

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 8 January 2026, 1900 – 2110

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Cllr Linda Bray

Cllr Ben Curtis

Cllr Alison Inglis-Jones

Member organisations:

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds (JR)

Krishna Siva (KS)

Andrew Summers (AS)

Kim Wiper (KW)

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

Fan Parks London Ltd Justin Stephenson and Morten Usterud; and Jan Rankou ('We Are The Fair') (Item 1 only)

Apologies received from: Ed Alnutt, Friends of Clapham Common

1: Footballfest update

Fan Parks London (FPL), with their event production agency We Are The Fair, added to the outline of the 11 June to 19 July event already noted at previous meetings. They expect to attract 250-350k visitors over 34 event days, with ticket price less than £10 (including a drink); 2,500 to 6,000 people will be expected on a typical day, using the seated area, but up to 25,000 when England and other nations with high local interest are playing, when the standing area will be opened up. FPL described their record of successful events in Scandinavia, and the positive, friendly atmosphere they achieve (audience at their Copenhagen 2024 Euros event was 42% female). Under 18s will need to be accompanied, by someone over 21. CCMAC sought assurance on the following:

- Hours of operation and noise: the bars will close by 2300, so matches starting later than 2200 UK time will not be shown; some flexibility may be needed if England are in knock-out stage games starting later in the day, North America time. Amplified sound would only be through directional speakers, which should not cause nuisance outside the event. Consultants for FPL will carry out a full noise survey shortly.
- Safety and security: details (including management of potential crowding at the tube stations) will be agreed with Lambeth's Safety Advisory Group, but FPL plan a strong security team, managing the single entrance at the northern perimeter (with appropriate queuing space); there will be three exits, two of them on the southern

perimeter. An additional service access point may be needed in addition to the single gate planned for the northern perimeter. There will be a combined Medical and Welfare tent on-site. Measures will be in place to combat touting and unofficial merchandise vendors.

- Scale of demand: there appear to be no other World Cup events on this scale planned for London, and so Footballfest may be exceptionally popular: managing queues, and non-ticket holders, may be of critical importance. There may need to be a larger bike parking area.
- Sustainability: CCMAC will insist on wholly reusable and recyclable cups / beakers, and high standards of litter management. FPL will install bins outside the boundary too on the main access routes.
- Ground reparation: FPL are committed to restoring the events space to its previous condition; they do not expect major damage to the turf, given it is mainly a seated event, and crowds will stay away in wet weather. CCMAC nonetheless urges particular attention where footfall is concentrated along the walkways.

FPL will keep CCMAC informed, including on the updated schedule for opening and closing timings, when staff are on site, access details to the venue, as well as the Sound Consultants report. It is understood that Secretary of State consent will not be needed.

2: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the 4 December meeting were approved. Referring back to discussion in January 2025, there was some recurrence of Christmas Tree dumping at the edge of the Common on West Side. LH has arranged for Wandsworth's team to recover these, and emphasise again the instruction to residents. It was noted that Lambeth's designated collection point, off Windmill Drive, was not being used much.

3: Commercial operations update

PS was unable to report any progress on the leases for the Pavilion, Kiosk and Woodlands Café ahead of a meeting (9 January) with Kevin Crook; the award of the lease for the Pavilion may however be announced in time for the Annual Open Meeting (AOM). GJ declared he must recuse himself from CCMAC and Working Group consideration re the Pavilion and Kiosk because of his role promoting the Biodiversity Garden plan (see Item 7). Rebuilding of the toilets at the Pear Tree Café was now complete (opening 9 January). Operation of the sauna has been disrupted by frozen water pipes, now being repaired.

Action 3: PS to update CCMAC re the leases as soon as possible

4: Enforcement update

Cycling safety: Further incidence of inconsiderate cyclists hitting pedestrians and dogs highlights the urgent need for clear signing of the routes that cyclists can take and their responsibilities. CFM had agreed with the Paths, Signs and Access WG three sign formats, signalling: pedestrian priority; 10mph cycling speed limit; and specific routing at the Cedars Road entry point. (There was some desire for a fourth sign, 'pedestrians only', but LMB pointed out that the new model bylaws which Lambeth will soon be adopting in effect permit cycling in a considerate manner on *all* paths in open spaces.) We should install these signs asap and assess which messages work best at which locations. Whilst some signing was needed across the Common, we should avoid ugly proliferation of signing, and the clear priority is the north-south corridor from Cedars Road to Narbonne Avenue and Clapham South. CCMAC should itself take on the task of keeping the stencilled markings on paths up to scratch, and seek clearer Give Way marking too, following up initial work just requested by PS to paint over the wrongly installed 'shared use' tiles and refresh the most faded markings.

