

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 4 September 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray (LB)

Cllr Ben Curtis

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones

Member organisations:

Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common – FCC) (EA)

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges

Petr Kaiser

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Krishna Siva

Andrew Summers (AS)

Kim Wiper (KW)

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

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 7 August meeting were approved. All actions are addressed in the following agenda items.

2: Events update

Bandstand Concerts: The 15th and final concert took place on 31 August; MB and the Working Group were thanked for running a very successful programme, and MB appreciated the support of Chris Jude and team. It would help to have one more member join the Working Group this autumn, replacing Charlee Boston, and as well as establishing any shortfall in funding from Lambeth, and drawing up next year's programme, the Group will need to address (i) how to line up even more deckchairs – demand remains far higher than even the increased supply this summer; and (ii) the practicalities of using one or more Zettle-type devices to collect donations (for CCMAC, and the performers); it would be important this looked as official as possible.

Action 2A: members to come forward to join the Working Group; MB to convene a meeting this autumn

Oktoberfest: it was understood the event was being scaled back a little. Nick Jackson (Enchanted Group, organisers) had provided information on Uber's proposed no drop-off/pick-up zone, but some detailed points remained outstanding.

Action 2B: PC to request final update from Nick

Carols on the Common: Holy Trinity Church has sought approval to move its 7 December service out on to the Common alongside the Church, because of building work inside. CCMAC is concerned about the potential impact on the turf of the 4,000 attendees being planned for.

Action 2C: AD to challenge on behalf of CCMAC, seeking assurances re matting, etc.

PIL management: LMB is working to ensure commitments are made by end 2025 to spend the whole remaining balance of £56k; the bulk will be on paths (see Item 6). She now has confirmation that brand activation receipts are channeled through PIL too.

3: Commercial operations update

Sauna: Community Sauna Baths has been independently advised that permission for change of use of the Waterplay site will be needed, and they need exemption from the biodiversity net gain requirement; evidence of CCMAC support would help their case.

Action 3A: AD, with LMB, to draft a letter confirming CCMAC support.

Woodlands Café: 21 Grams hope to make its final commitment once some outstanding concerns are addressed

Pear Tree Café toilets renewal will begin on 15 September, with Portaloos in place from 12th; timescale will be subject to what is established about state of drains. The works requires access to the lock-up; AD and GJ will liaise with PTC to make this easier.

Bowling Greens site: no progress to report re the Kiosk; re-marketing of the Pavilion lease continues.

Action 3B: PC to obtain update direct from Avison Young (Lambeth's agent for the Pavilion), and put Duncan Catterall (croquet proposal) in touch with them.

Willows, Old Town are not now pursuing any interest in the Yacht Club building; LMB is helping them position their ice cream trike most effectively, noting that its charging capacity is much more limited than the one that has been successfully operating by Long Pond.

4: Enforcement update

Fixed Penalty Notices: PS explained Lambeth is about to consult on the practicalities of using FPNs for breach of bylaws, based on successful precedents established by Tower Hamlets and Wandsworth [*consultation launched 7 September*]; by avoiding the need to take the offender to court, it should be quicker in tackling, amongst other things, UMEs, littering, and barbecues. There was some scepticism in CCMAC about Lambeth's ability to fund use of the tool, in the absence of dedicated patrols, but PS expected budget would be freed up from disbanding the Enforcement Team. He proposes using an external contractor for a short period to act as a well-publicised deterrent.

Action 4A: CCMAC to consider a response to the consultation, and how it can increase awareness of the proposal.

Litter Strategy: **Action 4B: PS to share current draft Strategy asap**

Inconsiderate cycling: Lime bikes are now geo-fenced to enforce slower 10mph speeds limit within the Common, but Forest has still not responded to Lambeths' request. This does not apply to Windmill Drive, which remains a priority for CCMAC. Lambeth Highways advise there is currently no funding for any shared use signing, and suggest using our PIL budget instead, but CCMAC felt that highways money ought to be available if significant safety

concerns were confirmed. There was still no progress in retrieving the stencils needed to refresh 'shared use' signing on the cycle paths on the Common itself.

Actions 4C: BC to use his transport contacts to chase Forest for a response; 4D: AIJ to follow up her Member's Enquiry to establish the position with Lambeth's Road Safety Audit of the Windmill Drive shared use zone; 4E: LMB to put pressure on Rudy McDonald re the stencils.

PS also reported agreement being reached with Wandsworth Council to enforce parking restrictions at the northern end of West Side; and LMB referred to continuing success in responding to multiple reports of rough sleepers across the Common.

5: Works update

Non-Turf Cricket Pitch (NTF): PS was enthused by the huge benefits from the proposal, and understood precedents elsewhere indicated that Secretary of State approval would not be needed. CCMAC however still sought more information on the proposal, and was not fully persuaded by the assurance from Simon Harris, Lambeth sports lead, that there would be no impact on football activity.

Action 5A: PS to provide as much detail as possible to help CCMAC determine its stance re Wandsworth's consideration of the planning application.

Tree planting: PS warned that Lambeth may have no capital funds available for further planting; there is the prospect though of funding from the (now closed) Urban Tree Challenge Fund, and PS established that FCC was ready to consider how it could help with match-funding as part of its 5-year pledge to plant 5,000 trees.

Waterplay: the sand filter is now about to be replaced, and the facility should therefore continue to operate as planned until end September. CCMAC appreciated the effort of all involved in painting over the graffiti, and defacement of the sports container has also now been addressed.

Benches: the remaining 30 are now lined up for installation, including in the West Side dog-free area. Once complete, Lambeth will be open to private donations to fund additional benches. PK highlighted the need to complete restoration of the Jody Dobrowski memorial bench by the 15 October anniversary. GJ pointed out that some new benches are unhelpfully positioned too far back on the concrete base.

Action 5B: LMB to investigate reason for precise bench positioning

On other Works issues, PS and LMB reported that:

- with thanks to FCC, messaging has been added using bin stickers urging people to dispose of their rubbish considerably
- action is being lined up to remove the broken fishing pegs at Mount Pond
- grass cutting has improved now that it's carried out by a single team across the Borough.

6: Progress reports from Working Groups

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: on behalf of the Group, AD reported the path repair work he has been urging Charlene Sealy and Ian Brennan to progress; the expectation now is that quotes will be obtained this month, with resurfacing starting in October, all funded by PIL (except for the damage rectification by Holy Trinity Church). The WG should meet again soon, to oversee that work and address the separate priority of bylaw signing.

Action 6: PC to convene meeting, now that JR has stood down from the Group

- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: see Item 2
- 3) *Bowling Greens and Pavilion*: awaits progress as per Item 3
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: GK has provided Kevin Crook with a critique of the Logika report. PS advised that Logika need a tighter specification to move forward, and so he and GJ would walk round with them to agree a staged 10-year project plan.
- 5) *Events*: awaits replacement for Lucy Zaman
- 6) *Governance*: PC will work up proposals for the Annual Open Meeting in February
- 7) *Masterplan Delivery*: the Group to consider this autumn the branding proposal from Petr Kaiser (see minutes of May meeting)
- 8) *Sports*: awaits progress as per Item 5 re NTF

7: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB sought CCMAC views on proposals now firming up for 5 or 6 'history lecterns' to be installed around the Bandstand; LMB understood that they should not require any formal permission beyond CCMAC endorsement. Initial views from CCMAC were positive, with support for the idea of a chronological theme. MB will share shortly a mock-up sample of the sign covering the 'parishes of Clapham and Battersea' era, for CCMAC views

Action 7: CCMAC to consider and provide views by 30 September

MB drew CCMAC members attention to the launch of the Society's 'Gateway to Clapham' design competition for the railway overbridge at Clapham North, details on its website. He also reported on community engagement, including a volunteer day for the Old Town-based Hush business focusing on daffodil planting and litter picking (with possibly a competitive element), as well as the Society's own programme for further daffodil planting on the Grassy Knoll. MS will let PS have details on the area by the Polygon that needs mowing this month before planting can proceed.

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): EA referred to FCC's own litter picking day on 13 September, and mentioned that the Dog Show planned for September has been rescheduled for next May. He confirmed that FCC was happy to fund an additional Fast Fill station for watering, probably over on West Side.

Wild Clapham: Given the long-term challenge from climate change and drier summers, GJ outlined his proposal to drill a borehole on the Common, going down c100m at a cost in the

order of £80k; he will start working up details, and hopes that approval processes will be relatively simple as it would not be for drinking water purposes. He also explained other necessary responses to this record hot summer: a changed approach to autumn wildflower seeding, and scaled back planting for next year. The SUDS concept, used for Windmill Drive planting, also needs rethinking. PS agreed to discuss bilaterally how to procure a battery-powered trimmer for the wildflower meadows, and the best use of the water feed from South Side to Eagle Pond and the Bandstand Beds area. CCMAC was happy to agree that Wild Clapham should proceed with new shrub planting on the Grassy Knoll.

GJ is expecting a visit to the Wetlands this month by Deputy Mayor for London, Mete Coban. And GJ will investigate building up paths at two locations in the Wetlands, to prevent dogs getting under the gates, and to ensure more wheelchair-friendly access to the bridge.

8: Any other business

PC pointed to the need to add fresh news stories to the CCMAC website, perhaps covering new openings this autumn such as the Sauna and the Woodlands Café.

Action 8: PC to liaise with PK in the coming weeks

The meeting schedule for 2026 was approved, including an adjustment to ensure more even spacing in the autumn:

8 January; 5 February (Annual Open Meeting); 5 March; 9 April (one week later to avoid Easter); 14 May (one week later to avoid local elections on 7th); 4 June; 2 July; 6 August; 3 September; 1 October; 29 October (one week earlier to avoid Guy Fawkes Night); 3 December.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2 October, 1900, at the Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)