

**CLAPHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

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

**Present:** Simon Millson (SM) (Chair), Helen O'Malley (HO'M) (Deputy Chair), Tim Bennett (TB), Cllr Linda Bray (LB), David Dandridge (DD), Adrian Darley (AD), Cllr Nigel Haselden (NH), Jeremy Keates (JK), Mark Leffler (ML) (Clapham Society – CS), Cllr Louise Nathanson (LN), Martin Read (MR) and Patrick Spencer (PS),

**Guests:** Peter Jefferson-Smith (PJS) and Kevin Crook (KC) (LBL)

**Apologies:** David Beldon (DB) and Alex Nickson (AN)

## **1. Bandstand Concerts**

PJS updated the Committee on the summer's Bandstand Concerts. Attendance at each was an estimated 100 or more, with audiences reflective of the diversity of people strolling around the Common. PJS expressed gratitude to volunteers who had assisted with deckchairs, and also to performers for reducing or waiving their fees. LBL part-funded costs and there were two gifts.

PJS is optimistic of a full programme for 2018. LBL is expected to make another grant but further funding – potentially via sponsorship – will be required. A major cost is the renting and operation of sound equipment; the option of purchasing sound equipment will be looked into. There may also be a need for volunteers to assist with deckchairs, though KC said that LBL should be able to provide a full staffing contingent.

After this year's season, PJS will be retiring from leading the Bandstand Concerts. A replacement will be needed.

The Committee recorded a vote of thanks to mark PJS's outstanding contribution to the Bandstand Concerts. Members noted that they have been a great success.

The Committee also noted the success of Common People and thanked DD for organising.

## **2. LBL update - KC**

### Staffing

In 2018 LBL is aiming to staff an early and late shift from April to September (and possibly to October) each Saturday, with about three people on duty. This year there has been a partial schedule of shifts.

### Parks Investment Levy (PIL)

Next year will see a significant increase in funds due to the change in the formula. A portion (perhaps 10%) from the Common will support St Paul's Churchyard and Grafton Square.

### Section 106

LBL has £450k from Section 106, which is for revenue expenditure. Some of this will be used for the Common, for example for pond aerators.

### Green Flag

Three further parks and open spaces in Lambeth were awarded Green Flag status this year. The intention is to submit an application for Clapham Common in January 2018. This will depend upon the Management Plan which SM and Iain Boulton are working on. SM will circulate a draft for November's meeting. **Action: SM**

### London In Bloom

Clapham Common was awarded Silver Gilt in its first entrance to London In Bloom and came very close to achieving Gold. The Committee is pleased with this impressive result.

The Committee believes that there is already activity on the Common which justifies a higher score in the Volunteer category. It urged KC to ensure LBL facilitates further opportunity for this to be demonstrated for next year's awards.

### Woodlands

Iain Boulton will work with the Trees, Landscape and Ecology Working Group on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve the woodlands.

### Mowing regime

The mowing regime will be relaxed. CCMAC has drawn up a recommendation on mowing required in different areas and will pass to LBL. **Action: DD, SM**

NH reminded the Committee of previous proposals for a wildflower meadow.

### Holes on pitches

There appears to have been some digging of holes on the pitches. The cause is unknown.

### Enforcement

LBL is seeking to increase enforcement, due to growing crime across different sites. Discussions with Wandsworth about using its Parks and Events Police (Enable) have broken down. LBL is now in discussion with Parkguard, a company employed by other London Boroughs. Potentially, it will provide a Wednesday-Sunday, midday to 1am, 2-person service, with uniformed patrols. This would cost £116k across the borough. It could be introduced from next Spring.

### Waste

PIL funds will be used to roll out new and refurbished bulk green bins. Recycling points are being introduced on LBL's larger sites, including the Common. There will be a new refuse collection vehicle.

### Play areas

LBL receives quarterly inspection reports highlighting any high risks, which must be addressed within three months. Current issues are shrunken wet pour under the swings in the Windmill play area and missing timbers in Battersea play area. Both will be addressed within the next two weeks.

### EV charging points

LBL will submit an application to Defra for two electric vehicle charging points which could be used by ice cream vans on the Common.

### Trees

KC said a new trees officer will be joining.

HO'M highlighted the existence of a trees action plan.

### Development needs and aspirations

The Committee agreed that development works should be consistent with the Master Plan.

There was discussion about whether Bandstand repairs should accorded higher priority.

The Committee's prioritisation reflects previous discussion but this can be changed.

### Green Waste site

KC said the project manager has been temporarily redirected; the project is therefore behind schedule and it is not known when it will resume.

DD noted that it is in a poor state and asked for a fence to reduce visual intrusion between Bandstand Beds and the Green Waste site. KC agreed to look into both issues.

## **3. Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The minutes were passed.

## **4. Matters arising**

### Gateway

JK reported that the project has received planning approval. Architects are working up a new budget and Clapham BID will then seek a contractor.

### Polygon toilet block

NH reported that LBL say a depot has been identified to store the retained materials from the demolition, and that the site will be reduced by the end of next week. The panels with graphics will be retained.

The Committee noted that the options for a long-term solution include landscaping, which would not provide the intended community toilet, 24/7 TfL toilet or income stream; and a new structure to provide these, depending on funding.

HO'M believes there is a long track record of demolitions going wrong. LB noted that residents have raised concerns that the demolition appeared to be carried out on the sole say of the project manager.

### Grant applications

There will be a grant application for wildflowers, written by the Trees, Landscape and Ecology Working Group. MR noted that a wildflower grant application has been submitted on behalf of FCC, and agreed to circulate it. JK sees opportunity for a grant to support Clapham BID's work. DD raised the need to coordinate the approach to grant applications. SM will discuss this with DD, MR and JK. **Action: SM, DD, MR, JK**

### PIL funding

SM has met with KC to discuss use of PIL.

### Winterville

Winterville is on the agenda of LBL's Planning Application Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

## 5. Working Groups updates

### Playground

HO'M discussed the scope for upgrading of playgrounds. HO'M will circulate dates to the Committee for taking this forward. **Action: HO'M**

DD suggested exploring marathon grant funding.

### Sports

The Football Association is putting together a package to redevelop the redgra site. AD expressed concern that the proposal may not meet the needs of the wider sports community. AD will seek more information from LBL about the proposal. **Action: AD**

## 6. Member and other organisations updates

### Bandstand Beds

DD reported success in crowdfunding £5k for the new pathways. These will make the garden more accessible for disabled and elderly people.

There will be a lunchtime club for over-50s from next year, following a successful trial.

## 7. AOB

The next Annual Open Meeting is provisionally 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, 7pm at Omnibus.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm at Omnibus.