

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 6 August 2026, 1900 – 2115

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Member organisations:

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

Gareth James (Wild Clapham)

Cllr Linda Bray

Cllr Chris Nicholson

Cllr Cat Thomson (CT)

Lambeth Council: Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB), Lucy Zaman (LZ)

Community Representatives:

Ian Blandford (IB)

Phil Carey (PC)

Ed Glanville (EG)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Joanna Reynolds

Apologies received from: Michael Barry (Clapham Society), Paul Smith, Krishna Siva and Andrew Summers.

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. Councillor representation following the May election has now been finalised, with Cllr Bray confirmed as the Labour nominee, and working group memberships have been revised to incorporate the new nominees. AD and GJ have had to re-schedule their meeting with the two new Council leads, Natalie Kane and Ciara Alleyne.

2: Member Group Updates

Clapham Society: MB provided a written update on:

- Grassy Knoll: Jeremy Keates (This is Clapham) has passed to LMB a revised plan for the diagonal path, but she still awaits a response from the Drinking Fountain Association re moving the displaced stone trough.
Action 1A: LMB to share, and chase DFA
- History Lecterns: recognising that Ajay Joshi has higher priority tree challenges at present, a suggestion has now come from FCC to site the lecterns around the Temperance Fountain, where tree roots should not be affected as they would be at the Bandstand. CCMAC supports this change, and asks LMB to meet on-site with MB on his return to consider issues such as vehicle movements at that new location.

Action 1B: LMB/MB

Friends of Clapham Common: AIJ confirmed FCC is ready to agree with Byron Green from Lambeth Parks the detailed programme for renewing the Battersea Rise playground, including arrangements for mulching the site. FCC volunteers are also helping the team from Spread complete landscaping around the new Café. FCC had been concerned about the health of Eagle Pond, but is pleased that aeration has been successful and the water level is recovering. Mike Kermer is developing the proposal for a Green Fund for Lambeth with Abundance Investment, LB Hammersmith & Fulham's agent for its scheme.

Wild Clapham: GJ stressed the seriousness of the current drought conditions and the broader implications of the climate crisis for the Common. Current back-breaking effort by the watering group that he leads must intensify, with better established trees also now requiring attention. The Council's senior leadership must be galvanised into action, he suggests through a COBRA-type crisis group, to develop plans for planting non-native species, and allocate nursery space for growing drought-resistant plants with seeds from southern Europe. There is a pressing case for investment now to safeguard the future of the Common: watering will soon be unmanageable without early action to fund new boreholes (estimated cost £200k), and a small electric vehicle to take a bowser around the Common; CT confirmed her support for this.

4: Events update

LZ is back in post as Lambeth's Event Services Manager and confirmed she intends to attend all future CCMAC meetings. She has established that improving events management is a top priority for Cabinet Lead Cllr Kane; whilst her team continues to deal with applications as they come in, work has now begun on renewing the Events Strategy in order to be more proactive. The council will seek commitment from event organisers to part-fund betterment of the Common, not just making good, and Cllr Kane is keen to ring-fence some of the PIL receipts from events for climate-related investment.

LZ will share with CCMAC the timeline for organisers that has now been produced, addressing concerns around lead times from eg Footballfest, and the new Common Land Consent applications that will be needed this autumn. CCMAC reiterated the pressing need to see the events calendar, not least so its members will know whether activities are authorised or not. The three councillor members (LB, CN,CT) will jointly urge Cllr Kane to overturn the current prohibition on its being shared.

Actions 4: LZ to share timeline and consent applications; AD to set out the reasons for CCMAC's insistence on seeing the calendar to inform the approach to Cllr Kane.

CCMAC noted three events coming up:

- Water Lantern Festival is proceeding on 19 September, with LZ convening a Safety Advisory Group meeting this month;
- Oktoberfest is being lined up for 9-24 October, subject only now to Wandsworth consenting the planning application;
- the main new addition for Summer 2027 (given the Royal Agricultural Society has not revived its Expo proposal) could be a small-scale concert programme, with c8,000 attending on four consecutive nights.

5: Commercial operations update

LMB is now alerting the three CCMAC councillors (plus AD and PC) ahead of scheduled brand activations. There was some concern about a recent Aldi activation briefly taking over The Pavement; it was noted this is a TfL street, and any complaint should be taken up with the GLA Assembly member Marina Ahmad.

