

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7pm

Omnibus Theatre, 1 Northside, Clapham, SW4 0QW

Minutes

Present: Simon Millson (Chair - SM), David Dandridge (Vice-Chair - DD), Helen O'Malley (HOM), Cllr Linda Bray (LB), Cllr Tim Briggs (TB), Sarah Yandell (Bandstand Beds - SY), Andrew Summers (Clapham Society - AS), Adrian Darley (Treasurer - AD), Cllr Nigel Haselden (NH), Krishna Siva (KS), Paul Stephenson (PS), Raffaele Prencipe (Friends of Clapham Common - RP) and Paul Stephenson (PS)

Apologies: Cll Joanna Reynolds (PS) and Jeremy Keates (JK).

Guest speakers: Councillor Paul Gadsby (Lambeth Council's Cabinet Member for Housing - PG), Olivia Pearcey and Claire Horan (Lambeth Events) and Justin Fish (Putt in the Park - JF).

AD agreed to take the minutes.

PUTT IN THE PARK

- Responding to previous feedback JF presented a modified plan for Putt in the Park which now features a wildflower area and shrubbery on the outside . JF had consulted with Bumblebee Conservation re planting schedule (list of proposed wildflowers circulated) .
- There would be two different courses to play: one for children and one longer course for adults /teenagers. There are contours on the proposed design but the maximum height would be 1m (1.2m for perimeter fencing) . There will be artificial grass laid on aggregate but the only concrete would be to line the pond. The plan includes floodlights although these were not seen as essential to the project's success
- The new toilets will be resin based and anti vandalism . A change of use license will be needed for the clubhouse (pavilion)

Timing: aim to build over winter to be commercially ready for summer 2020

ROUGH SLEEPING

- PG introduced himself and gave some background to the rough sleeping situation in Lambeth. In 2018 there were 9,000 rough sleepers in London (over 300,000 nationally).
- In Lambeth there are 2,300 in temporary accommodation which is in line with other London Boroughs. There are 29,000 on the waiting list for a

council home. The average rent for a one bedroom flat in Clapham is £1500 and 40% of all Clapham property is now rented.

- The Lambeth housing department has seen £230m of cuts over the past 10 years and has reduced staff by 1,000 over that period. Lambeth spends £4m per annum on Rough Sleeping and has a 24/7 team.
- PG explained that 8-9 out of every 10 rough sleepers have mental health and /or alcohol dependency issues and have generally lost faith in society which makes for a complex challenge (i.e persuading them to go into shelter, care or a home is often not straightforward). Lambeth has 500 beds for rough sleepers but these are usually full, especially in winter .
- PG and his team are aware of the rough sleepers on the Common and are trying to put a plan together for these people. He clarified that it is not illegal to sleep on the Common and so the police will not intervene unless they are aware of any criminal activity
- As to what CCMAC or members of the public should do in response to new rough sleepers in the area PG will circulate the “Safer Streets Team” phone number and email which is the most appropriate referral channel.

EVENTS

- New Events Strategy due April 2020 and will cover five year period 2020-2025. The public consultation received 1,000 individual comments and these are being assimilated now.
- Live Nation has won the 4-5 year August event tender (aka “Summerville”). The contract has been signed and will generate “considerably more” than Lambeth have received from summer events in the past. The contract is also very good qualitatively (sustainability, working with the community, etc)
- OP assured CCMAC that there will still be annual checks and feedback (“lots of opportunity to engage”) to ensure events are managed as they should be and that learnings are incorporated into future events.
- The contract stipulates 10 event days in total and no more than 3 consecutive event weekends. Each event day has a capacity limit of 40,000 versus 30,000 for SW4 but on the same footprint.
- Winterville is keen to return to Clapham Common in 2020 and talks with Wandsworth Council are ongoing re the hardstanding area.

Event Site Reinstatement

- Rudi has nearly completed the post Tough Mudder works (noted that the organizers badly damaged the area next to the redgra as they went off the track. Events site works were due to start in November but this has been rescheduled to Sep/Oct 2020. Funding for the works will be ring-fenced. Some decompaction work will take place this December and this will highlight the worst wet spots which will require vertical drains (“drill and fill”). The area will not be fenced off during the works this year.
- The Events site surface will then be removed in autumn 2020 but no longer taken to the Green Waste site. A new top soil surface layer will then relaid and seeded.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

FCC Plan to plant more trees on the Common - Raffaele Prencipe (RP)

- Phase 1: plant 50 trees and 50-100 shrubs. Primary focus Westside.
- Initial aim to replace existing dead trees but RP also proposed the idea of succession planning (planting secondary row of trees alongside existing avenues of older trees).
- SM indicated RP would need to engage with Ajay Joshi (Lambeth Tree Officer) to further discuss the plan and details related to location and variety of species.
- Timing: initially proposed for late 2019 but due to other existing TLE volunteer projects more likely to be early 2020

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Trees, Landscape & Ecology (TLE)

Green Waste Site – DB has emailed Ian Ross for an update. SM has invited IR will come to January CCMAC meeting. NH is meeting Tom Smith week of Nov 11th to discuss a range of projects related to the Common (Spinney, Boating Lake Café , LT Museum etc) and would report back afterwards.

AD to circulate minutes of recent TLE meeting and walk round related to the new Woodland Management Plan.

The Common has successfully applied for 150 hedgerow tree whips (50 through Bandstand Beds and 100 through FCC). Bandstand Beds has scheduled a planting morning on Nov 23rd and FCC are planting Nov 24th and 30th. TLE minutes give details on planting locations .

TLE members again stressed their concerns at recent bramble clearing but as yet have been unable to identify those responsible

IB has arranged for Operation Centaur (shire horse ground preparation) are returning to the Common over the next fortnight. Depending on time and the weather they will focus on five different areas outlined in the TLE minutes.

Playgrounds

SM encouraged the group to visit the newly refurbished Battersea playgrounds. £30,000 was spent in total (£5k on wet pour, £13k on new panels).

HoM reiterated a concern re likely pollution levels around the playground and a need for hedging . SM confirmed he had requested this . It was suggested that FCC could include this area in either the forthcoming or future hedgerow/ shrub planting plans

NH encouraged members to visit the Welcome Collection “Play Well” exhibition which is open until March.

MEMBER GROUP UPDATES

Bandstand Beds

SY reported that activity is slowing down and so they are only open every other week to year end (three more Saturdays).

The compostable toilet project is progressing with work starting week of November 11th.

IB has quoted £2,750 ex VAT (VAT payable and then reclaimable by Lambeth) to connect the Bandstand Bed’s container to the water supply. Bandstand Beds are trying to find a gas fitter to check the supply. These checks and connections are required in order to continue supplying tea, coffee, food to volunteers.

Clapham Society

AS enquired as to the process for formalising informal paths (asphaltting or concreting muddy path areas). SM referred him to Tom Smith.

AOB

DD reported that the Gents toilets have now been out of action for five weeks. Action: SM to follow up

HoM raised issue of pollution and suggested CCMAC procure air quality reports that would be regularly uploaded to the website. Additional suggestion.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 December.