

## Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

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

The Depot, Clapham Common

### Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray

#### *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)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Krishna Siva (KS)

Andrew Summers (AS)

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

Apologies received from: Cllr Ben Curtis, Lynsey Hedges, Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones. Also on CCMAC: Kim Wiper

### **1: Matters arising from previous meetings**

The minutes of the 6 November meeting were approved. AD and PC had continued preparations for the Annual Open Meeting on 6 February, with the updated nomination form for Community Representative now available for CCMAC members to use in discussion with potential new candidates. PC will prepare the proposal for the constitutional amendment needed to recognise Clapham East as a qualifying ward; and CFM offered to work up promotional posters for the Meeting. **Action 1A: AD and PC to liaise with CFM** PC still needs to draw on colleagues' experience with Wordpress to ensure up-to-date text on our website. **Action 1B: PC to liaise with MB and CFM**

### **2: Events update**

CCMAC noted that Lambeth had submitted to the Secretary of State on 28 November its application for works on the Common; the Committee did not intend to make any representations. However PS provided some of the extra detail it had requested on plans for Footballfest, which would occupy the same section of the Events space as Moonwalk, from 1 June to 23 July 2026; it should not block any of the paths on the Common. For the duration of the tournament, from 11 June to 19 July, it would host up to 10,000 fans per session (up to 25,000 for the most popular matches), but only for the first two matches on any day (1700 and 2000 BST, finishing by 2300). Admission is likely to cost in the order of £7-£10. The licence process is still under way, but PS noted the potential for significant revenue, boosting PIL funding for 2026.

**Action 2: PS to check if specific Secretary of State consent is required too**

### 3: Commercial operations update

- *Bowling Greens pavilion*: three short-listed applicants for the lease were interviewed on 26 November. Once Lambeth's Legal department has worked through the recommendation, Kevin Crook will provide CCMAC with a briefing explaining the choice of preferred lessee, and seeking CCMAC approval.

**Action 3A: LB to convene the Bowling Greens & Pavilion Working Group in early January to prepare that opinion.**

- *Bowling Greens kiosk*: signing of the lease still awaits resolution of a discrepancy in electricity billing, and the installation of a new meter.
- *Woodland Café*: renewed applications for the lease have been invited, as a result of the procedural anomaly that had been identified. A tight deadline is being set with the aim of early resolution, with the expectation that only participants in the first round will re-apply.
- *Sauna*: has now started operation

### 4: Enforcement update

Litter strategy and early interventions: PS aimed to progress in the coming weeks the draft strategy he discussed with CCMAC in October. The first operational priority should be relocation of bins to ensure the stock is deployed effectively; PS will check if this could include more crow-proof bins.

**Action 4A: PS to then arrange meeting, and possible walk-round, with AD and GJ this month, to agree new deployment**

AS highlighted the continued absence of weekend collections through the winter, and pointed to FCC's willingness to step in when fine weather boosts use of the Common. PS welcomed this, and expected Lambeth could have funding available in the final quarter of 2025/6 for its teams to work in conjunction with them. The scale of volunteer input to caring for the Common deserved wider recognition.

**Actions 4B: PS to meet Shirley Kermer, FCC, to discuss; 4C (rolled over from last meeting): LMB to liaise with MB, EA and PK (for Best of Clapham) to get the total number of sacks of litter collected in 2025**

#### Bylaws signing:

CFM had had no further comments on her draft style guide for signing on the Common, and LMB was ready to take forward CCMAC recommendations for precise locations and format of new signs. She explained that Clive Kershaw was now addressing the outstanding snagging from the Windmill Drive project, now that the Road Safety Audit had been completed; this would include Lambeth-funded signs highlighting the shared space obligations, although he would expect Parks colleagues to deal with stencilled signs on the paths (with CCMAC), and cutting back shrubbery obscuring some signs. GJ was unhappy

about one other aspect of Windmill Drive snagging, the drainage covers in the SUDS: Lambeth deny these have been installed too low, but CCMAC supports Wild Clapham proceeding to install its own covers in the correct position.

