

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 4 June 2026, 1900 – 2115

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Member organisations:

Ed Alnutt (Friends of Clapham Common) (EA)

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Cllr Jonathan Bartley

Cllr Linda Bray

Cllr Chris Nicholson

Cllr Cat Thomson

Community Representatives:

Ian Blandford (IB)

Phil Carey (PC)

Ed Glanville (EG)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Michael Mooney (MM)*

Joanna Reynolds

Krishna Siva

Andrew Summers

* jointly with Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

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

1: Councillor representation

Lambeth Council is yet to formalise appointing to CCMAC the three councillors required by the Constitution: in anticipation of that, Chris Nicholson (LibDem) and Cat Thomson (Green) attended their first meeting; Cat was joined on this occasion by her fellow Green councillor Jonathan Bartley, who might attend some future meetings as her alternate. Linda Bray also attended, pending a decision by the Labour group on its nominee.

2: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the monthly meeting on 14 May were approved. All actions are picked up in the main agenda items.

3: Member Group Updates

Clapham Society: MB reported that:

- the winner of the design competition for the Clapham Road railway bridge will be announced shortly, informed by a public vote with 2,500 taking part;
- the History Lecterns project can proceed once the £15k fundraising is complete; £10k has already been raised, if we can't find the remaining £5k from donations we will look to find a sponsor.
- the Clean Up Clapham campaign is continuing into the second phase, with 16/17 year olds at Lambeth College. CCMAC advised MB to approach Lambeth Street-

Cleaning and Serco to source any spare Eurobins for repainting (but not for positioning on the Common).

- the Society is working with Clapham BID on options for redesigning the diagonal path across the Grassy Knoll. GJ warned that the heavy footfall, ground compaction and shade would make new planting difficult, and recommended avoiding any loss of green space that would necessitate Secretary of State approval.

Action 3A: MB, GJ and LMB to discuss how to proceed

Friends of Clapham Common: EA reported, amongst other things, increased litter picking actions (being joined by senior executives from M&S on 6 June) and good progress with the Bring It, Clapham schools poster campaign. FCC has arranged for Vanessa Lang to attend CCMAC's July meeting to discuss options for the Battersea Rise Playground. Alison Inglis-Jones will take over from Ed as the FCC representative at future meetings; the Committee thanked Ed for the valuable input he has provided over several years of membership.

Wild Clapham: GJ is discussing with Paul Smith some essential replanting of the Wetlands pond, to replace aquatic plants eaten by the waterfowl, and to tackle blanket weed. He is also now providing advice to Wandsworth Council on how they too can increase biodiversity on Wandsworth Common. Wild Clapham should soon have time to refocus on plans for the Future Garden on the bowling green site. As for the concern raised at the May meeting on anglers' wire left in trees trapping birds, PS will pursue possible solutions with Iain Boulton.

Action 3B: PS

4: Events update

It had just been confirmed that Cllr Natalie Kane now has Events as part of her Cabinet lead responsibilities; and Lucy Zaman will be back in post as lead officer later this month; AD and CFM will resume dialogue with her on the Council's overall strategy for events. Both Green and LibDem Councillors present confirmed their parties' commitment to reviewing policy for major events, both parties having opposed the FanParks World Cup proposal; AD mentioned that the promoter is considering a similar application for an event during the 2028 Euros. As for World Cup 2026, Common Pizza will screen all England matches: IB noted how noise from the site already affects residents on North Side.

Action 4A: LMB to check the licence conditions, and how they will be enforced

PS reported approval has been given for Common Ground Summer Series, a non-electronic music event over four consecutive days, 22-25 July 2027, with up to 9,999 attending each day, and the Events site occupied for two weeks in total.

Concern was expressed at intrusion into Local Nature Reserve areas by the Pretty Muddy event on 23 May; GJ argued that LNRs must be avoided, even if currently cut as amenity grassland.

Action 4B: LMB to brief Events team, and provide LNRs map, ahead of detailed planning for the 2027 event.

5: Commercial operations update

There is further delay to the opening of new facilities:

- the lease for the Woodland Café is still to be signed, and new operator Spread will need eight weeks for fitting out, pointing now to August opening at the earliest. (LMB mentioned that the little-used drinking fountain alongside is being decommissioned, but there is a bottle filler outside the changing rooms.).
- contrary to advice last month, the long-awaited electrics upgrade for the Bowling Green Kiosk is still not secured, although it is understood the prospective operator is still on board.
- prolonged non-use of the Bowling Green Pavilion has led to a leak causing damage, and Northcote Arts seeking to renegotiate terms for its lease.

