

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 1 May 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*) (AD)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

Member organisations:

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common)(EA)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Krishna Siva (KS)

Andrew Summers (AS)

Lambeth Council: Paul Smith (PS), Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from: Joanna Reynolds (JR), Gareth James (GJ). Also on CCMAC: Charlee Boston, Kim Wiper

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 3 April meeting were approved. All actions are addressed in the following agenda items.

2: Events update

In the absence of Lucy Zaman, AD flagged up Moonwalk on 18 May (occupying the Events site from 12-21 May) as the first big event of 2025.

Action 2: AD to chase Lucy re winter Light Trail proposal

3: Commercial operations update

LMB reported on:

- *Brand activation:* responsibility has been transferred from Events to the Parks team, but they will apply the same approvals process, turning down any proposals deemed inappropriate. Notwithstanding business confidentiality constraints, AD felt CCMAC should know what promotion activities are coming up; EA reiterated his concern about the legal basis for this activity.

Action 3A: LMB to obtain the Legal advice already requested, and to confirm how Brand Activation receipts are treated.

- *Café leases:* agents Addison Young have begun marketing the lease opportunity for the Woodland Café, citing a minimum rental of £20k pa. AS pressed Lambeth's

commercial team to specify environmental conditions (eg no single-use plastics) at the earliest opportunity. No progress to report re Pear Tree Café following agreement reached last month on shared funding of toilet and shower improvements. Wandsworth Council has now granted planning approval for change of use of the Bowling Green Pavilion, and the candidate lessees for both the Pavilion and Kiosk are understood to be still on board.

Action 3B: PS to provide update on prospects for the Pavilion and Kiosk, and on planned timescale for the Woodland Café tender.

- *Sauna on Water Play site:* CCMAC has now seen the promoter's more detailed proposal. PS flagged the benefits in discouraging anti-social behaviour on the site through the winter, and it was noted it was modelled on a pop-up sauna successfully operating in Ruskin Park. EA asked which legal powers covered consent from Lambeth, and sought assurance on the power source, and the use of wooden decking rather than artificial grass; subject to that, CCMAC indicated it would not object to the proposal.

Action 3C: LMB to provide requested information

- *Trading concessions:* LMB confirmed that receipts go to the borough-wide Parks budget, with no portion ring-fenced for Clapham Common.

4: Enforcement update

PS should be able to focus now on maximising effectiveness of the Council's activity following the disbanding of the Education and Enforcement Team. LH awaits a response from Wandsworth officials on the potential for an arrangement with Wandsworth Parks Police. With the peak season for Unlicensed Music Events (UMEs) beginning, PS confirmed that any reports should go straight to the Police using the non-emergency 101 number; it was not practicable to get named officer contacts. The nature of this illegal activity means there is limited scope for assembling advance intelligence of planned incursions; but CCMAC took some comfort from new bollards and tree planting blocking previously-used access points, and was pleased that the padlock for the Mount Pond gate is about to be welded on.

On other aspects of Enforcement:

- *Barbecues and bylaws:* disposable BBQs continued to damage the turf; there was only limited public awareness of the bylaw banning them, and a pressing need to promote the key bylaw provisions more generally. Temporary A-board signs have not been effective, and CCMAC urged LMB to expedite the planned permanent pictogram-based signing; it could contribute to funding. We should press local supermarkets selling disposable BBQs to highlight that they cannot be used on the Common.

Actions 4A: LMB to submit proposed bylaw sign design for CCMAC approval; BC and LH to contact Tesco and Sainsbury, at both local manager level and with their Public Affairs teams

- *Football pitches:* LMB reported unauthorised marking out of pitches on the Events site, including painting the grass. Reduced grass cutting would discourage this abuse.

- *Ice cream vans:* the licensed operator 'First Come First Serve Catering' has agreed to operate an extra van by the Temperance Fountain; and also by the central playground (weekend only) – although here the van will have to remain on diesel power as flooding damage has cut the electricity supply.

Action 4B: LMB to expedite restoration of the power supply.

- *Netball court:* CCMAC was concerned at how informal skating was driving away booked users of the netball court; clearer signing of its purpose and of forthcoming bookings would help; the situation needs to be monitored.
- *Rough sleepers:* LH had brought to the attention of Wandsworth's Community Safety Officer the rough sleepers at the Bowling Green pavilion; this needs cooperation with Lambeth's team, and LH will forward details of that correspondence with LMB. Lambeth had made some progress dealing with tents on the Common, helping the often vulnerable occupants and storing the tents and belongings in the Depot.

5: Ongoing Clapham Common works update

Litter: PS will carry out the delayed assessment of bin needs this month. He explained that the full weekend litter service is back in operation, with two team members focusing on each of 'in' and 'out' activity. CCMAC sought to understand the distinction better, but requested a greater focus on the outer stretches of the Common (eg the Paddocks). KS raised the problem of litter on the tennis courts and cricket nets, and whether future bookings from the assumed culprits could be rejected.