Action 4A: LMB to steer installation of signs, in conjunction with AD and CFM, and agree allocation of future responsibility for signs and markings between Lambeth and CCMAC.

Signing of bylaws more generally should then be the main focus for 2026, deploying formats again devised by CFM, and working with Highways to ensure clear signing along Windmill Drive. Signs should flag up the risk of fines: PS advised there should be confirmation of the new Fixed Penalty Notice powers in time for the AOM.

PS will resume work on the Litter Strategy in February, and is reminded to pursue the actions committed to in previous meetings:

Action 4B: PS to arrange meeting / walk-round with AD and GJ to agree new deployment of bins (including using the crow-proof bins currently in storage, in particular to address need around Mount Pond)

Action 4C: PS to meet Shirley Kermer, FCC, to discuss their willingness to provide additional volunteer input to litter clearance;

4D: LMB to liaise with MB, EA and PK (for Best of Clapham) to get the total number of sacks of litter collected in 2025

Lambeth should now prioritise signing up all private schools using the Common for organised sports to a contract and appropriate payment. PS will discuss this with Simon Harris (Leisure Services Manager) on 9 January.

Action 4E: PS to report on progress in getting agreements signed.

CCMAC also noted the police decision so far not to pursue the perpetrator of the homophobic assault noted at the December meeting; CCMAC will support the victim if he decides to take the matter further.

5: Works update

- Path repairs: Clive Kershaw is understood to be getting firm quotes for the work on 9 January; it will be essential to expedite the work so as to commit use of CCMAC's PIL allocation before end of the financial year

Action 5: LMB to liaise with Clive

- Mount Pond: LMB is arranging for all remaining fencing to be removed, although some marking will be needed to alert people to the water's edge even where reeds obscure it. Some fishing pegs will be repaired, but CCMAC does not wish to prioritise use of PIL money for a more comprehensive renewal of the pegs.
- Battersea Rise playground: CCMAC confirms that further investment (beyond that made in c2019) is not a priority either, given the lack of interest in modernisation shown in FCC's recent survey of parents.

6: Progress reports from Working Groups:

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: WG to oversee Actions 4A and 5
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB has now programmed 14 concerts (Sundays from 7 June to 30 August, plus Monday 31st); 11 out of the 29 performers on the WG's database have responded so far. The WG will meet this month and next, and aims to have the programme in place by end February. MB stressed the need for all CCMAC members to play their part in stewarding the concerts this year. LMB will provide MB with details of the Latin American act who tell her they have not been contacted.
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: WG to act as needed in the light of Action 3.
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: GJ expressed frustration that it is now a year since Lambeth paid for the Logika report, and that clarification of Lambeth's position was still awaited.
- 5) *Events*: CFM noted that, with new Directors now in place, pressure should be resumed to put an Events Strategy in place.
- 6) *Governance*: PC is ensuring the AOM runs in line with the requirements of the constitution
- 7) *Masterplan*: AD will press Kevin Crook to provide update on the new Parks & Open Spaces Strategic Plan (2026-2030)
- 8) *Sports*: PS will provide update from 9 January meeting with Simon Harris on progress with the Non-Turf Cricket Pitch

7: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB is making steady progress with his 'history boards' project, and will be able to outline at the AOM the five themes being worked up. He also alerted CCMAC to the withdrawal of the large-scale residential towers proposed for the Lambeth College site; London South Bank University, owner of the site, is drawing up new proposals for the rear of the site, leaving scope for a fresh approach to redevelopment of the front alongside South Side at a much later stage.

Friends of Clapham Common (FCC): in EA's absence, GJ reported encouraging progress towards installation of the new fast fill stations needed, including at the challenging Battersea Rise end.

Wild Clapham: GJ updated on three projects:

- he deems the designs for the Biodiversity Garden (on the bowling green site) from Cleve West to be impractical, and not suitable for broader roll-out to other locations. GJ wants to ensure sufficient momentum with a better proposition before sharing it more publicly, so he will not be presenting on this at the AOM.
- drainage for the SUDS beds on Windmill Drive needs rectifying before the spring growing season; he will discuss with PS what action can be taken now.
- he has not so far been able to finalise tree planting plans with Poppy George; PS noted the importance of having an agreed, efficient, procedure for assessing proposals.

Action 7: PS to liaise with Poppy

GJ also advised that he will be taking a sabbatical for the next three months.

8: Any other business

AD and CFM, with PC, will complete work to publicise the AOM, including notices out on the Common. AD will advise Kevin Crook on what topics he needs to cover.

Date of next meeting: Annual Open Meeting, Thursday 5 February, 1900, at the Omnibus Theatre.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey (Secretary)