LMB is awaiting quotes for upgrading the power supply so that the ice cream van by the Windmill Drive playground can cease using diesel; there would then be a four-week installation period.

6: Enforcement update

Progress with the new Fixed Penalty Notice approach to enforcement awaits confirmation from the current trial at Archbishops Park that it can be adequately resourced. Of the issues raised last month, EG has made appeals to Tesco and Sainsburys at national level to follow M&S' lead in not selling disposable BBQs locally; and PS should now have time to follow up actions on slacklining and private schools' sports use of the Common. **Action 6A: PS**

MM confirmed that the new signs for shared and pedestrian-only paths will arrive in the coming week, and he and CFM will lead work to install them. Lambeth's work to refresh the stencilled signing has again stalled, but there was an urgent need to place warnings around the two crossing points on the north-south cycle route.

Action 6B: AD to coordinate CCMAC effort to refresh markings

Litter remains the main concern: in the absence of progress with bylaws signing and delays in being able to display further warning banners until the requested Heras triangle fencing was set up, discussion focused on responses to littering. PS conceded this has become a huge problem, with Serco struggling to empty all Eurobins on busy weekends, in part because crowding makes it difficult for their vehicles to get through. PS and LMB are striving to 'flex the service' to target collection capability where it is most needed. IB and others emphasised CCMAC members', and member organisations', willingness to help out, focusing perhaps on secondary areas to free up Lambeth's team for the priority tasks; there was risk, though, of reaching the limits to what volunteer input can achieve.

Action 6C: PS will liaise with Shirley Kermer, FCC, to agree the most effective way for volunteers to support collection.

7: Works update

LMB thanked AD for his personal efforts to address overgrown edges to the Common. Commissioning of the long-agreed Phase 1 path repairs remains held up by Lambeth's policy now of including some elements of non-tarmac replacement (eg self-binding gravel, or ground-up limestone). The Access Paths & Signing working group should urgently identify any suitable candidates from its Phase 1 list, and also proceed to draw up a Phase 2 list, including currently informal paths that could usefully be made more definitive in this way. PS is keen to explore how the cost savings from non-tarmac could still be obtained when existing tarmac has to be removed first, whilst noting that more frequent interventions will be needed for non-tarmac paths in future years. PK reported that the Vicar at Holy Trinity Church is willing to discuss with Lambeth how contractors on his renewal project could support work on the damaged path close to the church boundary.

Actions 7A: PC to coordinate APS WG walk-round (6 June), and LMB to press for resolution of outstanding purchase order issues

Noting the limited prospects for PIL revenue during 2026/7 (LMB estimated c£40k, compared with £56k / 42k?? from 2025/6 *check*), the idea of raising funds borough-wide, or Common-specific, through a Green Investment Bond merited fresh attention. This would need to be led at Cabinet-level and by John Bosley.

Action 7B: PS to set up initial discussion with Mike Kermer (FCC), who has done most thinking on the opportunity

8: Working Groups – progress reports by exception

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: see Action 7A; the WG should also consider what further steps can be taken to address concerns about e-bike rentals, especially Forest and Voi.
Action 8A: PC
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB has provided all marshals for this summer's season (starting on 7 June) with briefing note and script. A further 30 deckchairs have been ordered, and MB is aiming to get 80 put out for each concert. AD updated marshals on how to sign up for and use the SumUp payment terminals.
Actions 8B: PS and MB to discuss urgently where to store the deckchairs; PK to ask Pear Tree Café to display posters
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: KS raised concern about drug use on the Pavilion verandah; LMB urged any incidences to be reported. The risk would be worsened if the Heras fencing were removed to open it up for general public use as a wet weather shelter.
Actions 8C: LH will consult Neighbourhood Police sergeant on enforcement options. WG to be convened later this summer to consider GJ's proposals for Future Garden
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: PS explained Lambeth's proposal for extracting some value from the disappointing Logika report, by commissioning fresh work to identify the interventions now needed, to be funded from PIL income. CCMAC rejected this approach, wishing to focus instead on maximising value from the report we've already paid for. AD noted that the inspection for our Britain in Bloom entry will take place on 30 June.
- 5) *Events*: awaits steer from Lucy Zaman (see item 4)

- 6) *Governance*: PC will propose CCMAC operating procedures for decisions on using PIL, in conjunction with the reasonable expectations message being presented to Lambeth.
- 7) *Sports*: following discussion of the new licensing structure for the tennis courts, LMB will provide a full list of authorised sports coaching on the Common (including eg yoga and pilates).

Action 8D: LMB

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2 July, 1900, at The Depot. The schedule for all meetings in 2027 was also agreed, including the Annual Open Meeting on Tuesday 9 March.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey