

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 2 October 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ) (Items 1-3 only)

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)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Krishna Siva (KS)

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

Apologies received from: Cllr Linda Bray, Cllr Ben Curtis (BC), Lynsey Hedges, Joanna Reynolds (JR), Kim Wiper. Also on CCMAC: Andrew Summers

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 4 September meeting were approved. PC will liaise with PK and AD to add some fresh news stories to the CCMAC website, such as the sauna, bird boxes, and the forthcoming AOM. All other matters arising are addressed in the following agenda items.

2: Litter Strategy

PS shared an incomplete draft of a strategy for managing litter in all the Borough's parks. This proposes a combined Borough-wide team to provide a more flexible pooled resource; the team would be based at Clapham Common, and should keep the existing four roles focused here; there should be more scope during quieter winter periods to tackle the problem of small litter. Some bins would be relocated, and/or upgraded, and routes for vehicles emptying them rethought to minimise damage to parks. CCMAC raised initial queries re: third-party waste collection; the scope to focus resourcing in winter on weekends and holiday periods; and the case for doubling-up on bins as a short-term fix at the busiest sites. PS sought further comments from CCMAC, and will provide updates at the next few meetings.

Action 2A: members to route comments on the paper via PC, by 16 October.

Separately, AIJ expressed concern that management at The Windmill was not meeting its obligation to clear litter from in front of the pub.

Action 2B: PS to send formal reminder to The Windmill, based on detail to be provided by AIJ

3: Events update

Three remaining events in 2025:

- *Oktoberfest* 10-25 October (Th/Fr/Sa only): further detail had been provided re use of geo-fencing to reduce impact from Uber and rental bike arrivals and departures. Some CCMAC members may attend, using entry tickets provided by the organisers (see Register of Interests)
 - *Pumpkin Patch* 18 October: this is a major fundraising opportunity for FCC, and EA highlighted the need for more volunteers. GJ expressed concern about the interrupted power supply at the kiosk site, because of vandalism; he will liaise with Rudy Macdonald to ensure it is reconnected in time.
 - *Carols on the Common* 7 December: LMB has reiterated to Holy Trinity Church the need to lay ground protection to avoid damaging the turf. It was noted the FCC Carols event at the Bandstand takes place earlier the same day.
- LMB advised that if CCMAC members have queries about other events taking place not previously discussed, they should always be able to get responses by using the parks@lambeth.gov.uk address, even in her absence.
- PC stressed the need for CCMAC to get as much advance notice as possible of the Common Land application that Lambeth will need to submit later in November; it will also be essential to get early sight of the PIL receipts envisaged for 2026/7. LMB advised that Lucy Zaman would be back in post leading the Events team next April, but in her absence in the meantime AD will ensure that the existing calendar, rolling forward into 2026, is shared with the whole Committee.

Action 3: AD

4: Commercial operations update

- *Sauna*: the question of exemption from the biodiversity net gain requirement has not yet been resolved
Action 4A: AD, with LMB, to draft a letter confirming CCMAC support.
- *Woodlands Café*: an issue with the Commercial team appears to be holding up final sign-up from 21 Grams.
Action 4B: LMB to establish position with Kevin Crook
- *Pear Tree Café*: still on schedule with toilets renewal, despite need to install new drains in fresh trenches. GJ reminded LMB of Wild Clapham's need for out-of-hours access to the toilets, once open, for use by volunteers.
- *Bowling Green pavilion*: lease re-marketing period closes on 10 October.

5: Enforcement update

Lambeth's consultation period on the Fixed Penalty Notices proposal continues to 31 October; several CCMAC members have responded already. Signing will need to be much clearer once in force: PC reported initial work by the Paths, Access & Signing WG on a

pictogram-based format, which he will develop with CFM and share with LMB, with a view to finalising a format this winter.

CCMAC expressed frustration on two other aspects of signing:

- the promised road safety audit of the shared Windmill Drive space has not yet happened; even if Lambeth has no budget for the signs (which were an integral part of the project as planned), CCMAC needs to know the audit's recommendations if it is to take matters forward itself. (GJ mentioned alongside this the need to rectify the drains in the SUDS beds, which have been set too low.)
- continued failure to get hold of the stencils needed for refreshing markings on the north-south footpath and cycleway.

LMB noted that BC had pressed Forest to respond, as Lime bikes already has, to Lambeth's request to implement a geo-fenced 10mph speed limit.

Action 5A: PS to put pressure on Shafiqque Manson-Visram re the audit (and flag the drains problem too); 5B LMB to put pressure on Rudy Macdonald to locate the stencils; 5C LMB to follow up with Forest bikes.

LMB reported on a further month's action to address rough sleeping on the Common. She reminded CCMAC of the process used: StreetLink is a reporting platform for anyone to use, but she feeds in reports of rough sleeping through Keith Badrick, Investigations Officer, who then engages either Thames Reach (Lambeth side) or SPEAR (Wandsworth side) to put in place better accommodation for the individual. The annual Night Count of rough sleepers will be carried out next month.

6: Works update

Path repairs: there has still been no response from Charlene Sealy or Ian Brennan re costings to implement CCMAC's long-identified list of priority repairs, to be funded from this year's PIL. CCMAC is very frustrated at the lack of progress here, given the risk of losing the PIL money if not committed soon, contrasting with Lambeth's ability to go ahead with resurfacing the Depot yard whilst paths for public use continue to deteriorate. CCMAC noted the interim work done to address the worst of the damage on the Holy Trinity Church path, which should delay the need for proper restoration until 2026/7. AD flagged the need, as part of the overdue works, to find a better solution to edging the paths than had been used in the first phase of work near Clapham South (wood edging insufficiently durable leading to encroachment).

Action 6A: PS to work with Kevin Crook to break through the administrative logjam.

Non-Turf Cricket Pitch (NTF): PS had not yet provided further information, but CCMAC accepted now his assurance that the change in use of Common land would be minimal, meaning the planning application to Wandsworth could proceed without the need for Secretary of State approval. GJ, for Wild Clapham, and EA, for FCC, confirmed they were content with environmental impacts of the proposal. PS was sufficiently confident that ball strike beyond the 80m range allowed for would not be a problem for other Common users and traffic, and that there need be no reduction in the number of football pitches available. He was beginning to explore the option of marking out as many as three additional winter-only pitches on the Events site, which could co-exist with summer use for events; GJ

recognised that the close-mown amenity grassland here might be appropriate for both uses, but needed to understand more.

Action 6B: PS to report further re cricket pitch application process, and re ideas for the Events site.

LMB reported that further bollards and benches were ready for installation, but the work will in future have to be fitted in to the team's core hours; bollards must take priority. PK appreciated the work done to restore the Jody Dobrowski memorial bench ahead of the planned commemoration on 15 October.

Action 6C: (from September) LMB to investigate reason for recent bench positioning far back on the concrete base.

7: Progress reports from Working Groups by exception:

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: the Group had discussed on 23 September progress on signing (Item 4) and paths (Item 5).
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: JR has joined the Group
- 3) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: GJ is encouraged that Logika are now re-engaging with a view to producing an improved version of the biodiversity report.
- 4) *Governance*: PC referred to preparations for the Annual Open Meeting on 5 February, again at the Omnibus Theatre. The four Community Representative members whose two-year terms expire have been asked to confirm their plans, and AD is approaching the three candidates who had first put themselves forward for appointment this February.

Action 7: AD and others to note the 15 January deadline for nominations

8: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB confirmed that funding was now in place for the planned History Lecterns; over the coming months he will produce mock-ups on three sample 'stories', following the design of the Lambeth signs already at the Bandstand. He also flagged the Society's AGM at the Omnibus on 20 October, at which a new Chair will be appointed.

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): EA reported work to install a liner into the small pond east of Battersea Woods, on which they will liaise with Wild Clapham. He introduced FCC's new thinking to upgrade the playground at the Battersea Rise end of the Common, for which FCC was ready to raise funds. This might entail wholly new kit, and/or resurfacing

Action 8A: CCMAC members to pass any ideas on via EA.

MB and EA are liaising to ensure the most effective spread of volunteer effort at the two litter picking days coming up (CS 4 October; FCC 8 October).

Wild Clapham:

GJ explained the autumn works programme getting under way, focusing on climate resilience, and bringing forward Wildflower Meadow sowing, instead of waiting until spring.

He welcomed FCC funding for three further Fast Fill stations, but the best water source for the Battersea Rise end needed to be identified.

Action 8B: LMB to check what has been established about past water supply there

CCMAC confirmed its agreement for Wild Clapham to proceed with:

- Planting further Memorial trees in the 5.5 acre scrubland near Pear Tree Café;
- Additional shrubs to be planted on the Grassy Knoll, with FCC funding and Clapham Society picking up responsibility for ongoing watering.

GJ also outlined an ambitious new project for the former Bowling Green closest to the West Side road, converting it into a biodiversity-themed 'Future Garden'; this could be a role model for re-using redundant bowling greens across the country, and a visitor attraction in its own right. He had taken initial soundings from the garden designer Cleve West, and got a positive reaction from some of the closest residents, who would value the Garden as a buffer separating them from any sports use of the second bowling green. CCMAC was enthusiastic about the initial concept, and endorsed GJ's intention to put effort into working up a specific proposal.

9: Any other business

KS expressed concern about the lack of progress on the long-promised reforms to the coaches management regime for the tennis courts; and on the need to properly enforce existing rules. He perceived that Lambeth was now prepared to override the intended 50/50 split in booking availability between coaches and the general public ('pay and play'). PS felt that KS may have misunderstood the current position; he will obtain data to show the existing split is being adhered to. As for the reforms, PS has been asked to produce a further detailed proposition, and notes that the Member's Enquiry that AIJ submitted on 1 October should put pressure on the Sports team to make progress.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 6 November, 1900, at the Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)