

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 2 July 2026, 1900 – 2115

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Member organisations:

Alison Inglis-Jones (Friends of Clapham Common) (AIJ)

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Cllr Linda Bray

Cllr Chris Nicholson

Cllr Cat Thomson

Lambeth Council: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Community Representatives:

Phil Carey (PC)

Ed Glanville (EG)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds

Andrew Summers

Vanessa Lang, Friends of Clapham Common attended to introduce Item 2

Apologies received from: Ian Blandford, Lynsey Hedges, Gareth James, Paul Smith. Also on CCMAC: Krishna Siva(KS)

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the monthly meeting on 4 June were approved; all actions are picked up in the main agenda items. In respect of Councillor representation, Cllrs Nicholson and Thomson's nomination to CCMAC had been approved by their respective parties; Cllr Bray's re-nomination was still pending. It was also noted that the two new Cabinet leads most relevant to CCMAC's business are Natalie Kane, leading on parks, and Ciara Alleyne, whose remit includes events and leisure; AD and GJ will be meeting both in the coming week.

2: Battersea Rise playground

Vanessa Lang reminded CCMAC of her research into parents' preferences for improvements to the current facility, including the strong desire to keep it aimed at younger children, and to make only minor changes in order to avoid any lengthy closure. It would be good to refresh the 'mushrooms' and add mulching to make surfaces softer. LMB referred to the RoSPA report identifying only low-priority safety issues, and wished to cross-check this with Vanessa's finding of exposed nails and other dangers. AIJ confirmed that FCC was ready to lead, and fund, the improvement project, drawing on its enthusiastic volunteers

Action 2: AIJ to meet LMB and Rudy McDonald on-site to discuss timetabling; LMB to check RoSPA recommendations.

3: Member Group Updates

Clapham Society: MB reported that:

- The Makower architects consortium had been announced as the winner of the design competition for the Clapham Road railway bridge; with feasibility funding from the Society, it was now working up next steps with TfL and Network Rail.
- Work continued on renewing the diagonal path across the Grassy Knoll, to be funded by This is Clapham – however its preferred approach might damage the trees. It was also noted that the stone trough was now precariously out of position, and urgently required putting back on its plinth, perhaps using a JCB.

Actions 3A: LMB to consult re the path with John Mackie, Tree Service Manager; and with Rudy McDonald re the trough

- the History Lecterns project was ready to move to the next stage of erecting the six signs around the bandstand circle, but FCC has now warned that some of the twelve 60cm holes this would require could damage tree roots.

Actions 3B: LMB to get advice from John Mackie, and MB to engage with Ajay Joshi from the Trees Team

Friends of Clapham Common: Mike Kermer, Treasurer, feels the new Lambeth administration is sufficiently open to the idea of the Green Investment Bond for him now to seek detailed advice from Hammersmith & Fulham council on how its scheme functions; he will then report back to Natalie Kane. AIJ also reported that FCC needs updates on: the litter strategy for the Common, following up actions for PS from previous meetings; and on the worst paths defect, the pothole en-route to Mount Pond.

Wild Clapham: In GI's absence, AD raised issues re the ponds:

- the water level in Eagle Pond is running low, and unauthorised use, presumably by anglers, of the input pipe is causing conflict with Bandstand Beds, who also rely on that source. It must be for Lambeth to ensure the supply is sufficiently secure and fairly managed, and he looks to Rudy McDonald to address the immediate challenge in the coming week, with Iain Boulton producing a more sustainable plan as soon as possible.
- Iain is hoping to secure funding to renew some of the fishing platforms ('pegs') on Mount Pond, and remove a few which are no longer of use to anglers. CCMAC noted that those pegs now surrounded by reeds might still be an attractive amenity for non-anglers.

Action 3C: AD to agree with LMB which pegs should be renewed.

- Iain is now seeking a solution to the problem of anglers' wire left in trees; and will oversee a trawl this summer of Long Pond, transferring the fish there to the Mount and Eagle Ponds.

4: Events update

– Lucy Zaman had planned to join the meeting but was unable to do so. CCMAC has a range of issues to discuss with her now she is back as Events lead.

Action 4A: AD and PC to set out to Lucy our priority concerns

– On other matters outstanding from previous meetings, LMB has briefed the Events team to ensure LNRs are protected in future; and she is liaising with Licensing to ensure Common Pizza is abiding by provisions against noise nuisance.

– Members reported the generally positive public reaction to Brand Activations on the Common so far this summer, although some residents have sought assurance that alcohol restrictions would be strictly enforced.

Action 4B: LMB to give CCMAC more info on what brand activations are authorised.

– PC had had an offer from the organisers of Oktoberfest to provide a briefing on its plans for its third year of operation; however, given the smooth running so far, CCMAC felt this would not be necessary.

5: Commercial operations update

(PS and LMB are considering the proposed Dashboard format for more systematic reporting of their progress across Commercial Ops, Enforcement and Works in future.)

Focusing on the four facilities on the Common, LMB advised that:

- Spread's opening at the woodland café site is imminent, but they do need to identify a workable solution for waste management, given the challenge of access from the South Circular;
- Lambeth and the prospective operator of the children's studio need to agree on a reasonable cost for repairs to the Bowling Green Pavilion after the recent leak;
- marketing of the central playground Kiosk has now begun; and
- the prospective lessee of the bowling green Kiosk remains on board despite UK Power Networks being unable to prioritise the upgrade to the electricity supply.

Action 5: PC to liaise with PK on a possible news update for the website and other channels explaining the prolonged delays to re-opening of the Kiosk.

LMB also reported that the power supply for the ice cream van site by the central playground is yet to be sorted, given the higher than expected cost estimate for installation.

6: Enforcement update

CCMAC was disappointed to learn that the Fixed Penalty Notice trial at Archbishops Park has not yet got under way, with funding not yet resolved. Effective enforcement tools, backed up by clear signing, were urgently needed for the Common too, and this should be a priority for Lambeth (It was noted that Natalie Kane has expressed concern about the dangers of BBQs parks).

On signing:

- It was unclear if all the Heras triangles required for the bylaws banners were now in place (subsequently confirmed that the Clapham South and Battersea Rise triangles are still awaited)

- CFM had led in the past month the installation of the first wave of signs for cycle and pedestrian paths, as agreed, and there had been positive feedback. However CCMAC, including new members, remained concerned that the instructions were in some cases insufficiently clear (not helped by the Council having wrongly installed the tablet markers in the paths themselves), and it noted a critical assessment being circulated within FCC. PC argued that the problems are focused on Windmill Drive, and the north-south cycle route, both corridors which should be within the ambit of the Highways team.

Actions 6A: AD to lead a further walk-round to pinpoint the priority concerns, and PC to prepare a CCMAC representation to Highways urging them to take responsibility on safety grounds.

With regards to irresponsible use of rental e-bikes on the Common, CN advised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be reviewing at its 21 July meeting the Council's memoranda of understanding with the three operators, Lime, Forest and Voi; only Lime has been fully cooperative so far.

Action 6B: AD, with PC, to summarise CCMAC's concerns about e-bike use, for Cllrs Nicholson and Thomson to draw on at that meeting.

As for a series of recent incidents between members of the public at the Waterplay, including an assault, LMB reported that some formal complaints had been made to the Police; maintaining order there must be a Police responsibility. CCMAC feels it important though that the facility remains open for the public.

On actions from previous meetings, LMB noted that PS has briefed the Council's Comms Team re necessary messaging around slacklining between trees; but has not yet managed to get the responsible lead to secure the remaining agreements on private schools' use of the Common.

7: Works update

LMB is working to finalise the contract award for the Phase 1 path repairs; this has in part been held up by the APS working group completing its review (following a walk-round organised by PC on 5 June) of the scope to specify some stretches as suitable for more sustainable 'hoggin' non-tarmac surfacing.

Action 7A: AD/PC urgently to submit CCMAC advice

LMB confirmed that the new bins are now ready to install, guided by a map provided by FCC of priority locations (many alongside existing bins). Noting that more benches are also due to be installed, PC sought assurance that they would be co-located with bins wherever possible; LMB advised this might not be possible until a second phase of bin deliveries had been made. She is also working with Shirley Kermer to promote FCC's 'Bring It, Clapham' campaign for re-usable cups, and has agreed that FCC should be the Council's lead stakeholder for litter issues, given the dedicated team the Friends have now been able to set up.

AD was concerned that the piles of hardcore by the Green Waste Site had still not been removed

Action 7B: LMB to remind Rudy McDonald of his commitment to clear them.

8: Working Groups – progress reports by exception

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: PC to convene further meeting after Action 7A to address the remaining challenges. **Action 8A: PC**
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB is updating the briefing note for marshals, including advice on helping vehicles leave the area after the concerts. He urged all marshals to endeavour to sign up to SumUp for the quickest way to collect donations (although the fallback of the QR code works well too now). Lambeth's change of position on funding concerts, in conjunction with attendees' generosity to date, means there is no longer a shortfall: CCMAC agreed to his proposal that further donations from concerts in July be used to install a back-up power source, and to print further posters promoting the programme. For the August concerts, the plea for donations will shift from 'for the concert programme' to 'for the Common'.
Action 8B: MB to incorporate into revised briefing (now issued)
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: awaits resolution by Lambeth of outstanding issues, but LH and LB to take forward actions from June meeting.
Actions 8C: LH to consult Neighbourhood Police sergeant on enforcement options re rough sleeping at Pavilion; WG to be convened later this summer to consider GJ's proposals for Future Garden
- 4) *Sports*: AD mentioned a range of issues put by KS to Simon Harris, including inadequate maintenance of tennis courts.
Action 8D: AD to pursue, in KS's absence

Date of next meeting: Thursday 6 August, 1900, at The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey