

Clapham Common Planning Applications

1. Since 2017 EventLambeth has submitted successful planning applications for temporary events on Clapham Common. This is the fifth planning application that has been submitted for temporary events on Clapham Common.
2. One of the key questions that has come up in Planning Committee and comments on the Application is the number of days sought for events. While the application is an accurate reflection of the events that are proposed for the year ahead, changes do happen that reduce the number of days that are eventually used. The application should be seen as the 'maximum' as our experience in the last four years has shown that what actually takes place, is a reduced number overall. It is difficult to predict how many events may reduce their time on site or not take place altogether, but as previously the applications represent the maximum number of planning days required.
3. The EventLambeth Policy 2020-2025 provides detailed clarification on the event processes and Council Policy for events. It demonstrates the range of internal and external departments that feed into that process, such as the Emergency services, Highways, Building Control and Emergency Planning. This process is not a short one and that in-depth interrogation of event applications and documentation means there is a high level of consultation with subject area specialists to ensure the safe delivery of events.
4. Over the years we have sought to ensure that the Planning Authority has an understanding of the events that take place on the Common and as an events team we continue to work with colleagues in the Planning team around what requires planning permission and how temporary events work.
5. The number of event days applied for (and used) each year has decreased. We understand the concerns around the nature of the application and the perception that it is "Blanket" however from the initial application in 2017 and subsequent applications we have been very careful to specify the number of events this covers and provide details, in so far as they are available, for each one at the time of submission. We have also noted the Committee's preference to have an application which details all events that are taking place on the Common. This is why the format of the application for 2021 remains the same.

Application Year	Total number of Days applied for
2017	110
2018	105
2019	104
2020	94

6. It is proposed that in Autumn/Winter 2021 a 4-year application for the remaining duration of the Clapham Common Concessions contract (2022 – 2025, further details in Appendix 4, will be submitted (the contract duration is 4 +1 year). This will include detailed information about the delivery of the event in 2021, which is not available this year as the event has not taken place yet. The timing of the application submission will be in sync with the annual application so that the PAC has a chance to consider all applications concurrently.
7. The contract was initially due to commence in 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Winterville submitted an application to EventLambeth to host their event on the hard standing Funfair site/red gra in winter 2020 again due to COVID-19 Pandemic this was postponed to 2021. This falls within the Wandsworth side of the Common and so they are the statutory Authority for planning. A planning application will be made to them in due course. This has also addressed the concerns from the PAC and comments to previous planning applications around the use of the Event Site in winter and the time for reinstatement.
9. In conjunction with the use of this area they have applied to put an Ice Rink on the Paddling Pool. This is included in the list of event applications but not in this planning application due to the duration and specific considerations. They will be submitting separate application to Lambeth Planning for the Ice Rink.
10. Park Investment Levy is a key stream of income that is ring fenced to be spent in the Park or Open space that hosted the event. For Clapham the amount of PIL has increased where the number of events have decreased (in 2019 the decrease is due to Winterville not taking place).

Year	PIL Amount
2017/18	£58,706
2018/19	£128,474
2019/20	£60,258
2020/21 (forecast)	£6,000
2021/2022 (forecast)	£200,000

11. In recent years PIL on Clapham Common has been spent on a variety of improvements including, new Bins, repairs and improvements to the boundary fence, refurbishment of the Bandstand before its 130 Anniversary in 2020, the hire of horses to improve biodiversity by preparing and seeding areas, playground equipment and , outdoor gym equipment. Below are links to news items circulated by the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC) highlighting where income from Events has assisted with projects across the Common.

12. In addition to PIL the Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee is given an annual grant to deliver a series of free concerts on the Bandstand.
13. EventLambeth have developed a Community Training and Funding programme to help community groups deliver events in their local areas. The training is open to all groups and most recently has had attendees from Clapham Common stakeholder groups. We have also introduced a series of specific community benefits into the new Clapham Common Concessions Contract (see Appendix 4 for more information).
14. Over the previous 4 planning applications environmental impacts have, understandably, come to the fore. EventLambeth has always worked closely with the Council's Environmental Compliance Officer alongside colleagues in Lambeth Landscapes and the parks service and continue to do so. For more recent planning applications we have submitted an updated EMMP and Areas of Ecological sensitivity assessment. The assessment was updated in May 2020 to see if there have been any changes that need to be taken into consideration and any impacts from events. Lambeth landscapes have been undertaking more of the reinstatement work (where possible) so that there is a consistent approach across the Common as a whole. In September 2020 we commenced a full reconditioning project on the Event Site. This is funded from Events Income and will improve the site for all users. The Lambeth Parks Service have been involved with the award of this tender and decisions on this project again to ensure that there is a consistent approach.
15. Noise Complaints for SW4 (and House of Common when it has taken place) have reduced for each year of the application. In 2018 House of Common didn't take place and so there were fewer overall complaints but a higher daily average. There is ongoing engagement with colleagues in Wandsworth. In addition to their involvement in the Safety Advisory Group for all events that take place on Clapham Common, we have had representatives onsite during Major events so that there is a real time sharing of information between the boroughs around any noise complaints and other potential issues.

Event Year	Duration	Total Complaints	Average Complaints per Day
2017	3 Days	49	16.3
2018	2 Days	18	9
2019	3 Days	21	7
2020	0 Days (o Large and Major Events took place in 2020)	0	0

16. In line with the condition on the 2017 planning application we have been monitoring sound levels in the Notre Dame estate during music events. There have been no complaints from this area, comments were received about concerns that the monitoring was an attempt to

stop the events on the Common which this Notre Dame Estate enjoyed. The levels continue to be monitored to provide reassurance to the PAC.

17. Transport and vehicle movements for the Large and Major events have addressed via conditions on the Planning Decisions. While information has been provided for 2019 a full Transport Assessment was undertaken during the SW4/House of Common Weekend. This covered the movement of people to and from the site during and post event. It is attached as Appendix 2a to this application. There continue to have been no complaints from residents or notification of adverse impacts around transport or vehicles from TFL or other Highways teams. TFL, LBW Highways and the LBL highways team are a member of the Safety Advisory Group and so able to provide feedback on production and transport schedules during the planning, delivery and debrief for the event.
18. We hope that the above demonstrates our continuing commitment to improve and learn during this planning process.
19. CCMAC news items:
 - a. <https://claphamcommon.info/bird-and-bat-boxes/>
 - b. <https://claphamcommon.info/horse-power/>