation plan to be reviewed, and Common Land Consent required if goes ahead. GJ reinforced need for due care and diligence to environmental impact on woodland areas and LNRs and written into any agreement with them. LZ provided a brief outline Brand Activation proposal for November. It is very early stages and LZ will update before or at the next meeting.

LZ advised there wasn't an active Brand Activation Officer currently and so would impact day to day business running of that department.

LMB gave some clarity as to PIL forecast for this year – it is reduced as fewer events during 2025 confirmed but currently stands at circa £45,000.

**Action 3A: LZ to provide further info on Light Trail before next meeting, to review before Common Land Consent being secured.**

**Action 3B: LZ to share Brand Activation proposal at next meeting if pursued**

#### **4: Enforcement activity**

PS explained that, with the Education and Enforcement Team being disbanded, resource would come initially from Public Protection, however it would not be the same level of support as they are not purely assigned to Parks. PS said they were looking to engage with Wandsworth's Parks Police and requested LH pursue discussion with Wandsworth colleagues alongside him to see if they can get an SMA for Parks to enforce bylaws on Wandsworth side of Common.

JR advised the local SNT meeting would take place at the Hawksworth Hall, Oaklands Estate on 10<sup>th</sup> April and policing on the Common could be raised.

AJJ requested reassurances re approach to dealing with UMEs in light of the Education and Enforcement Team being disbanded and ensure still a priority for team.

**Action 4: LH to liaise with PS re Wandsworth colleagues policing of Common. PS to provide a further update regarding enforcing bylaws at next meeting**

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

*Cafés:* Pavillion: finalising terms of contract – Kevin Crook (KC) is leading on that. Still no decision yet on whether the Woodland Café (by Battersea Woods) would be leased out or operated in-house. Bowling Greens kiosk: working on electrical supply upgrades. Heads of Terms is signed with Pear Tree Café, and currently finalising the lease. KC requested in principle agreement for PIL money to be spent on toilet improvements at PTC. There was unanimous consensus that this was not what had been discussed at previous meetings – in fact, it had been agreed that new lease would not go out to tender if PTC covered the cost of the toilet area improvements. It should be noted that there was deep concern around the PTC contract considering the toilet refurb/PIL contribution question. PS to feedback to KC that no PIL funding available to cover toilet refurbishment. JR had subsequent email exchange with KC who advised that the PIL funding request was in respect of refurbishment of the shower(s) not the toilets. Subsequent communication from AD on 11th April relating to the toilet refurbishment, clarified taking in the toilet facilities within the CCMAC/Friends

store area to the rear of PTC. He detailed that the new overall provision would include 5 dedicated women's cubicles, 1 disabled cubicle, 1 men's cubicle and a row of urinals - all open for much longer hours in summer than the toilets at the Windmill playground and the Westside tennis courts. This is due to the expanded footprint taking in the store area. The view is to use up to £15,000 of film parking fees money to cover the cost towards the 3 additional cubicles. GJ set out certain provisos in agreeing to the above. AD to feedback next meeting following discussions with PTC.

New operator @ Meghan's Terrace site /Common Pizza: PS said there is extreme concern for the potential for litter of pizza boxes. Common Pizza has said that they would be selling slices of pizza, without any boxes, or napkins. Waste management issues, Delivery drivers arriving from all over and overwhelming carpark, and use of gas or wood fired oven remain key concerns to be ironed out. PS to respond with solutions to above.

GJ raised that bird boxes and bug hotels had been positioned within Woodlands Café parameter, where they could be tampered with, or vandalised. He expressed concern that it was dangerous to allow birds to nest where they are potentially not safe (easy access). PS/LMB to investigate.

**Action 5A: PS to shares resolutions to above concerns re PTC lease including toilet refurb, and Common Pizza at next meeting. AD to feedback following discussion with PTC re provisos for usage of film monies on expanded toilet provision.**

**Action 5B: Counsellors to raise enquiry as to why Woodland Café taking so long to open in view of potential squatting issue while it remains empty.**

**Action 5C: PS/LMB to relocate bird box/bug hotels to more appropriate location/height**

*Mount pond gate:* LMB advised that PTC was actively looking to change the gate to an electric barrier. LMB assessed that, as it was a private enterprise, and with on-going maintenance costs, and potential for costly damage if crashed into, that this was not worth considering. Discussion arose re Mount Pond gate being left open and risking potential access for UME's or vehicles onto the Common, PS to see whether it can be written into addendum to PTC lease that the gate needs to be closed when not in use.

**Action 5D: PS to assess solutions to gate being left open.**

*Bollards:* CFM highlighted easy vehicle access to Common from the entrance next to Tony's Café next to Windmill on the Common, as the bollards were far apart and suggested that the unauthorised Ice Cream van may have accessed via there. JR included that there were no bollards remaining by the section of Paddocks by the kissing gate at Notre Dame Estate and needed to be replaced. LMB shared that they would now resume ordering more, but that there were so many missing or falling apart that it would be substantive work that the Common would need to be mapped out for bollard replacement.

**Action 5E: LMB to include in next phase of bollard replacement.**

*Stencils for cycling paths:* There was agreement for the placement of the temporary signage so this will now be made permanent.