Resolving the outstanding obstacle to electric power supply for ice cream vans could best be pursued through direct engagement with the current operator Lucio's First Class Catering, who AD understands has a solution in mind. **Action 5A: LMB to take forward**

In PS's absence, no update on finalising the leases for the Bowling Green pavilion and café. **Action 5B: PC to seek update from PS**

6: Enforcement update

No progress reported on the Council's strategy for FPNs and for litter; PS also to be asked to provide update asap (see Action 5B)

LMB reported on:

- *Cycling:* The Parks Improvement Team now has capacity to resume refreshing the cycle path markings, and LMB has confirmed she is content with the next phase of signing proposed by CFM. CN confirmed that at its 21 July meeting the Overview & Scrutiny Ctee recommended greater use of geofencing for rental e-bikes, preventing their use away from the main north-south and east-west paths, and maintaining the speed restriction where they are permitted. The Cabinet leads are due to respond to that recommendation within two months. It was noted that e-scooters, classed as vehicles rather than bikes, should not be allowed anywhere on the Common. As for longer-term strategy, PC should follow up his 30 July letter on behalf of CCMAC (to Cllr Jonathan Bartley, the Cabinet Lead already engaged with us) urging Highways to recognise the importance of routes across the Common for mobility in the wider borough. **Action 6A: PC**

- *Licensing:* The new Spread Café has applied to Wandsworth for a music and alcohol license. LB reported that action by Lambeth Licensing is succeeding in getting Common Pizza to restrict noise from outdoor music to early evenings only. The Windmill on the Common is also now generating complaints from local residents about outdoor performances.

Action 6B: LMB to liaise with CN as ward councillor to require the Windmill to regularise its licensing.

- *Parking:* LH confirmed that Wandsworth has approved funding to convert the newly uncovered single yellow lines on its stretch of Windmill Drive to double lines; should

be done within 8 weeks. LMB is arranging to position tree trunks to block off access to the Common in front of Holy Trinity Church where there was a recent repeat of illegal parking by attendees at a funeral.

Action 6C: LMB (and see AOB re North Side)

- *Private schools' sports use:* AD made it clear CCMAC is losing patience with the delay in London Park and Parkgate signing up to payment agreements; they should be denied access from the new autumn term.

Action 6D: LMB to liaise urgently with Dan Thomas, Sports team

LMB confirmed that slacklining from trees by authorised sports trainers was being actively discouraged, but there were now reports of bollards being used instead, also a risky and destructive practice. She also reported that Lambeth's new Street Population Coordinator, Tim Greenhalgh, will attend the September meeting to discuss his role.

7: Works update

LMB explained that approval for start of works on the Phase 1 path repairs is imminent, awaiting now just the Spend Panel's approval; AD noted that, where needed, metal edging would be more durable than the softwood used in the pilot resurfacing in 2024. PC and AD had finalised the recommendations for Phase 2 works, indicating priorities and those paths that might be suitable for non-tarmac treatment; the list and map are now with Kevin Crook and LMB, and shared with CCMAC.

Action 7A: LMB to keep PC informed on next steps

AD and LMB had reviewed with Iain Boulton the work needed to refresh the Mount Pond fishing pegs: most are in a good state of repair, but are overgrown. As a test case, AD will clear plants from one peg before advising on the practicality of further clearance and replacement of some pegs (likely to cost c£1,000 + installation).

LMB also reported on:

- *Benches:* new installation can now resume; AD and LMB will schedule a walk-round to agree on remaining location.
- *Cricket pitches:* we should not support the installation of the third ECB-funded pitch until we have Football Association consent for moving to the Events site (well away from the changing rooms) the two football pitches that this will displace. If that is refused, Lambeth may have to reimburse the English Cricket Board for the £120k it has spent on its first two pitches.
- *Green Waste Site – hardcore heaps alongside:* CCMAC is unhappy these have still not been moved.

Action 7B: AD/LMB

Action 7C: LMB to insist Rudy McDonald now prioritises this work.

- *Waterplay:* the facility is of course being intensively used this summer; new metal filtering plates have been installed aiming to reduce the number of temporary shutdowns. LMB will check how effective those prove to be.

8: Working Groups – progress reports by exception

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage*: PC to convene further meeting in light of Actions 6A and 7A. **Action 8A: PC**
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts*: MB had reported the continuing success of fundraising, in particular from the crowdfunding set up by PK. It was agreed that stewards for the remaining five concerts should continue to present the appeal as 'to support the concert programme' (with the prime objective now being the back-up power source). LMB now has available several folding black chairs, which could be brought over from Brockwell Park if needed.
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion*: focus now should be on plans for the Future Garden, on the first bowling green site.
Action 8B: CT to arrange meeting between GJ and Cllr Kane.
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity*: IB offered to help GJ with new waterplants in the Wetlands
- 5) *Governance*: PC remains keen to set up regular reporting on PIL receipts and expectations.
Action 8C: LZ and LMB to liaise and agree what data can be provided and when.
- 6) *Masterplan Delivery*: whilst the Masterplan itself remains in place, the current Management Plan covers only 2017-2027.
Action 8D: AD to check with Kevin Crook how and when this will be renewed
- 7) *Sports*: KS has advised he will chase up outstanding responses on a range of issues he has put to Simon Harris.

9: Any other business

PC reported he had met this week with the Battersea Society's Open Spaces Committee, updating them on issues of concern on the Wandsworth side of the Common. That Committee raised concern about the proliferation of parallel informal paths along North Side; LMB agreed to explore whether some trunk barriers proposed re Action 6C could also be trialled here.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3 September, 1900, at The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey