

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 6 November 2025, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray

Cllr Ben Curtis (BC)

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones (AIJ)

Member organisations:

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

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

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Krishna Siva (KS)

Lambeth Council: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from: Ed Alnutt, Lynsey Hedges (LH), Petr Kaiser, Joanna Reynolds, Paul Smith (PS), Andrew Summers and Kim Wiper

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 2 October meeting were approved. AD and PC will continue preparations for the Annual Open Meeting on 6 February, preparing the nomination form for Community Representatives, and seeking initial expressions of interest, in good time for the formal deadline of 15 January.

Action 1A: AD/PC

PC will draw on colleagues' experience with Wordpress to ensure up-to-date text on our website.

Action 1B: PC to liaise with MB and CFM.

LH had provided an update for the meeting on progress Wandsworth Council's plans for better communication, including with residents close to the Common, to avoid nuisance from Christmas trees left out for recycling in January.

2: Events update

Oktoberfest did not generate issues requiring CCMAC intervention, and the organisers had responded to feedback submitted by two Committee members who had attended (details of the complementary admission tickets provided will be recorded on our Register of Interests). Holy Trinity Church has cancelled its planned carol service out on the Common on 7 December, noting the potential impacts on the Common in winter; FCC's carols event at the Bandstand that same day will still go ahead.

It was unclear whether the Lambeth events team would be formally consulting CCMAC before submitting an application for Secretary of State Common Land consent, but having considered the draft programme already shared with us for next year, the only significant

issue appears to be the new Footballfest 2026 planned for 39 days through June and July; this would have maximum attendance of 25k at any one time, 540k over the whole World Cup tournament. CCMAC needs to have more information available before it can give its approval.

Action 2: AD to request from Events team details of how late matches (evening in North American time) would be handled, and plans for security fencing of the Events Site enclosure.

LMB reported that the Royal Agricultural Society of England has revived its plan for a major farming exhibition on the Common, preparing now for August / September in 2027; CCMAC will await further detail in the coming months.

3: Commercial operations update

- *Brand Activation*: LMB reported that events in 2025 had successfully provided the target income of £50k, and that the 2026 programme was starting to take shape.
- *Sauna*: the formal planning application has now been submitted by Community Sauna Baths, who are ready to start operation as soon as approved; it is understood the application will not need Secretary of State consent. It will be staffed during opening hours, and there is no plan to sell alcohol.
- *Woodlands Café*: final sign-up from 21 Grams has been held up pending an investigation into a procedural issue by Lambeth's audit team.
- *Kiosk at the central playground*: staffing difficulties may mean Lambeth will consider seeking a private sector operator.
- *Bowling Green site*: six responses to the re-marketing of the *Pavilion* lease are currently being assessed by the Commercial team, who will then seek CCMAC's opinion on the short-listed bidders. A meter upgrade is still required for the *Kiosk*, but it is understood the prospective operator is still on board.

Action 3: LMB to liaise with LB re convening a meeting of the Bowling Greens and Pavilions Working Group to consider submissions for the Pavilion.

4: Enforcement update

LMB reported that Lambeth's consultation on the Fixed Penalty Notices proposal had closed on 31 October. She has not yet been able to press Forest bikes to co-operate on the geo-fenced 10mph speed limit being put in place by Lime bikes.

Action 4A: (rolled over) LMB to follow up with Forest bikes

CFM reported on her work preparing a style guide for signing on the Common, including the urgent matter of bylaws signing. CCMAC now envisages tailoring signs to the specific enforcement needs of each location, drawing on a library of 'prohibited' graphics (icon inside a red circle); it will be important to ensure the messaging is immediately understood, and consistent. AD is keen to be able to present final proposals, agreed with Lambeth, at the AOM in February.

Action 4B: CFM to share her proposals for comment by Committee members by 21 November.

Signing to enforce the shared space on and around Windmill Drive has not yet been resolved. The road safety audit had misunderstood measures that were deemed integral to the original project, and CCMAC was concerned about confusing new signs now erected between the cycle and pedestrian paths heading south from Windmill Drive: it was unclear which of the paths they refer to, and the format and the 'considerate cycling welcome' wording had not been agreed. Those signs should be removed (*post-meeting: done, in agreement with LMB, by AD and CFM*), and CCMAC should advise on its preferred format.

Action 4C: PC (for Access, Paths & Signing WG) to liaise with Clive Kershaw (as Shafique Manson-Visram is now on sabbatical) to feed in CCMAC requirements in line with its broader review of bylaws signing (following Action 4A).

Litter strategy and early interventions: CCMAC had passed further comments to PS on the draft strategy he presented at the last meeting, and awaits a report on progress. In the meantime there was an opportunity to locate bins more effectively, to cope with reduced collections over the winter, focused on doubling up of bins at the busiest sites.

Action 4D: AD and GJ to schedule walk-round with PS to agree changes to be made before year end.

Use of sports pitches by private schools: Whilst an agreement was now finalised with Eaton House, and the school was ready to pay up-front for its usage, negotiations with Parkgate House and London Park schools needed a push.

Action 4E: LMB to press the two schools (with support offered by AD), aiming to have the two further arrangements in place by the AOM.

