

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 7 August 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Member organisations:

Harriet Hall (Friends of Clapham Common – FCC)
(HH)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Andrew Summers (AS)

Kim Wiper (KW)

Lambeth Council: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from Ed Alnutt, Michael Barry, Gareth James (GJ), Cllr Ben Curtis, Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones, Peter Kaiser, Krishna Siva, Paul Smith; also on CCMAC: Charlee Boston

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

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

2: Events update

- *Winestock* on 26 July appears to have gone well, apart from their failure to remove some of the flyposted promotional stickers.
- A *Water Lantern* event is planned for Long Pond on 4/5 October; CCMACC seeks reassurance about the environmental impact of using large numbers of LED candles, which, LMB noted, will need to be scrutinised by Iain Boulton (Lambeth's Biodiversity and Environmental Compliance Manager).
- *Oktoberfest* plans are progressing; Nick Jackson, of the organisers The Enchanted Group, has updated us on concerns put to him at the last meeting: extra stewards will be appointed, and he awaits a response from Uber about geo-fencing, and restricting drop-off and pick-up to Nightingale Walk; clustering of Lime bikes should also be possible. He has been asked to report the outcome of these discussions for our September meeting.

LMB reported that expected PIL receipts for Clapham Common use for 2025/6 have now risen to over £56k (after top-slicing £3k already committed for bollards), mainly because of more brand activation events (now raising £4,500). Whilst grouping that income with events means only 20% of gross receipts is guaranteed for investment in the Common, this

might provide more certainty than making the case each time for 100% retention. A few incidences of unauthorised brand activation had also been noted.

Action 2A: LMB to check with Kevin Crook the future policy for brand activation receipts; 2B: all to check with LMB the legitimacy of any unexpected brand promotions they notice (commercial confidentiality means CCMAC members could not be alerted in advance to those brands that have been authorised to use the Common).

3: Commercial operations update

The local coffee shop group 21 Grams will this month take on the lease of the Woodland Café, which it will operate as 'Parq by 21 Grams'; AD and LMB are so far assured of the business' commitment to minimising use of disposables, and note that FCC volunteers are generously tackling some of the soft landscaping needs. 21 Grams may need to apply for SoS permission to erect two large fixed umbrellas to extend the times the outdoor seating could be used. Re the Kiosk by the Bowling Green, vandals have caused significant damage inside, and have increased the list of repairs Lambeth need to tackle before the planned café operator will finally commit. The renewed marketing of the Pavilion alongside continues, ruling out any food & drink business; there has been at least one expression of interest so far.

The interest from the Old Town restaurant Willows in the Yacht Club site (reported to the June meeting) is now focusing on getting permission to erect a new kiosk, with decked platform, on the west side of the Club building. This could bring new income for Lambeth, but CCMAC took the view that private acquisition of a part of the Common, with some loss of green space, must not be permitted.

Action 3: LMB to steer Willows to negotiating a possible concession for the site, or encourage them to seek to part-use the Club building itself.

Karnival's Street Food Market by the Bandstand has had fewer stalls on recent Sundays; AD will check with Carnival's Jason to understand their strategy now in the light of this summer's trial.

LMB confirmed that the Sauna on the Waterplay site is set to start up this October, running through to March, comprising two units, one for 15 and one for 10 people. The business has worked well at Ruskin Park, and the operators will use a wood-fired stove as at Ruskin, and make the toilets available to the public during sauna operating hours. On the basis also that they will use some decking, but no artificial grass, CCMAC confirms it is content for the operation to go ahead.

4: Enforcement update

Bylaws signing: CFM had successfully led the design and procurement by CCMAC of an impactful banner highlighting the barbecue ban and urging responsibility re litter; several are now displayed on specially-erected Heras fencing at key locations on the Common. These could be used year-round, changing the message by season; in the absence of

boundary fencing, there is no easy alternative positioning for the signs. Lambeth has not been able to make any progress with its own planned bylaw signing.

CCMAC has not yet been able to see Lambeth's emerging proposals for a Litter Strategy, which amongst other things should aim to site bins in locations more easily accessible by Serco's trucks: inexperienced drivers (the regular driver is currently absent, which has led to some missed collections recently) appear to have problems with narrow paths (eg near Holy Trinity Church) and poor visibility from the cab. LMB has sought quotes for installing bin stores, to protect bins better from birds; she suggests they could be paid for from next year's PIL money. And there was some interest (including from FCC, see Item 8) in the potential of 'competitive litter-picking', with some London examples now of the Japanese sport 'spogomi'; Best of Clapham is understood to be trialling a game in the coming month.

Action 4A: Paul Smith to provide update re Litter Strategy; LMB to advise on costing for bin stores.

All incidences of Rough Sleeping have been dealt with through referral to Street Link. LMB has also sought action from Wandsworth's Highways team against overnight van occupation on Windmill Drive, but the offender's presence has been intermittent of late.

CCMAC is concerned that there has still been no action to signpost clearly the shared use responsibilities on the new section of Windmill Drive. LMB continues to press Shafique Manson-Visram and will report back. In Paul Smith's absence, there was also no update on possible arrangements with Wandsworth to boost enforcement capability generally.