Action 5A: PS to clarify the 'in / out' terminology, and next steps in litter strategy

Paths renewal: CFM had prepared for the Paths & Access Working Group a refreshed list of paths most urgently needing repair, highlighting six 'priority potholes' (>2.5cm in depth). LMB will progress action on these this month, with as the first step checking how much can be resurfaced in a day's work, and seeking to tackle other defects in the list that are in the same vicinity. This, and the repair of the damaged path by Holy Trinity Church, will be funded from Lambeth budgets, in line with the Council's obligation, not from PIL.

Action 5B: LMB to arrange programming of the work and report to CCMAC on progress

LMB reported on further walkabouts identifying priority locations for additional *bollards* (valuable enforcement tools – see above) and *benches*. CCMAC had previously noted bollards had disappeared on the Paddocks by the kissing gate at the Notre Dame Estate, but this has to be treated as only medium priority.

6: Progress reports from Working Groups

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* see Action 5B for next steps
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB confirmed that all bands are now lined up for concerts on 14 consecutive Sundays from 1 June, plus Bank Holiday Monday 25 August. 1 June is also the first day of the streetfood market on the south-west edge of the bandstand area, with ten stalls opening up around midday and running through to 1600; this could cause congestion with vans picking up at the same time as the concert ends. It may increase the demands on the volunteer marshals, although CCMAC stresses that

it is for the market organiser, Karnival, not our volunteers , to look after its operations, particularly on the first day. [Post-meeting AD has had confirmation that at least one Karnival person will attend each market day.] CCMAC's priority is to fill the roster for 30 volunteer shifts (two per concert), running now from 1300 – 1600, and 1400-1700. MB will provide a briefing sheet for the marshals, specifying contacts at Lambeth: PS will be the first point of contact for all concerts, but will delegate to the relevant on-call officer if not on-site himself. The Working Group has requested 70 deckchairs for each concert, noting the extra demand generated by the food stalls; MB will coordinate sourcing of the full set (including donation from the Railway pub) on the first day, and storage on-site thereafter.

Action 6A: LB to circulate marshals roster, expecting all CCMAC members to volunteer at least once, and encouraging non-CCMAC volunteers to fill slots alongside them. AD, with PK, to check publicity arrangements for the programme.

- 3) *Bowling Greens and Pavilion*: see Action 3B for next steps
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: see Wild Clapham report below
- 5) *Events*: see Action 2 for next steps
- 6) *Governance*: PC reported the WG had met and briefed the Chair on the procedures it thinks should be followed for CCMAC to advise effectively on use of PIL in future. On two separate issues, the WG took the view there was no need to expand the set of associated organisations specified in the Constitution, and that we could manage the risk of Committee officers' periods of membership of CCMAC expiring at the same time, without the need for staggering the terms.

Action 6B: AD to discuss arrangement for PIL with Kevin Crook

- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: AD will convene a meeting to resume forward-look activity
- 8) *Sports*: AD and KS had discussed with Simon Harris, Leisure Services Manager, the challenge of enforcing the existing tennis coach licensing regime, and the prospects for overhauling it. Proposals are now being considered within the Council, but will need Cabinet-level approval; a new structure may be possible later this year. PS confirmed this process could not be expedited, but undertook to respond in the meantime where there is clear evidence of bookings being abused.

7: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: no update as Committee has not met since CCMAC April meeting

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): EA reported on very successful fundraising from the Easter event, and trailed the Summer Party planned for mid-June and Halloween event in mid-October.

Wild Clapham: GJ confirmed in a written report successful completion of: the Wetlands Project (subject to some minor bedding-in issues); the restoration of the Rose Pergola on West Side (in conjunction with FCC); and the Windmill Drive planting (as of 1 May). CCMAC applauded the hard work Wild Clapham and partners had put in. He also reported (i) the limited cutting back of the Leathwaite Road patch in the coming fortnight, which would not satisfy all local residents; and (ii) the dissatisfaction with the inadequate, and very late, draft 'Landscape & Ecology 10-Year Management Report' produced by the consultants Logika; if this could not be resolved, GJ may press for some redress.

8: Any other business

AIJ referred to local resident Rosey Treherne Pollock's plan to raise funds to restore the Temperance Fountain, in honour of her late son; this would be much appreciated, but CCMAC was advised the cost would be higher than her plan had anticipated.

Action 8A: CFM to forward through AIJ previous correspondence explaining the full estimated cost for the work, and AD to liaise with AIJ on how best to proceed.

CCMAC considered a proposal from PK on 'Rebranding Clapham Common': there was much agreement with his diagnosis that the public would be better served if there were a single focus for information about the Common. GJ and JR had provided written input supporting the idea of a new CCMAC-led portal acting as the gateway to other organisations' websites; but it was also felt that raising CCMAC's profile in the shorter term just needed making better use of the existing website.

Action 8B: PK and CFM to liaise on updating news and events content on website. AD to schedule review by Masterplan Delivery WG and check the governance constraints on any change in CCMAC positioning.

9: Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 June, 1900, at the Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)