

## **CLAPHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCMAC)**

### **Minutes of Annual Open Meeting: 5 February 2026, 1900**

**Omnibus Theatre, SW4**

Chaired by Adrian Darley, Chair of CCMAC, supported by Phil Carey, Secretary and Krishna Siva, Treasurer.

Attending for Lambeth Council: Kevin Crooks, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Public Realm & Safety; Paul Smith, Head of Parks, and Lara Mifsud-Bonici, Senior Parks & Sports Development Officer;

A further nine members of the 2025/6 CCMAC took part, along with c26 members of the public.

#### **1: Chair's Report**

Adrian Darley summarised how CCMAC has coordinated a range of improvements on the Common during 2025, including: the successful Bandstand Concerts programme; part-funding of the new toilets at the Pear Tree Café; and prominent signage of the ban on BBQs and warning against littering. CCMAC has been working hard to get the many stretches of defective path resurfaced, particularly given the damage caused by heavy refuse trucks. The first phase of repairs will take place in April, with a second phase, also funded by the Parks Investment Levy (PIL) money allocated to CCMAC, in the autumn.

He identified a challenging list of further priorities for 2026, including: a new 10 Year Landscape, Ecology and Management Plan; clearer signing of cycle / pedestrian / shared use paths; a litter and waste management review; a new Events Framework agreement; new signing of bylaws; stepping up Engagement & Enforcement activity; and finally, delivering on new commercial licences (including the Bowling Green pavilion and kiosk).

The Secretary explained the need for minor amendments to the Constitution to take account of the changes to ward boundaries and names; the amendments were approved by the Meeting.

#### **2: Treasurer's Report**

Krishna Siva presented summary accounts for CCMAC for the year to 31/12/25 approved by Penny Wade FCA, which showed a closing balance of £32,851 and only £7,273 of expenditure against income of £28,350. Since year-end CCMAC has paid its £15k contribution to the Pear Tree toilets, and the accounts include £20k of PIL money ring-fenced for spending on green projects. The balance of our PIL allocation for 2025 (calculated as 20% of Lambeth's total receipts from events on the Common) does not pass through CCMAC accounts, and as noted above is now committed to paths renewal.

## 5. Reports from Member Organisations

The three organisations formally represented on CCMAC briefly explained their mission and contribution in the past year:

- ◇ For the Clapham Society, Michael Barry highlighted its range of activities, including the History Lecterns to be set up at the edges of the bandstand circle, and the design competition to transform the Clapham High St railway bridge.
- ◇ Simon Saville of Wild Clapham explained the mission to make the Common the best wildlife site in South London and showed how the work of Wild Clapham, with its volunteers and partners, has now transformed the Common.
- ◇ Shirley Kermer, Chair of the Friends of Clapham Common, showed how much they had achieved in 2025 through the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers, and the generosity of donors; she highlighted the contributions of Gareth James in leading the Wetlands project, and Petr Kaiser in bringing so many young people on board

## 3: Report from Lambeth Council

Kevin Crook, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods recognised the huge collaborative effort during 2025, with success notably in the low level of Unlicensed Music Events. This was against the background of very severe pressure on the Council's budget: £84m savings have to be made (from the overall Council budget of £444m), although he remained confident he could protect front-line parks services.

Capital projects had experienced several setbacks in 2025:

- The pause on capital spend put a stop to plans to overhaul the Redgra pitches, with tender costs coming in well over expectation anyway;
- Marketing of the lease for the Woodland Café had to be rerun because of an irregularity, but with shortlisting now again under way, a tenant should be in place by the Spring;
- The lessee lined up for the Bowling Green Pavilion withdrew, in part because of the delays in Wandsworth's consideration of the planning application. This too has now been remarketed, with the new tenant set to be announced imminently;
- Start of the new café operation at the Bowling Green Kiosk continues to be held back by a dispute over power supply, but Kevin is optimistic it should be up and running by Spring.
- The wider Bowling Greens site is now the subject of a fresh invitation to bid to provide sporting facilities, probably in conjunction with an innovative garden project on the first Green.

New investment priorities for 2026, in addition to further phases of paths resurfacing, include maintenance of Mount Pond and some form of renaturalisation of Long Pond. The Council will consult soon on the draft Ecology and Landscape Management Plan.

Enforcement activity should now get fresh impetus as the new combined Public Realm and Safety Directorate brings together responsibilities for parks and enforcement; a top priority for the new Director is implementing the new Fixed Penalty Notice powers, following the consultation in 2025. The Council will also

update bylaws for its parks, bringing the approach to cycling into line with its commitment to active travel; and will resume work on an Events Framework.

Income generation will remain key: we can expect more, low-impact brand activation events on the Common, a particularly attractive location for marketing agencies.

The presentations prompted much discussion; issues raised included:

- The standards for resurfaced paths: could we aim to use the same more durable, better looking surface as used around the bandstand? Budget constraints however mean that the Highways team has to stick with the existing tarmac approach. Kevin Crook also undertook to act on concern about the poor state of some lighting columns.
- The case for following Hammersmith & Fulham and other boroughs in setting up a Green Investment bond offering a guaranteed return to local residents and businesses investing in green projects in the borough. This was also raised at last year's meeting, and Cllr Inglis-Jones is pursuing the potential for it through a Member's Enquiry.
- The strategy now for the Bowling Greens site, and whether past proposals from London Lawn Sports for a croquet and bowls facility could be reconsidered; this would not be viable, however, if one green is converted in to a garden. Lambeth's remarketing will seek to balance income generation with minimising impact on residential properties.
- Strong concerns from Windmill Drive residents about
  - (i) the extent of anti-social behaviour on their doorstep and the toothlessness of past enforcement activity; the new FPN powers should do much to rectify this.
  - (ii) the impact of the large-scale Footballfest fan zone event planned for June/July. Kevin Crook pointed to an explanatory note which will soon be issued, and urged local residents to respond to the planning application which will shortly be made. CCMAC is also pursuing with the promoters its concerns on a range of aspect.
- Any forthcoming Litter Strategy must prioritise behaviour change and spreading awareness, and simply provide more bins; it is disappointing that the bequest for new benches has not been able to fund bins alongside to prevent the litter that they are attracting.
- Geofencing technology could tackle speeding by some cyclists and intrusion away from designated cycle paths. Lara Mifsud-Bonici explained that this has already been agreed with Lime Bikes, and she was working to extend that to other operators of hire bikes and scooters.

## **6: Selection of Community Representatives**

CCMAC's Constitution allows a maximum of ten Community Representatives; of the ten confirmed in post at AOM 2025, six (Phil Carey, Adrian Darley, Clare Frances McMenemy / Michael Mooney, Joanna Reynolds and Krishna Siva), being newly appointed then for a two-year term, remain on the Committee for a second year. Kim Wiper stood down from CCMAC this month, and Charlee Boston left earlier last year. Four candidates put themselves forward for Community Representative: Petr Kaiser

and Andrew Summers, existing members whose two-year term had just expired, and new applicants Ian Blandford and Edward Glanville. There being four candidates for four places, all four are now appointed for a two-year term, without the need for a vote.

The Chair welcomed the two new members to CCMAC, and closed the meeting at 2055.

**Minutes prepared by Phil Carey, Secretary**