

# CLAPHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday 12 January 2017

7.00pm at Omnibus, 1 Northside, Clapham Common SW4 0QW

**Present:** Simon Millson (SM) (Chair), Peter Schmitt (PS) (Secretary), David Dandridge (DD), Cllr Nigel Haselden (NH), Alex Nickson (AN), Helen O'Malley (HOM) (Deputy Chair) and Maev Sullivan (MS) (for Clapham Society – CS).

**Guests:** Kevin Crook (Head of Neighbourhoods, LBL), Marcus Weedon (Winterville) and Clare Roberts (Winterville).

**Apologies:** Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Bernard Gentry (BG), Nick Mason (NM) (for Friends of Clapham Common – FoCC), George Owen (GO) and Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB) (LBL Parks Manager)

## 1. Kevin Crook on restructuring of Parks' staff (85 posts), new maintenance equipment and charging/funding matters

Kevin Crook began by outlining the changes in management structure for Parks, as it relates to Clapham Common. The new structure involves two separate teams:

- Parks Development (non-operational matters), dealing with finance, admin, policy, EIF/PIL, staffed by one Parks Manager (Angela Li), two Parks Officers (Lara Mifsud-Bonici & Theresa Hoare), an Environmental Compliance Officer (Iain Boulton) and a Technical Officer (Julia Charles).
- Parks Operations, whose main focus is in-house grounds maintenance (trees, grass, etc.) to be staffed by two Operations Managers (Chris Jude and Kevin Wallace), four Operations Supervisors plus three Arboricultural Officers and additional grounds maintenance staff.
- The team can be contacted on: [parksoptions@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:parksoptions@lambeth.gov.uk)
- Chris Jude will be based full time at Clapham Common.
- 21 posts at weekends (separate from overtime for permanent Mon-Fri maintenance team)

The following equipment is now available at Clapham Common:

- new tractor-mower unit with operator
- new weed-ripper unit for path edges (moss, etc.)
- micro sweeper and hose for picking up dog waste
- new backpack unit with hose for woodland areas to pick up litter
- JCB (from April to September)

NH queried the hybrid areas and whether street cleaning would be combined with parks maintenance of common land. MS queried the closing of the Windmill toilets. KC assured CCMAC that the toilets on Clapham Common, at the Windmill playground and at the Bowling Green would not be closed during the winter months. KC also said the Spinney is to clean the children's toilets facing the playground.

Kevin Crook listed items in the capital programme to be approved in the Spring Budget, which should have CCMAC input:

- Section-106 proper composting area for green waste.
- Bowling area cafe – subject to grant application
- sports changing rooms – subject to grant application
- fishing permits (@£25)
- licences for any school to use Common
- plug-in power sockets for ice cream van
- Uncle Tom's cabin and other van on Windmill Drive

## **2. Winterville – 2017** (Marcus Weedon and Clare Roberts)

Marcus Weedon reported that they were putting in a Pre-Planning application to LBL on 15 Dec 2016 to hold Winterville on the event site (not circus site) of Clapham Common next year from 23 Nov 2017 to 1 Jan 2018 (build from 13-22 Nov 2017 and take-down 2-7 Jan 2018). They expect a response by end Jan 2017, then would submit full application.

MW explained the 'event space' would feel like a small town, having an ice rink, pop-up cinema, roller rink, retail (local crafts), bowling, eating, etc. It would be open free during the day but £5 charged after 6pm Fri, 5pm Sat and 4pm Sun.

The diagonal cycle/foot path will remain open and the site enclosed with 4m-high steel sheeting. All walkways and most grass would be covered. A soil specialist has been engaged to advise on existing conditions, preparation and repair of grass.

PS remarked that soil compaction and water runoff were of serious concern. HOM added that a lot of damage is caused by heavy vehicles and heavy materials on grass for two months. After Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park the area had to be re-seeded and it was three months before people were allowed back. This year Winterville will be staged in Victoria Park.

## **3. Minutes of 1 December 2016**

Approved as recorded with minor amendments.

## **4. Matters Arising**

- Polygon Toilet Block: nothing to report. **Action: SM**
- Green Waste Site: awaiting JCB to finish planting trees around the green waste site (LMB on sick leave). **Action: LMB**
- Play Facilities at Battersea Rise: LMB is dealing with maintenance problem of sand pit (scattered sand and dog mess). **Action: LMB**
- Basketball Courts: ongoing; markings done but delay to installation of 12m-floodlights in early 2017. **Action: SM**
- Sports' equipment storage (Park Manager's Report 1 Dec): HOM said that the refurbishment should be a total commitment to provide male and female changing and toilets. **Action: SM**
- Website update: working well. **Action: AN**

- Bandstand Concerts (ref PJS's Evaluation Report 8 Dec 2016): DD/SM said they had met Peter Jefferson-Smith to discuss next steps.
- Bandstand Beds: DD reported that hoggin pathways had been installed for disabled access. A blackthorn is to be planted on the far side of Windmill Drive, as agreed with Dr. Iain Bolton. **Action LMB**
- EIF Report: The bins in Larkwell Park work better than the current ones ordered, which would be replaced and used elsewhere. NH said a lamppost was missing on the diagonal pathway opposite southern facade of Trinity Church. LMB would look into installing a matching one. **Action: BG, LMB**
- Quietway: NH clarified that another consultation on detail design would come to CCMAC, e.g. width and surfacing of pathways. **Action SM**
- TfL cafe at deep shelter: construction potentially in September 2017 to open summer 2018.

#### **5. Annual Open Meeting** – nominations and running order

PS reported that he had received 10 nominations so far, which SM would post on the website. SM said that the AOM would include a Chair's Report, which would take the form of a power-point presentation, election of members to sit on CCMAC and a Q&A session for those attending.

#### **6. Management Plan** – update

AN had submitted text on Sustainability. HOM queried the scope of her section on History, whether it should include recent construction, e.g. the skateboard park. SM said yes, to decide during editing.

#### **7. AOB**

AN commented that the Common seemed less well lit. NH replied that re-lamping had taken place, using LEDs, and agreed it looked dimmer. **Action: NH**

#### **8. Date of next Meeting** – Thursday 2 March 7pm at Omnibus. Annual Open Meeting, Thursday, 2 February 2017

PS