

**CLAPHAM COMMON MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(CCMAC)**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL OPEN MEETING**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7pm**

**Omnibus, 1 Clapham Common Northside, SW4 0QW**

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Simon Millson (SM) (Chair) welcomed everyone to the Annual Open Meeting (AOM). 41 people were present.

Apologies for absence were received from David Beldon, Cllr Linda Bray, Cllr Tim Briggs, Gary Clark, Jeremy Keates, Martin Read and Patrick Spencer.

SM noted the Committee's thanks to Maev Sullivan and Peter Jefferson Smith who each sadly passed away during 2018. Both served CCMAC with distinction. Among other accomplishments, Peter was instrumental in establishing the summer Bandstand Concerts.

**2. Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

The minutes were passed.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Adrian Darley presented CCMAC's 2018 accounts. The opening balance was £3,814.91 and the closing balance £5,237.86 with receivables of £2,760.15.

The main recurring expenditures are for the Bandstand Concert programme and for website security and domain renewal. Lambeth Council compensates CCMAC for the cost of the concerts. CCMAC is looking for a cheaper option for website services and invites anyone with expertise to put forward a suggestion.

There was over £5k expenditure on the Colour Your Common project. This expenditure is being covered by a grant from the Mayor of London's Greener Cities Fund.

The accounts have been independently examined and signed by John Sunderland.

**4. Chair's Report – Simon Millson (SM)**

Introduction

SM outlined CCMAC' aims and role as working in partnership with Lambeth Council. He introduced the Committee and thanked those who are now standing down from the Committee – David Beldon, Tim Bennett and Patrick Spencer.

Challenges

The maintenance and development of the Common have been negatively impacted by the spending cuts Lambeth Council has made and continued staff churn.

Green Flag

CCMAC is delighted that the Common was awarded Green Flag status during 2018.

Colour Your Common

CCMAC was awarded grant funding to develop a wildflower haven near Windmill Drive, known as the Colour Your Common project. Strips for wildflowers were dug and planted through 2018. CCMAC is grateful for all volunteers who helped, in particular David Beldon for his hard work.

#### Litter management

Summer litter management improved in 2018 with the introduction of weekend wardens.

#### Sports changing rooms

The sports changing rooms have been refurbished.

#### Bandstand Concerts

CCMAC ran another series of Bandstand Concerts over the summer.

#### Car Free Day and Quietway

CCMAC helped organise Car Free Day which involved the closure of Windmill Drive for a day. CCMAC is keen to see it closed permanently.

The Quietway 5 team is due to present its latest plans to CCMAC in March.

#### Old Town Fair

The Clapham Old Town Fair took place in September. CCMAC had a stall for the first time.

#### Park Run

Park Run has been successful since beginning ten months ago. There is an average turnout of 500 runners, covering a wide range of abilities. Runs are at 9am every Saturday morning. Park Run has donated £1,000 for a defibrillator at La Baita café and has built links with local GPs.

#### Winterville

CCMAC opposed Winterville taking place on the events site, favouring the hardstanding circus site instead. The initial condition of the ground following this year's event does not look good. CCMAC is documenting how it looks as ground reparation continues.

#### Ongoing and upcoming projects

CCMAC has pressured Lambeth Council to make good the site of the old toilet block on the Polygon, since it was demolished in 2017. New landscaping works have finally begun.

The grassy knoll beside Clapham Common underground station will be re-landscaped, in line with plans developed by This Is Clapham Business Improvement District. Cllr Haselden noted that Winterville has provided the bulk of the funding.

Chi Onuora from the London Transport Museum gave an update on plans to bring the deep level air raid shelter near Clapham South into use. London Transport Museum is carrying out a feasibility report and is looking for groups who would benefit from a Museum of Shelter. It is hoping to hold a Community Forum at end of March.

The Parks Investment Levy has raised £125k for project on the Common, of which £70k has come from Winterville. It is being used for more bins, reclaiming and securing common land, replacing collapsed fencing, restoring the paddling pool and improvements to Battersea Rise playground.

## 2019 priorities

The Committee's priorities for 2019 are investment in playgrounds and sports facilities, fundraising, the events strategy review, even better Bandstand Concerts and improved stakeholder relationships.

## **5. Lambeth Council report – Kevin Crook (KC)**

### Structure

Mark Fisher is Lambeth's new Head of Service for Parks and Leisure and will be Lead Officer for Clapham Common. There is a new Operations Supervisor for turf management, sports pitches and the events site. The team is several staff down but KC is confident of full staffing by Spring.

There will be a new Sports Development Officer.

The tree maintenance service is coming in-house in April.

### Improvements

About £500k is available for improvements. The programme will be run by a capital improvement team, with CCMAC members acting as the Steering Group. There will also be fundraising efforts, possibly including crowdfunding for play area improvements.

There will be improvements to the Battersea Rise playground, including the removal of wooden seating, installation of six springers and new rubber surfacing.

The green waste yard has now been cleared from waste left over by Veolia contract. A concrete pad will be installed over the area and bays put in for managing compost. Woodchips will be tipped in and used as mulch on the Common.

New posts are being installed on the Common South Side to replace existing fencing.

There will be a new pop-up power point for an ice cream van. Installing a permanent one by the paddling pool is currently too expensive.

There is now a tree planting budget.

The disused toilets by The Avenue had been condemned but discussions with Lambeth Planning suggest they may not need to be demolished. The property team will look at whether restoration or demolition is the best option.

### Events

Winterville organisers want to return in 2019 but this is very likely to be on the circus and redgra sites rather than the events site. Moonwalk, the London to Brighton bike ride and SW4 are the other major events planned.