Rough sleeping: AIJ raised concerns about tents by Mount Pond. LMB reported that action had been taken that day, and that her colleague Keith Badrick remains very proactive on the wider problem on the Common, working with the police and providing effective solutions for the individuals involved; but he has been frustrated by some slow responses from Wandsworth's agent SPEAR. AIJ highlighted the support provided by Holy Trinity Church's Tuesday breakfast club for those in housing need.

5: Works update

Path repairs: Charlene Sealy has now indicated that total cost of the desired work exceeds £120k (even with the damaged Holy Trinity Church path being funded separately); there may need to be some reprioritisation of CCMAC's priority candidates, given the time that Lambeth has allowed to elapse: AD noted that refuse vehicle movements have damaged the path heading north-west from the Bandstand. There is an increasing risk that CCMAC will not be able to use its PIL money this financial year to fund the urgently needed repairs; AIJ and BC deemed it unacceptable that Lambeth officers have currently put a block on any disbursements from PIL; as councillors, they intend to highlight this as a breakdown of trust.

Action 5A: AD and Charlene Sealy to agree what work can be committed from 2025/6 PIL funds.

LMB noted that spending freezes were also holding up installation of new benches and bollards, given there is now no weekend working. Responding to a request from KS, she agreed to get older benches from the dog-free area, once they can be replaced, moved to the Bowling Greens area where they would meet need pending the redevelopment of the facilities. She will also turn her attention to one outstanding action:

Action 5B: LMB to investigate reason for recent bench positioning far back on the concrete base (from September).

LMB also reported the disappearance again of the lock on the gate by Mount Pond, and asked Committee members to be vigilant if passing .

AD reported on the well-attended and poignant re-dedication of the Jody Dobrowski memorial bench on 15 October; AIJ applauded David Robson's work leading this.

Non-Turf Cricket Pitch (NTF): In PS's absence, the outstanding action is rolled over:

Action 5C: PS to report further re cricket pitch application process, and re ideas for the Events site if football pitches are transferred there as a result.

7: Progress reports from Working Groups by exception:

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* awaits Action 5A, and see also Actions 4A and 4B.
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB will convene a meeting in January to plan the 2026 programme. AD has now acquired for CCMAC two SumUp credit card payment devices, which could usefully collect donations at concerts and other occasions.
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilions:* see Action 3
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity:* GJ expressed renewed frustration at the minimal progress made by Logika in its third iteration of the biodiversity report, which it is clear was produced without visiting the Common. However he still considers the position rescuable, given it would be difficult to recover the £12,500 payment that Lambeth approved. With AD, he will be meeting Logika on 13 November to set out our demands.
- 5) *Sports:* AD referred to the Group's oversight of work on schools contracts (Action 4D and cricket pitches (Action 5C). KS noted that, re management of the tennis courts (AOB discussion at October meeting), there had not yet been clarification regarding the split in booking availability between coaches and the general public .

Action 7: PS to clarify data showing how the existing split is being adhered to, and to produce a further detailed proposition on reforming the arrangements.

8: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB reported the appointment of a new Chair for the Society at its October AGM, Jake Johnson; and the Society is making progress with the design competition for the Clapham North railway bridge: three finalists will be shortlisted from the 23 submissions received. He noted that the litter pick with local business Hush had been very successful, collecting 48 sacks even though there had been a similar FCC exercise

only four days earlier. It was agreed it would be valuable to highlight how effective volunteer effort is.

Action 8: LMB to liaise with MB and EA/HH (for FCC) to get the total number of sacks of litter collected this year.

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): HH updated CCMAC on FCC's ambitions for the Battersea Rise playground: it will carry out a questionnaire to gauge appetite for change, having noted that some parents are happy with the status quo; more modest enhancements, such as a bench, may be all that is needed.

Wild Clapham:

GJ reported that:

- Wild Clapham is pressing ahead with its own arrangements to (i) install new Fast Fill taps (with financial cover from FCC), which will ensure the infrastructure can better support planting in future years; and (ii) to install their own covers for the SUDS drains on Windmill Drive, which the Lambeth team had positioned too low.
- He has arranged for Rudy McDonald to investigate the small pond that is forming on the Events site.
- Agreement has been reached in principle with Poppy George for Lambeth to buy new, more drought-resistant trees, for planting primarily in the Local Nature Reserves by the Wetlands and by the Bandstand; Wild Clapham, with FCC, are content to take on responsibility for watering.
- A preliminary design for the new biodiversity-themed 'Future Garden' replacing the first bowling green will be shared with CCMAC shortly.
- He is working with Helen Firminger, Fundraising Officer at Lambeth, to understand how the success of the Green Investment Scheme in Hammersmith & Fulham could be replicated in Lambeth.

9: Any other business

AD had attended the latest meeting of the Lambeth Parks Forum; whilst this is of most use to smaller parks in the Borough, there is some useful learning for the Common:

- Lambeth is currently carrying out its 2025 Parks Satisfaction Survey, aimed at users of all parks and commons;
- PS is working with the Legal team to update bylaws on the basis of new model bylaws issued by Government;
- Parks issues are on the agenda for the 19 November meeting of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee; AD will liaise with AIJ to determine if it would be worth his submitting a formal 'witness statement' on behalf of CCMAC.

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

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)