Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 1 October 2026, 1900 – 2115
The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley *(Chair)*

Member organisations:
Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)
Alison Inglis-Jones (Friends of Clapham Common) (AIJ)
Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Cllr Simon Cordon (SC) (in place of Cllr Nicholson)

Community Representatives:
Ian Blandford (IB)
Phil Carey (PC)
Petr Kaiser (PK)
Joanna Reynolds
Krishna Siva
Andrew Summers (AS)

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

Apologies received from: Cllr Linda Bray, Lynsey Hedges, Clare Frances McMenemy, Cllr Chris Nicholson, Cllr Cat Thomson. Also on CCMAC: Ed Glanville, Paul Smith

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the monthly meeting on 3 September were approved; all actions are picked up in the main agenda items. In addition, AD, with GJ and Shirley Kermer of FCC, had met on 29 September the new Council Leader Martin Abrams to focus on environmental challenges for the Common; Cllr Abrams recognised the valuable contribution made by volunteers, encouraged FCC to pursue its Green Investment Bond proposal, and committed to quarterly four-way meetings in future.

2: Paths renewal and PIL funding

LMB acknowledged CCMAC's draft proposal to trim Phase 1 renewal spend to within available funding, and explained that cost increases since the purchase order was put in place mean it would need to get 'spend variation' approval. SC offered help in expediting Spend Panel consideration of any request. CCMAC undertook to finalise its proposal, noting possible use of 2026/7 PIL money and Film Unit revenue to top up the 2025/6 PIL funds carried over.

Action 2: PC/AD to agree with CCMAC next week and submit to LMB

3: Member Group Updates

Clapham Society: MB noted the trough on the Grassy Knoll remained in a precarious position; GJ, PK and AS agreed to take on the task of shifting it themselves. MB will liaise with Local History leads in the Society to help LMB find records of when the trough was

transferred to the Drinking Fountain Association. The Society's AGM is on 19 October at the Omnibus; and a Steering Committee, with TfL and NR, is now in place for the rail overbridge project.

Friends of Clapham Common: AIJ confirmed that FCC volunteers will start on renewing the Battersea Rise playground as soon as Byron Green (Lambeth Parks) gives go-ahead re mulching and paint selection. She also highlighted the strong start to ticket sales for Pumpkin Patch on 17 October.

Wild Clapham: GJ has submitted the joint WC/FCC '*Tree Planting Strategy for Climate Adaptation*' document to all relevant Lambeth Officers including members of the Cabinet. This document provides both a risk assessment for our existing trees and an evidence-led framework for potential long-term solutions. It includes the possibility of securing nursery-growing space within the Common itself (one of the redundant bowling greens could be converted to become a small tree nursery). CCMAC members also have copies of the strategy and GJ is now awaiting comments. He also noted that the hardcore piles outside the Green Waste Site had now been removed, and now had a commitment from the Operations Team that there would be no repetition of storing materials outside the site.
Action 3: All to study the Strategy, ready for discussion at November meeting

4: Events update

LZ will share a Common-specific events calendar with CCMAC, updated every Friday. She confirmed Oktoberfest is now being set up, and the second instalment of the Common Land Application will be published in draft for comment next month; no comments were received on the first instalment. New highlights under discussion for 2027 are:

- *Sounds of the West End*, 2-3 night event in May / June, c5k capacity
- *Wandslow Promotions / Bad Apple gigs:* up to 15k per concert on Event site, around July; noise would be limited to 75-90dB
- *Irish Festival:* also 15k at atime, over three days in August. Both this and Wandslow are locally based businesses. LZ offered briefings on any of these, and will engage with FCC on concerns around plastic waste, and with Wild Clapham on staying well away from LNRs. Prompted by CCMAC, LZ will encourage organisers to share kit, hoping to reduce disruption and expense from dismantling and re-erecting equipment, although the scope to do so may in practice be limited.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has begun a consultation on policy questions in the events strategy; this will take some time to get decisions right for the longer term.
Action 4: LZ to share with CCMAC the high-level components of the material under consideration.

5: Commercial operations update

Highlights from the update report from Kevin Crook shared ahead of the meeting included:

- *Bowling greens:* first reference to subsuming tennis/padel development into a possible new 'LTA hub' concept – long-term aspiration only at this stage;
- *Bowling Green kiosk:* finally now have a (higher than expected) quote from UKPN for upgrading the power supply; may still have to be picked up by the (long outstanding) prospective lessee, but LMB will check comparator of Megans' new power connection in 2023
- *Bowling Green pavilion:* Heads of Terms now agreed with prospective lessee, who had been very demanding in protracted negotiations. CCMAC felt it important that Lambeth seek deposits from preferred bidders in future to expedite agreement in such cases.
- *Playground kiosk:* now interviewing, with one strong candidate; would be worth trying to get it open before winter slowdown in usage.
- *Woodland Café:* LMB working with Spread to improve fencing at back to reduce anti-social behaviour.

