



The Clapham Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Monday 17 October 2022

The 58th Annual General Meeting of the Clapham Society was held at 8.00pm on Monday 17 October 2022 at Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

The Society's President, Martin Drury, took the chair and welcomed members to the Annual Meeting. Twenty-eight members were present.

1. Apologies:

Andrew Summers, Gill White and Georges Chalfoun.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting dated 18 October 2021

Approved.

3. Adoption of the Annual Report for the year 2021-22

This was adopted.

Mark Leffler, Chairman, then invited questions. Peter O'Connell considered that an article written by a Committee member opposing the continued closure of the Larkhall Rise bridge was one sided and party political. He felt that publication of this article in the Society's Newsletter shortly before the local elections was reprehensible. It was his understanding that the closure of the bridge is widely supported by Clapham residents. Mark Leffler was sorry Peter had felt the article was unduly biased. He appreciated that the timing of the article might be viewed as unfortunate, but he did not regard the bridge closure as a party-political issue at all, and there is no evidence the article influenced the election results. He had personally been made aware of extensive criticism of the closure from attendance at local meetings and written objections. It has compounded traffic issues in the area, adversely affecting many local residents, and had been imposed without proper consultation. In pursuing its agreed aims it is not possible for the Society to avoid politics with a small 'p', but we do strive to be a 'broad church' and assiduously seek to avoid party politics.

4. Adoption of the Financial Report & Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022

David Brown presented the Financial Report and Accounts, year ended 31 March 2021. He reported that the Society and the Friends of Clapham Common had obtained legal advice that confirms the views of both societies that Governmental approval should be granted before large events take place on the Common. David advised that the Society had contributed £2,000 towards

the costs of this action and that such events should not now take place on the Common, at least in 2023. David Brown also reported that the Society had donated £500 to Omnibus, in recognition of the challenges that Omnibus is now facing.

Adoption of the Financial Report & Accounts was agreed.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2022-2023

The following **Committee Officers** were elected:

Chairman	Mark Leffler
Vice Chair	Alison Macnair
Legal Counsel	Georges Chalfoun
Treasurer	David Brown
Secretary	Gill White
Membership Secretary	Jennifer Everett

The following **Committee Members** were elected: Christine Armstrong, Ruth Eastman, Alison Inglis-Jones, Gery Roberts, Lee Roberts and Andrew Summers.

Martin Drury remains as **President** and Julia Barfield as **Vice President**.

6. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Anna Long FCA was thanked for her work during the past year and reappointed as Independent Examiner.

7. Any other business and announcements

Mark Leffler thanked the meeting for his election as Chairman of the Main Committee. He outlined the programme of events for 2023, and thanked Alyson Wilson, who has stood down from the Main Committee, for her sterling work in support of the Society for many years.

It was noted, with thanks, that Alyson will continue to convene the Local History sub-committee. Alison Macnair made a presentation in recognition of all that Alyson has done for the Society.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

The formal business of the meeting was followed by a fascinating and inspiring talk by Marie McCarthy, Artistic Director of Omnibus Theatre, on the trials, challenges and hard-won achievements of Omnibus during the pandemic.

DB, October 2022

Overleaf we encourage you to comment on the proposed Lambeth College development.



The Clapham Society

Newsletter Special

Issue 452 December 2022/January 2023

Proposed Lambeth College development

The Planning Application for the Lambeth College development at 45 Clapham Common South Side is now live on the Lambeth Council website. The proposal is for seven buildings ranging from six to 10 (facing the Common) to 13 storeys.

Comments will be taken by officers until 9 January 2023, although officially residents had until mid November 2022 to respond. The sooner comments are in, however, the better. This link is a shortcut to the website: <http://bitly.ws/wKch>
Or you can visit the direct link here: [Lambeth Planning Application Comments](https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning-application-comments).

It is easy to make comments. Just access either of the links above and go to the Comments section. The application reference is 22/03713/FUL. Comments can also be taken by emailing planning@lambeth.gov.uk.

Valid reasons for objection are: Disturbance, Loss of Privacy, Loss of Light, Overdevelopment, Pressure on Local Amenities, Negative Effect on the Environment, Impeding Road and Highway Access.

For more background on this proposed development see the lead story in our September Newsletter at: claphamsociety.com/newsletter/ and scroll down to No 449, September 2022. The Clapham Society does not oppose the building of new homes. However, the Committee feels that this development is out of keeping with the area.

You might also find it useful to know is that the January 2007 Planning Permission for the Lambeth College development at this site – currently being proposed to be torn down – explicitly stated, as a condition of approval, that the height of the development relative to the adjoining properties should be capped ‘in the interests of visual and residential amenity’. Numerous policies were cited. (The two buildings of the adjoining Notre Dame Estate are each eight storeys high.)

If you have any questions please email: AInglisJones@lambeth.gov.uk and/or BCurtis@lambeth.gov.uk, local councillors for the ward of Clapham Common and Abbeville who are fighting to preserve the beauty of Clapham.

Please feel free to circulate.

Mark Leffler, Chairman, The Clapham Society, claphamsociety.com



Imagine tower blocks rising up behind these iconic Clapham vistas. TOP, FROM LEFT Lambeth College and the surrounding architecture on South Side. BOTTOM, FROM LEFT Lambeth College, from the Common. The latest development would impact neighbourhoods south of the Common too. The photograph looking down from Franconia Road shows the potential skyline of 45 Clapham Common South Side; the ‘New building’ is part of 44 Clapham Common South Side, still under construction.