*Litter:* The summer programme has started, PS has reviewed way in which litter collection is resourced this year; it will not be carried out by agency staff allowing for greater flexibility in adjusting hours and potential to extend programme into Autumn and Spring next year. LMB

discussed the possibility of additional bins for the Common or re placement of existing stock to more appropriate locations. GJ requested 2 additional bins to be placed close to the entrance to green waste site, and next to the bench overlooking the Wetlands Area.

**Action 5F: KS raised the bins by the tennis courts on West Side for replacement/upgrading – for May meeting. LMB to follow up with GJ re his request.**

*Benches:* LMB updated that work had resumed on placement of the benches and now working on new locations

*Toilets:* The male toilets at both the Bowling Green and The Depot. A “job” has been raised and they should be repaired soon.

*Sauna:* Aim remains for the pop-up facility on the Waterplay site to start in late Autumn.

**Action 5G: LMB to present detailed plans for CCMAC consideration**

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

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* CFM shared that, together with AD, they had identified key potholes and compiled a list of priorities for path replacement following a walkabout at the end of March. GJ noted that new signage would be put up along Windmill Drive across the coming month as part of snagging for the new pedestrianised path. LMB confirmed that they now had a day rate for the approved contractor for paths and once a final list of repairs has been compiled, they will undertake the work. Further mapping out of the Common for potholes may still be required. JR to establish new Access and Paths contact from Hannah, but in interim to liaise with LMB.

**Action 6A: CFM to share working doc of mapped out potholes with JR and APS working group**

- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB reported that all 15 bands have been selected for the 15 Sunday slots and included a detailed list of which bands were participating on each day. The band selection includes a mix of Brass Bands, Choirs and Orchestras as well as some new bands. There are currently 56 Deckchairs in working order. There is capacity for up to 75 so the WG will look to find another 30 - There are deckchairs available from The Railway Pub on Clapham High St and M&S could potentially donate additional branded deckchairs. There is potential for access issues with both bands and Street Food Stalls operating at the same time to consider as well as additional waste management requirements due to food stalls being in place. The schedule of Marshals still needs to be agreed, with at least one Marshal starting at 1300 to liaise with transport and loading onto the bandstand before the concert commence at 1400 and at least one Marshal to remain on site till 1630 to assist in packing up.

**Action 6B: Bandstand Concerts WG to share marshal rota to be filled and to work to secure the additional deckchairs**

- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion:* No additional update at this stage.
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity:* GJ advised London Wildlife Trust would like to do a walkabout of the Common before finalising its 10-year Ecology & Biodiversity Management Plan. GJ emphasised the woodlands as key priorities as wildflower

planting, wetland and tree planting were all in hand whereas there were some key issues to address with Robinia invasion and ongoing pandemic Dutch Elm disease.

**Action 6C: GJ to share proposed walkabout date for any of E&B WG to attend**

- 5) *Events*: Still on hold awaiting substantive input from both Programme Director and Corporate Director on the overarching Strategic Framework principles which has still to be agreed for the Borough.
- 6) *Governance*: WG reconvening 22<sup>nd</sup> April to consider how CCMAC should carry out its role overseeing use of PIL monies; it will also look at how to better phase the re-election process for key officers, and how to engage with Clapham Bid in future now they are no longer part of CCMAC.

**Action 6D: PC and the Governance WG meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: no recent activity
- 8) *Sports*: no recent update

## **7: Member Group updates**

*Clapham Society (CS)*: CS is now actively seeking volunteers to help maintain the various garden spots in Clapham Old Town and Clapham High Street, this will be from May. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the planting, especially the daffodils around Clapham Common Underground. Expanding the areas to be planted, MB suggested filling the gaps on the grassy knoll and the potential to plant more around the grass strip by the Polygon and Old fire Station. MB also mentioned the idea of running a smaller competition to re-imagine what the rail bridge over Clapham High Street as the London Festival of Architecture proposal was unaffordable. CS have planted two replacement “memorial” Oak Trees on Clapham Common with the assistance of GJ.

*Friends of Clapham Common*: Friends raised over £10,000 from the Easter Egg Trail, which will be divided between Roots Project, a programme providing children with meals and theatre experience during school holidays with Omnibus Theatre, and £5,000 for their funds. GJ raised concern about the tiny pond area just before Battersea Woods, which the Friends are having to fill with barrels of water with great frequency so that the tadpoles /frog spawn will survive. GJ believed better planning was needed to address this area and to create a more viable environment, as he believed it either needed a proper pond, or the path raised so the rainwater didn't flood the path.

**Action 7A: CCMAC to consider more effective solutions once spawning season over**

*Wild Clapham*: GJ reported on:

- the Wetland Project, Construction completed 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Heras fencing will stay in place until the planting is completed. It should be open to the public within the next 3 weeks. Need to secure a rail for the viewing deck and a cover for the water tap.
- Windmill Drive planting is about to begin, 700 plants should arrive for planting imminently and the area will be complete by end April.
- Need to be aware of potential conflict of pedestrians pausing to look at plants and cyclists passing, causing friction between two.
- Volunteering watering schedule is now resuming due to earlier than normal dry weather.

## **8: Any other business**

JR commented that it was expected that members attend the monthly meetings in person and that Zoom attendance should not become a default.

KS raised question via email prior to meeting re progress of tennis license and update on the Rose Pergola / Arbour on Westside progress

**9: Date of next meeting:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1900, at the Depo  
Minutes drafted by Clare Frances McMene