Action 4B: LMB to arrange update on shared use signing, and (4C:) on cooperation with Wandsworth.

5: Works update

LMB updated CCMAC on four key issues:

Waterplay: the defective sand filter is running at only 50% capability, and may not be able to last out for the full summer season. Facilities Management are awaiting approval for spending £11k on a replacement part; this may be difficult, but CCMAC noted that it would reflect badly on the Council if the facility had to close early. There may in any case have to be a day's closure soon to remedy some lifting of the surface matting. As for painting over the graffiti on the Waterplay structure, the Lambeth team will shortly carry out the work made possible by the generous support (secured by FCC) from Lick, the local paint business; CCMAC approved LMB'S choice of 'greige' as the shade.

Action 5A: LMB to ensure Kevin Crook on board in getting the necessary repairs expenditure approved

Toilet provision has just about been adequate, but a new blockage problem has closed the boys' toilets by the central Playground. New soap dispensers are also now needed. AD has had confirmation from Pear Tree Café that they will finally begin refurbishment of their toilets in September.

There remain concerns about the planned new cricket pitch near the Woodland Café, driven by the England & Wales Cricket Board. It still seemed likely to lead to the loss of well-used football pitches, and JR highlighted the danger from stray cricket balls to road users, including pedestrians, nearby. CCMAC may still submit a formal objection when the proposal falls due for consideration by Wandsworth's Planning Committee.

Paths renewal: AD and CFM had earlier this day agreed, in a walk-round, with LMB and Charlene Sealy the set of priority repairs to seriously deteriorating paths. These will be funded using the bulk, if not all, of the £56k of remaining PIL money for this year; the damaged path by Holy Trinity Church, and removing the 'lump' that hinders access from the top of Battersea Rise, will need to be separately funded. CCMAC expressed frustration that the respraying of pictograms on the parallel paths distinguishing the cycle and foot paths was still held up.

Actions 5B: LMB / Charlene to submit formal costed proposal for CCMAC approval as soon as possible; LMB to ensure Rudy McDonald returns the stencils for the path spraying so we can do the job ourselves.

LMB also reported on other Works issues:

- Bandstand Beds was planning some hedge-laying, and offering a workshop on the skill, working with The Conservation Volunteers, perhaps as part of National Tree Week in late November. She suggested some PIL money might part-fund this.
- E-bike rental: LMB has asked both Lime and Forest to apply geofencing to slow down their bikes when within the Common from 15.5mph to 10mph; only Lime has so far responded, saying they are keen to work with Lambeth on this.
- Grassy Knoll: some mowing has now been carried out (led by Kevin Wallace's team now); AD will check if the work now appears adequate.
- Green Waste Yard: a heap of rubble has temporarily appeared outside the Yard as part of Rudy's work to refresh the site; it is unsightly, and may attract fly-tipping.

Action 5C: LMB to get it moved within the Yard if not promptly used up

- New benches: all 81 have now either been installed or are held awaiting installation
- Poplar tree: by the Temperance Fountain, will be re-pruned after leaf fall this autumn
- Wetlands: some disturbance from dogs being able to enter the site, using a gap under the entrance gates.

Action 5D: Gareth James to be asked to get more chicken wire added

7: Progress reports from Working Groups

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* will need to oversee progress with Actions 4B and 5B
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* LB confirmed the marshal roles have been filled for the remaining four concerts
- 3) *Bowling Greens and Pavilion:* awaits progress as per Item 3
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity:* the consultants Logika have been paid for their report, even though it fails to propose a forward plan.

Action 7A: GJ to be asked to challenge Kevin Crook on possible sanctions

- 5) *Events:* awaits replacement for Lucy Zaman
- 6) *Governance:* no action at present

- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: the Group will consider this autumn the branding proposal from Petr Kaiser (see minutes of May meeting)
- 8) *Sports*: LMB reminded about the need to remove advertising material on the tennis courts fencing

Action 7B: Krishna Siva to take forward

8: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: (MB had confirmed a nil report, given the summer break.)

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): HH reported on the Dog Show planned for the Bandstand on 14 September, and on the success of the Litterati group, attracting 70+ volunteers; FCC was interested in the idea of Spogomi (see Item 4), perhaps in conjunction with World Litter Pick Day, 20 September.

Wild Clapham: in a written report GJ updated the Committee on:

- Planning for the climate emergency – WC will meet next month Cllrs Rezina Chowdhury and Donatus Anyanwu, respective Cabinet Members for Climate Change and Biodiversity, to discuss a range of issues including weather patterns, drought, water security, SuDS beds and future tree and shrub planting across the Common.
- Biodiversity plan – WC has reviewed and rejected the second iteration of Logika's 10-year Ecology, Landscape, Management Plan (ELMP). Kevin Crook and Iain Boulton have accepted a detailed critique drawn up by WC highlighting several concerns, and have now met Logika to discuss the points raised by WC and to find a workable way forward.

9: Any other business

AD outlined Lambeth's current process for restructuring its senior leadership team, creating five directorates where there had been seven. New appointments should be announced on 2 October; in the meantime, Kevin Crook, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods remains CCMAC's lead contact.

PC proposed the meeting schedule for 2026, including the Annual Open Meeting lined up for 5 February.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 September, 1900, at the Depot

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)