There is a proposal in the Events Strategy Review to tender the events site from 2020. This would allow for six major and four large events days in August. It is envisaged that there would be no other major events apart from Moonwalk in May and Winterville on the circus / redgra site. This tender could mean an annual Parks Investment Levy in excess of £200k.

Lambeth Council is tending for the reinstatement of the grass area on the events site.

The Council is proposing to adopt the Parks for London Charter on the use of parks and open spaces for events.

The Events Strategy Review is due to go out to consultation at the end of February.

### Sports

It is proposed that GLL takes on full management of the Common's sports facilities, including maintenance. At the moment it manages only bookings. The change would mean schemes to maximise use of the facilities. There would be a profit share with the Council.

The bowling green and pavilion are underutilised assets. Only £3k was generated from the bowling greens last year but they cost £50k to manage. The Council is putting them out to tender and envisages an alternative use, such as adventure mini golf. Lambeth Council will work with CCMAC on the future of the site.

FIFA has given a grant of nearly £70k for the changing rooms.

The FA is undertaking a national assessment of football facilities. It is looking at a 3G football pitch on half of the current redgra site and Lambeth is considering using the other half for events such as cinema festivals and beer festivals.

### Legal

Some residents at the end of Windmill Drive erected a barrier in 2012. Lambeth Council has now registered title over the land and expects the area to be restored to grassland following legal action.

Lambeth Council is working to get title for the whole stretch of land along the paddocks to prevent it being used for parking.

### Operations

Fountains will be on from March until early October, longer than last year. The paddling pool will be turned on for a soft launch in early May to allow for any problem to be identified ahead of full launch in late May.

A monitoring and maintenance programme is being put in place for gym equipment.

In 2018 the Common was awarded Silver Gilt in the London In Bloom awards.

## **6. Questions to CCMAC Officers and Lambeth Council representatives**

During the Q&A session, the following issues were raised:

- **Bowling greens future** – there is disquiet about plans to convert the bowling greens to an alternative use. SM said he would work with Lambeth Council to investigate what can be done.
- **Misuse of bowling greens and tennis courts** – when GLL takes over management they will look at all programming and use of these facilities. Some felt that the Bowling Green may be missing out on revenue due to lack of enforcement.
- **Charging personal trainers and schools sports** – Lambeth Council does not charge for school sport use. It does charge for personal trainers but compliance is patchy.
- **Enforcement officers** – the Common does not have enforcement officers. Lambeth Officers have considered the case for a Public Spaces Protection Order which would allow the extension of fixed penalty notices. It is also waiting to hear from the Metropolitan Police about whether there is funding for an additional officer.
- **Reporting damage or misbehaviour** – Lambeth Council does not run a hotline but does encourage members of the public to send in photos of any problems they see.
- **Maintenance spend** – about £600k is spent on maintaining Clapham Common.
- **Capital budget** – about £500k of funding is now available for capital improvements to the Common. This compares with very little in recent years but is less than the c. £2m needed to complete all projects identified in the Common's Masterplan.

- **Grants** – Green Flag status helps with grant applications. Lambeth Council has recently applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for wetlands and woodlands restoration.
- **Information on planning notices** – many feel that public planning notices (such as for Winterville) should state the total length of time an event will be on the Common including set up and derigging, and not just the dates an event is live. KC said he would look into this.
- **Damage deposit and restoration** – Winterville has paid a deposit for ground damage.
- **Stampede paths** – some areas of the Common has been identified as in need of addressing as part of the capital plan.
- **Outdoor gym bicycle not working** – KC said he will look into this.
- **Relationship with Wandsworth Council** – accountability for the Common is complicated by the dual borough structure. Lambeth Council manages all of it but planning and licensing decisions are taken either by Lambeth Council or Wandsworth Council depending on where on the Common an application is for.

## 7. Introduction of 2019 Community Representatives

Nine nominations were received for the nine open Community Representative positions. Therefore there was no need for an election but the eight who were present introduced themselves: Adrian Darley, Bruce MacInnes, David Dandridge, Helen O'Malley, Cllr Joanna Reynolds, Krishna Siva, Paul Stephenson and Simon Millson. Jeremy Keates is the other. All will serve two year terms.

## 8. Bandstand Beds Association, the Clapham Society and Friends of Clapham Common

Representatives from CCMAC's member associations introduced some of their activities.

### Bandstand Beds Association (BBA)

Fionnuala Barrett from BBA introduced its work as a hub of community food growing, located on the Common near Windmill Drive. It runs Saturday morning gardening sessions, Wednesday evening summer gardening sessions, food workshops, lunches using produce from the garden, and also has an over-55s club. It has organised events alongside CCMAC (such as Common People and Car Free Day) and helped develop the Colour Your Common wildflower meadow.

Objectives for 2019 include installing a more accessible path through the polytunnel using donations and grant funding from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, changing status to a Community Interest Organisation and potentially raising funds for a compostable toilet.

### Friends of Clapham Common (FCC)

Krisna Siva described FCC's work on the Common during 2018 including tree planting, turfing by Long Pond and laying gravel at what was a muddy entrance in place of. The Friends have also hosted tree and bat walks around the Common. The Friends have joined others in campaigning against overuse of the Common for events.

### The Clapham Society (CS)

Andrew Summers introduced the Society which was founded in 1963 and now has about 800 members. It hosts talks and walks relevant to Clapham, holds social event, runs a local green plaque scheme and issues publications. The Society believes Lambeth Council could

be a better steward of the Common. In particular, its membership would prefer the use of the Common for events to be modest, occasional and non-commercial.

**9. AOB**

There was no AOB.

**10. Date of next AOM**

The date of the next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 7pm at Omnibus.