AD noted the proposal from Simon Harris, Sports, to install a tennis vending machine just outside the courts (no space within); given the high risk of vandalism, CCMAC cannot support this. And it remained keen to clamp down against unauthorised brand activations, perhaps including through retrospectively invoicing the promoters.

Action 5A: LMB to explore possible approaches and report back.

There remained an outstanding question (8F) from the September meeting on the allocation of income from the sauna concession.

Action 5B: LMB to confirm with Kevin Crook how sauna concession income is allocated

6: Enforcement update

(full update report awaited from LMB)

- *Litter:* CCMAC is increasingly concerned about the lack of a clear litter strategy and the worsening record on collection: reduced winter season operations had begun prematurely, meaning no weekend collection even when the Common is intensively used in this fine autumn weather. Since the meeting, some redirection of resources has been ordered aiming to avoid the unsightly mess of the last two weekends, which is also undermining FCC volunteer willingness to devote energy to litter-picking. SC pointed out that Lambeth's overall waste contract will be up for renewal next year.
- *Safer cycling:* Cllr Alleyne and Cllr Jonathan Bartley met AD (and PC,GJ,CFM) on-site on 25 September to understand the challenges and why active engagement from Highways is needed; we await their report back on the Council's response. CCMAC should take a view on what routes on the Common should be closed to all cycling, to align with the New Model Bylaws, with a presumption otherwise in favour of cautious cycling being permitted everywhere.

  Action 6A: AD/PC/CFM to lead initial discussion on new model bylaws at November meeting.
- *Rough sleeping:* GJ highlighted that a tent by Eagle Pond was blocking access to the water chamber, essential for managing the pond during this continued dry weather.

  Action 6B: LMB to ask Thames Reach to provide early solution

- *Private schools' sports use:* still no progress in signing London Park and Parkgate up to payment agreements, having missed deadline of start of new autumn term.
  Action 6C: LMB to liaise urgently with Dan Thomas, Sports team
- *Parking on Windmill Drive:* LH is awaiting update from Wandsworth, Transport lead, on the timing now for adding the extra yellow line markings. *[update by 10 October: done]*

7: Works update

Four points noted, ahead of a full update report awaited from LMB:

- GJ was concerned at failure to fix the lighting around the bandstand as it was not being prioritised within Highway's PFI contract for lighting. LMB has now established that it could be fixed outside the contract for £1,593, if this could be funded by CCMAC from this year's PIL money.
- There has been no progress in installing the extra power supply for an ice cream van, given the administrative challenges of getting approval for a contractor that could work with Lucio the van operator. SC sees this an example of unacceptable flaws in the Council's procurement process. Also noted as a potential use for PIL money in 2026/7.
  Action 7A: IB and GJ to attempt break-through by proposing an acceptable contractor, in liaison with LMB.
- The 'waterhole' that had developed near the Events site was the result of a broken pipe. **Action 7B: LMB to commission a repair**
- Simon Harris has alerted us to interest in using the Redgra for playing pétanque; CCMAC happy to support informal use
  Action 7C: AD to meet the team leader on site.

8: Working Groups – progress reports by exception

1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* PC to plan meeting in December to follow up initial CCMAC discussion on new model bylaws
2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB has been advised can be no certainty of *any* Lambeth funding for 2027 programme, but, thanks to his and PK's efforts, we now have sufficient alternative sources within reach to be confident enough to start planning for another year. CCMAC particularly appreciates the exceptional generosity of Lockdown Bakehouse, and its readiness to provide additional funding. Lambeth could also look elsewhere on the Common to make savings, eg through reducing off-season inspections of the Waterplay facility.
3) *Events:* CFM will report next month on the WG's role in reviewing the new events strategy (see Action 4).
4) *Governance:* PC remains keen to set up regular reporting on PIL receipts and expectations.
   Action 8C: PC to convene meeting for November to consider how to work with the PIL data that can be made available, as advised by LZ and LMB
5) *Masterplan Delivery:* AD confirmed that Martin Abrams has tasked Kevin Crook, working with AD, GJ and Shirley Kermer, to start thinking about a review of the Masterplan itself.

9: Any other business

PC obtained agreement to move the date of the Annual Open Meeting from Tuesday 9th to Monday 8th March, to fit in with room availability at Omnibus Theatre.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12 November, 1900, at The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey