

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

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

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Member organisations:

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Emma de Cassans (Friends of Clapham Common – FCC) (EdeC)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Krishna Siva (KS)

Andrew Summers (AS)

Lambeth Council: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB), Paul Smith (from Item 5),

Nick Jackson, The Enchanted Group for Item 1 only

Apologies received from Ed Alnutt, Cllr Ben Curtis, Lynsey Hedges, Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones, Kim Wiper; also on CCMAC: Charlee Boston

1: Oktoberfest 2025

Nick Jackson (NJ) briefed CCMAC on plans for the second year of Oktoberfest, again on the Redgra site. It will be open on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays in October (10th- 25th), one weekend more than last year, with additional focus now on chill-out activity outside the main tent; it will continue to be marketed as a ‘premium event’. NJ committed to keeping the sound systems within permitted limits. CCMAC’s attention focused on other aspects of external impact, picking up concerns from 2024:

- Uber traffic needs to be better managed; it suggested Nightingale Walk might usefully be designated as the sole pick-up zone. Geofencing could be deployed to enforce this, and also control clustering of Lime bikes.
- Some stewards should be posted outside the event boundary, to oversee movement from, and particularly back to, the two tube stations, with better signing. NH was also considering installing some Portaloos outside the site.

NJ agreed to report back on progress on these points, in time for our 7 August meeting.

2: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 5 June meeting were approved. All actions are addressed in the following agenda items.

3: Other Events update

Lucy Zaman has now moved to another role at Lambeth, and no successor is in place yet. The events team has however been focused on managing applications for brand activation activity, including, LMB reported, a larger promotion by an alcohol brand on 12/13 July on the Events site. CCMAC was unhappy that some activities, on and off the Common, had not taken all their litter away. LMB asked that any such repetition should be reported through her; Lambeth will seek to recover costs of any clear-up needed.

LMB also reported that:

- the first 'Winestock' wine festival is going ahead on 26 July; the organisers have been challenged to remove some flyposting for the event;
- plans for the Winter Lights event in December, and the pop-up Padel Tennis this month, have been dropped (although Padel may come back for 2026);
- the sauna on the Waterplay site is still set to go ahead this autumn

Action 3A: LMB still to respond to CCMAC questions (from May meeting) re use of decking or artificial grass

The events going ahead this year should still generate some £45k in PIL receipts for investment in the Common (see under *Paths Renewal* in Item 6), but there has been no progress from Kevin Crook on how procedures for securing PIL money in future should be improved.

Action 3B: AD to press Kevin for a response

4: Commercial operations update

The closing date for applications to operate the Woodland Café has had to be extended because of an error by the agents; lease arrangements would after that not be finalised for some six weeks, and the further four weeks needed for fit-out means it could not open until the autumn. There is also a need for improved soft landscaping of the site, on which FCC has now engaged with Lambeth.

Remarketing of the Pavilion should begin next week, but, as agreed with the planned lessee of the Kiosk, must exclude any food / drink proposals.

5: Enforcement update

CCMAC remains very concerned about the fire risk, and damage, caused by disposable barbecues. There has been no view yet from Venetia Reid-Baptiste on formally requesting Tesco and Sainsburys locally to warn about their use, and no action on signing on the Common itself. CCMAC will now take this on as a matter of urgency, posting its own warnings solely highlighting the current extreme fire hazard.

Action 5A: CFM to liaise with PS/LMB and GJ on wording and on suitable sites for up to nine banners, to be attached to temporary Heras fencing; CFM to organise production of banners as soon as possible.

PS has made progress with his review of litter strategy; and is taking steps urgently to tighten supervision of weekend litter collection.

Action 5B: PS to provide written update in w/b 7 July; and all to let him know if there is any repetition of missed litter collections on Sundays

Anti-social behaviour: there have been reports of an assault on a woman near the basketball court, which led to a crowd attacking a police car, and also of threats to a volunteer litter-picker. It is essential that Lambeth is able to log all such incidents.

Action 5C: all to send LMB details of cases that come to our attention

Sports bookings: there has been less evidence in the past month of the previously reported friction between booked netball sessions and informal roller-skating or basketball use of the courts, but LMB expressed frustration that her attempts to engage relevant Cabinet leads had not yet borne fruit. KS reiterated his concerns about poor management of bookings for the tennis courts. PS explained that action to pursue licensing or alternatives rests with senior management, who have higher priorities at present; but he undertook to follow through with KS.

There is increasing evidence of rough sleeping on the Common, currently by Mount Pond, by the Redgra, and along Southside. LMB reported that Lambeth should now be able to help the occupant of the Pavilion to move on, following a delay caused by staff absence.

Action 5D: all to provide LMB with details of incidences of rough sleeping, so that she can make the appropriate referrals

On broader enforcement capability, PS will shortly be discussing with Jo Shearer how her Wandsworth Parks Police might be able to assist; and in a separate meeting with Wandsworth, he will be pressing for their action on parking enforcement at the northern end of West Side.

6: Works update

Lambeth's response to the crisis in toilet provision identified by CCMAC at the last meeting has so far been very disappointing; Councillor members had had no responses to their Members' Enquiries in early June. There appears to have been no progress in procuring Portalooos, with LMB still needing to understand the costs that have been quoted.

Action 6A: AD to write to John Bosley (Director of Highways, Environment and Facilities Management) demanding action, given the strong feelings on CCMAC.

The Waterplay facility has had to be closed intermittently during the recent very hot weather, when it has been in greatest demand. Supplies of the chemical treatment needed have run short, and the sieves filtering the water have repeatedly become blocked. The cost of extra daily inspections by the installer Aquaneo may not be affordable, and so PS is considering whether checking the filters could be added to the routine tasks for his Lambeth team. The problem of detritus has been exacerbated by remnants of plastic 'waterbombs', which have been sold by an unlicensed trader alongside. The graffiti on the Waterplay

structure had not yet been painted over; EdeC said FCC had secured an offer of materials from local business Lick Paint.

Action 6B: PS to advise on best solution to filter problem; LMB to liaise with Cllr Robson, as chair of the Licensing Committee, re unlicensed trading; LMB to follow up the offer from Lick Paint.

LMB reported that the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has now submitted its application (to Wandsworth, but encouraged by Lambeth) to create a new cricket pitch near the Woodland Café. CCMAC may not be alone in its concern about the loss of two football pitches that this would entail, as well as losing green space because of the plastic covering required, and so will make a formal objection.

Action 6C: AD to coordinate a letter of objection, routed via Simon Harris, Lambeth's Leisure Services Manager, aiming to ensure Wandsworth make this known as and when the proposal to take up Common land is submitted for Secretary of State approval. Lynsey Hedges to be asked to use her Wandsworth connections to prepare for this.

Windmill Drive signing: the Highways team has not yet addressed the significant danger in the shared space through inconsiderate cycling, not helped by the lack of clear signing directing which of the parallel paths approaching are for cyclists and which for pedestrians. FCC might be able to provide volunteers to refresh the surfaced signing on the parallel paths.

Action 6D: AD to put renewed pressure on Shafiqque Manson-Visram, and ensure FCC get the stencils and spray paint they will need

Paths renewal: with PIL funding for 2025/6 now confirmed, there seems no reason for further delay in the programme of resurfacing identified by CCMAC some months ago. It is also important that the separate funding commitment to repair the damage caused to the path by Holy Trinity Church is not forgotten. LMB pointed out that £2.8k of PIL money has to be top-sliced to fund extra bollards needed to prevent incursions onto the Common (and deal with the informal pedestrian cut-through damaging the Paddocks, as noted at the June meeting).

Action 6E: LMB to work with Hanna Radlowska and Shafiqque Manson-Visram to secure prompt start of works.

PS agreed to two actions from previous meetings being rolled over:

Action 6F: PS to agree with Rudy measures to address the unkempt appearance of the Grassy Knoll (from June meeting)

Action 6G: PS to report on progress in considering possible adoption of Hammersmith & Fulham's Green Investment Initiative (from March meeting)

7: Progress reports from Working Groups

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: will need to oversee progress with Actions 5A and 6E
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB has successfully overseen five concerts already, but still has 5 gaps in the marshals roster in late July and August; he will send round a fresh appeal, targeted at those who have not yet volunteered (*done 4 July*)
- 3) *Bowling Greens and Pavilion*: awaits progress as per Item 4

- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: renewing action from last meeting, given continued silence from consultants Logika:

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

- 5) *Events*: awaits replacement for Lucy Zaman
6) *Governance*: awaits progress with Action 3B
7) *Masterplan Delivery*: awaiting meeting to resume forward-look activity
8) *Sports*: no action at present

8: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB undertook to keep CCMAC in the loop on renewed work to prepare signing highlighting the history of the Common; and on the Society's progress with a planned design competition for enhancing the overbridge at Clapham North.

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): In addition to offering FCC's lead in surface signing of paths (Action 6D), EdeC reported that FCC:

- is planning a Community Event, perhaps on 6 September, replacing the Summer Fair this year, but retaining the dog show focus; to be located by the bandstand;
- has (with GJ) significantly stepped up the watering programme, and notes that Lambeth's tree contractor may be able to help further
- with its new 'Litterati' group, is keen to see stickers on bins promoting best practice when full, in conjunction with some posters designed by children. PS warmly welcomed this idea.

Action 8A: FCC/GJ to let PS know if trees are suffering from the drought, and to liaise re possible crowdfunding to buy in extra effort from the tree contractor; LMB to liaise with FCC about putting the litter messaging in place as soon as possible

Wild Clapham: GJ set out his very great concern about the longer-term impact of the climate emergency on the Common; Wild Clapham proposes a Forum to identify and implement the adaptation measures that will be necessary, from shifting the emphasis to native flora, to improved capability for watering. Separately, he was pleased that PK had given fresh publicity to Wild Clapham's 2023 proposal for the 'Six Acre Wood'¹; CCMAC confirmed it remained strongly supportive.

Action 8B: GJ will produce a letter summarising the proposal for presenting, with CCMAC endorsement, to Lambeth.

9: Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 August, 1900, at the Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)

¹ From CCMAC minutes 2 February 2023: "**Six Acre Wood**": GJ presented a proposal led by FCC to plant a horseshoe-shaped area at the western edge of the main events site; this would increase tree canopy on the Common to closer to the norm for London open spaces, a necessary response to the climate emergency, and also serve in practice to cap the events site at 13.5 acres, preventing it spreading beyond the paved SW to NE right of way. Ian Ross indicated a favourable initial response from the Parks perspective, but needs to discuss with Kevin Crook at Lambeth.