

## Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 5 June 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

### Attendees:

Joanna Reynolds (JR) (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)

*Member organisations:*

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ).

*Community Representatives:*

Phil Carey (PC)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Krishna Siva (KS)

*Lambeth Council:* Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from Adrian Darley (Joanna Reynolds chairing the meeting instead), Ed Alnutt, Adrian Darley, Lynsey Hedges, Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones, Paul Smith, Andrew Summers, and Kim Wiper. Also on CCMAC: Charlee Boston

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

The minutes of the 1 May meeting were approved. All actions are addressed in the following agenda items.

### **2: Bandstand concerts**

LB reported the success of the first concert of the 2025 season, on 1 June, and of the streetfood market run by Karnival, for Lambeth, alongside. Litter generated by the food stalls was a concern, and whilst LB noted all had been cleared by Monday morning, there was a need for extra bins as customers understandably did not return to the stalls to dispose of their rubbish. There were still some gaps in the rota of volunteer marshals.

**Action 2: All members to sign up for at least one marshal slot, using roster form that LB shared in meeting and will recirculate**

### **3: Events update**

In the absence of Lucy Zaman (LZ), LMB informed CCMAC about the plans for Padel tennis on the Redgra area, being taken forward by the Sports rather than Events team (probably replacing the plan for courts on the Bowling Greens site). Three temporary courts, with fencing to secure the site, should be in operation from early July. LMB understood that, with minimal impacts, there should be no need for an ecological assessment, but there was

some uncertainty on whether the facility would require planning permission from Wandsworth Council.

**Action 3A: LMB/PS to establish if courts will require planning permission as planned to be in place for more than 28 days.**

PC referred to two actions outstanding from previous meetings: AD had approached Kevin Crook re safeguarding our share of PIL revenue in future, and LZ is still to report back re the winter Light Trail proposal

**Action 3B: AD to advise on progress in discussions on improving procedures for PIL in discussions**

**Action 3C: LZ to provide update re Winter Lights.**

#### **4: Commercial operations update**

LMB summarised recent progress with brand activation opportunities, which she understands falls under the legitimate heading of 'recreational / social use' of the Common. On the various café leases, there is currently great interest from potential operators at the Woodland site. The preferred lessee for the Bowling Greens kiosk is still on board, but has confirmed it is not interested in taking on the Pavilion, following Evolve's withdrawal last month. LMB is meeting the relevant internal teams to address the current rough sleeper issue at the pavilion. Common Pizza is trading very successfully, and has submitted a planning request for extra seating. She has referred the enquiry from the Willow Tree business about operating a gelato stall by the Yacht Club building to Karnival.

**Action 4A: LMB to establish Commercial Team's plans for the Pavilion in the light of Evolve's withdrawal, and to update on progress with the Woodland Café lease**

The operator of the sauna on the Waterplay site has agreed to introduce some more affordably priced slots.

**Action 4B: LMB to report back on sauna plans, including use of decking or artificial grass (from May meeting)**

#### **5: Enforcement update**

Lynsey Hedges (LH) briefed us that Jo Shearer at Wandsworth had provided Paul Smith with information on Wandsworth's capability to assist with enforcement; and separately Kevin Crook is liaising with Tower Hamlets borough as a potential model for bylaw enforcement overall. On three specific current challenges:

*Sale and use of disposable barbecues:* LB noted that use of disposables brings safety risks as well as damages the turf. BC reported that Tesco need a request from the local authority to display warning signs about not using them on the Common. LH had in parallel raised the issue with the two Sainsburys Local branches in her ward

**Actions 5A: LB with BC to ask a Cabinet Member or Venetia Reid-Baptiste to make a formal request to Tesco and Sainsburys to post warnings re not using disposable barbecues on the Common; LH to pursue as needed with Wandsworth Council; LMB to expedite work on more impactful, simplified signing re key bylaw prohibitions.**

#### *Use of netball courts:*

CCMAC was concerned that informal roller skating (including 'skate outs' organised on social media) was improperly preventing netball teams from using their pre-booked courts, and in some cases participants behaved threateningly to the women involved. LMB advised against fencing the courts off: less because of the original intent of achieving an open look to the courts, but because it wouldn't prevent unauthorised access. JR asked if the site could be exclusively reserved for netball, but LMB pointed to the income generated by basketball hires too. CFM has contact details for some of the more responsible skating organisers.

**Actions 5B: LMB to nonetheless establish scope for making the courts netball-only, and to raise CCMAC's concerns with Donatus Anyanwu; CFM to provide LMB with details of the skating organisers she has been in contact with.**

*Ice cream vans:* Lambeth is tackling unauthorised trading by getting its licensed traders to set up by the Temperance Fountain and by the playground when the kiosk is closed; and is planning extra bollards by the Rookery Road zebra crossing to stop illegal incursions.

## **6: Works update**

CCMAC is very concerned about the developing crisis in toilet provision, with the only fully functioning facility currently at the Pear Tree Café; there are frequently long queues. There will be unacceptable pressure on Sunday afternoons in particular this summer. Angela Lee is seeking approval for procurement of portaloos facilities, but CCMAC felt strongly this must be expedited.

**Actions 6A: JR, BC and LB to highlight to Kevin Crook and Donatus Anyanwu CCMAC's urgent concerns about the crisis in provision (*done 6 June*); LMB to study the quote for portaloos and support action by Angela Lee.**

Dog owners have complained about the spread of false barley grass, which can be harmful to dogs; some report facing hefty vet's bills. CCMAC wanted to see clear warnings to owners of the need to check their dogs for the barbed seeds after being on the Common.

**Action 6B: LMB to consider what signing could be put in place**

Signage for cyclists and pedestrians: there was an urgent need to finish off the Windmill Drive project by ensuring clear warnings about the shared use areas; and CFM was concerned about the fading signing of the parallel cycle and pedestrian paths running north from there.

**Action 6C: LMB to liaise with Clive Kershaw (Lambeth Highways) re Windmill Drive, and to speak to Rudy re addressing fading signs.**

Work had not as yet started on the path repairs which were to be programmed for this summer.

**Action 6D: LMB to establish whether work can now proceed**

In Paul Smith's absence, two actions from the May meeting are restated:

**Actions 6E: PS to report on next steps for his litter strategy, and on the specific ‘out/in’ terminology used; and on Hammersmith & Fulham’s Green Investment Initiative, PS to report on progress.**

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

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: see Action 6D for next steps
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: see Item 2
- 3) *Bowling Greens and Pavilion*: see Action 4A for next steps
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: Logika, the consultants who have produced the unsatisfactory report on biodiversity, are not responding.

**Action 7: GJ to liaise with Iain Boulton to determine what redress is available**

- 5) *Events*: see Action 3C for next steps
- 6) *Governance*: see Action 3B for next steps
- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: awaiting meeting to resume forward-look activity
- 8) *Sports*: see Action 3A for next steps

## **8: Member Group updates**

*Clapham Society*: MB reported the Society is exploring how a Neighbourhood Community Plan could be put in place for the area covered by the three Lambeth wards alongside the Common, with the aim of attracting £2.7m of funding for improvements. Discussions are also continuing with TfL and Network Rail about a possible design competition for enhancing the overbridge at Clapham North.

*Friends of Clapham Common (FCC)*: In EA’s absence, GJ flagged the FCC Summer Party on 19 June, and praised the continued volunteer effort on litter-picking.

*Wild Clapham*: GJ’s pace of work has eased somewhat after an intensive spring; the Wetlands site is now open, but wildflower seeding has been badly affected by the drought.

## **9: Any other business**

- GJ referred to the new DEFRA report on use of 3G tyre infill for sports pitches and the opposition there would be to using this material on the Common; LMB was not aware of any early likelihood of this being adopted.
- MB pointed to the unkempt appearance of the Grassy Knoll again, but it was noted the water supply should finally be sorted this month.

**Action 9A: LMB to ask Rudy to bring forward planned mowing**

- LMB mentioned that the England Cricket Board are proposing three new cricket pitches, near the Woodland Café, but notwithstanding the offer to fund them, it will need to follow standard application procedures.
- JR was concerned about damage to the Paddocks by Bourne House as collapsed fencing is encouraging heavy foot traffic.

**Action 9B: LMB to pursue what should be a straightforward fix to fencing off the short-cut path**

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

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)