**Action 4D: PC and CFM to arrange decision by Access, Paths & Signing WG (probably in correspondence, given need to expedite) on detailed signing requirements, including on Windmill Drive shared space**

On other enforcement issues:

- There is concern about police reluctance to follow up a recent homophobic assault in broad daylight by the central toilets; whilst there is no CCTV coverage, there appears to be ample evidence pointing to the perpetrator. LMB has reported the problem to the Clapham Common & Abbeville Safer Neighbourhood team; JR chairs that, and recognises the pressures the police are under, but will urge that action be taken in this case. PK mentioned he will be taking part in an interview session w/b 8 December with Commissioner Mark Rowley and will seek to raise the broader issue here.
- Action 4E: JR and PK**
- LMB reported Keith Badrick's continued interventions across the Common finding solutions for rough sleepers; she now has better dialogue with Wandsworth's agent SPEAR. The results of the annual count of rough sleepers (part of a national exercise) carried out last month should soon be available. KS pointed out that the fencing around the Pavilion had been breached once again.
  - Responses to Lambeth's consultation on using Fixed Penalty Notices had been overwhelmingly positive; PS was confident the measure would now progress, in time for use next summer.
  - Use of sports pitches by private schools: the agreement reached with Eaton House, about to be signed, should incentivise Parkgate House and London Park schools to come on board too, in time for the AOM.
  - Use of rental bikes: LMB is not now prioritising cooperation from Forest, as they have not become a major player locally, but she is turning her attention to Voi and its e-scooters. Lime had again been responsive in correcting a misunderstanding about where Wandsworth had permitted parking of its e-bikes.

## 5: Works update

- Path repairs: Clive Kershaw is taking this forward for Lambeth, in Charlene Sealy's absence, and is preparing the necessary purchase order (taking a conservative approach to costing, and adding in the path opposite Culmstock Road. It remains possible that all procedures (including Spend Control Panel) could be complete in time to spend our PIL funds this financial year; CCMAC is keen to minimise the risk of this overdue work slipping any further.

**Action 5: PC to speak to Clive Kershaw to understand how the project is being managed**

- Non-Turf Cricket Pitch (NTF): PS reported that Wandsworth planning officials have requested more information, and explained to us his plan to ensure no net loss of football pitch provision, by creating two additional football pitches on the Events site

to temporarily rest the turf in front of the Woodland Café. All pitches would be at least 5 metres clear of paths.

- Benches: LMB is focusing on getting the current phase of ten benches installed, but has identified for the next phase additional sites by the two playgrounds, and in the sunnier spots by the Temperance Fountain.

#### **6: Progress reports from Working Groups by exception:**

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: awaits Action 4D and 5.
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB has received several requests already to be part of the 2026 programme; he will convene a WG meeting in January to discuss.
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilions*: see Action 3A
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: at a meeting with Logika on 13 November GJ had confirmation that its biodiversity report had been compiled without visiting the Common, and that it could at best have advisory status only. This therefore fell well short of what had been contracted; CCMAC asked that Lambeth's Legal team assess whether the advance payment made in error could be retrieved. If not, CCMAC would formally set out its views on what lessons need to be learned re any future contracting of this sort. **Action 6: PS / Lambeth Legal, and back to CCMAC**
- 5) *Masterplan*: AD reported that Kevin Crook is working up a new Parks & Open Spaces Strategic Plan, to cover 2026-2030; CCMAC and associated organisations will be feeding in suggestions based on the 2020-2025 Plan.
- 6) *Sports*: Awaits progress on the NTF (Item 5). Re management of the tennis courts, KS is not persuaded by the evidence PS has flagged on booking availability. AD noted that this issue should be resolved once Kevin Crook has been able to complete his work on the new structure of licensing.

#### **7: Member Group updates**

*Clapham Society*: Four finalists had been selected in the design competition for the Clapham North railway bridge, and a second round of bidding should lead to a public vote to determine the winner.

*Friends of Clapham Common (FCC)*: October's Pumpkin Patch event had raised £10k, which will FCC will use to fund the new Fast Fill taps. The carol service takes place at the bandstand, Sunday 7 December.

##### *Wild Clapham:*

GJ reported on the next steps for the Fast Fill taps, planned for: Battersea Rise end; by the Depot; and by the Yacht Club – total cost c£10k. These needed to be in place before the new tree planting, agreed with Poppy George at Lambeth, could proceed. He was also progressing plans for the new borehole, which could be drilled either by the Pear Tree Café or closer to the wetlands or Eagle Pond; PS would prefer the latter. Plans for the 'Future Garden' on the site of the first bowling green were being worked up, with input from Cleve West, and should be ready to present at the AOM.

**8: Any other business**

PS and AD advised that, with the key senior posts in the reorganised Lambeth structure as it affects us now confirmed (Nabeel Khan as Corporate Director, Growth & Environment, with John Bosley as Director of Public Realm & Safety reporting to him), new appointments in the rest of the structure will be finalised between now and April. PS looked forward to greater stability and sense of direction in the coming year.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 8 January, 1900, at the Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)