

# Environment Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 1 July 2020

7.00 pm

Online / virtual .Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact [FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk) or [julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk)

## Tabled papers

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4.	<b>Scrutiny review : Air Quality report</b> A paper from the SE5 Forum was tabled as a proposed appendix for the Air Quality report.	1 - 2
5.	<b>Scrutiny Review: Climate Emergency</b> The draft Executive Summary and some proposed amendments to the report text on the New Council Homes and Great Estates programme were tabled.	3 - 6

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Date: 6 July 2020

## **Camberwell's Main Roads: the SE5 Forum for Camberwell's Vision**

### **The SE5 Forum for Camberwell**

The SE5 Forum for Camberwell is a Camberwell community organization, with open membership, that works to improve Camberwell for the benefit of all members of our diverse community. The forum was set up to be the eyes, ears and voice of the Camberwell community, to see and understand what is happening within our area, to listen to concerns and to raise them with the relevant organizations.

### **Camberwell's Main Roads**

Camberwell's main roads include the **A215** between Walworth and Herne Hill and the **A2216** between Camberwell and East Dulwich. The A215 runs along Camberwell Road, Camberwell Green and Denmark Hill, and includes Medlar Street linking from the A202 at Camberwell New Road. The A2216 runs along Champion Park and Grove Lane. The London Borough of Southwark is the highway authority and the traffic authority for both of these routes, except for the Camberwell Green junction (Camberwell Green/Denmark Hill/Camberwell New Road), which is managed by Transport for London.

Camberwell's main roads are often considered as being primarily routes for through traffic; but in reality they are not substantially different from other streets in Camberwell, being **residential** streets, **shopping** streets and the location of critical and sensitive sites such as **hospitals**.

Many Southwark **housing estates** are sited directly on Camberwell's main roads. Castlemead is on Camberwell Road; Champion Hill Estate is on Grove Lane; Champion Park Estate is on Champion Park and Denmark Hill; Denmark Hill Estate is on Denmark Hill; Elmington Estate is on Camberwell Road; Ruskin Park House is on Denmark Hill; and many other estates, such as Crawford Estate and Springhill Close, while not fronting directly onto the main roads, are extremely close to them and are also affected by the air and noise pollutants coming from the traffic on these main roads.

**King's College Hospital** is a large teaching hospital on Denmark Hill that serves a population of 700 000 people across Lambeth and Southwark but

also serves as a tertiary referral centre in many specialties for millions of people across southern England. The **Maudsley Hospital**, also on Denmark Hill, is a major psychiatric hospital and the largest mental health training institution in the United Kingdom. Both hospitals are very sensitive receptors for air and noise pollutants, with large numbers of patients whose health conditions and needs mean that they are the least able to cope with polluted and noisy environments.

## **Our Vision for Change**

We want to see Camberwell's main roads benefit from much less motor vehicle traffic, and as a result to have significantly fewer air pollutants, especially particulates and oxides of nitrogen, and to be significantly quieter. Much more of the traffic on Camberwell's main roads should be pedestrians and cyclists. To achieve this our main roads should have:—

1. **Footways of a proper width**, with the capacity for safe and comfortable social distancing between people passing and overtaking each other and around people waiting at bus stops and to enter shops and other businesses and premises, and with space for street trees, plentiful seating and useful street furniture such as litter bins and post boxes. Footways will be a minimum of 4 metres wide, and wider where possible, particularly in the town centre. They will be the focus of the street's design, not the leftover space.
2. **Plentiful and direct pedestrian crossings** that allow people to cross the road where they want to, in a single stage.
3. **Protected facilities for cycling for all**, with protection for cyclists from motor vehicles and with enough space for cyclists to overtake each other comfortably and to cycle alongside each other at less busy times. Usually this will include segregated cycle lanes of at least 2.5 metres in width and, at signal-controlled junctions, early release signals with low-level repeaters and with advanced stop lines with waiting areas at least 5 metres deep.
4. **Bus lanes reserved** for buses and cyclists only at all times. No part-time bus lanes and no taxis or private hire vehicles permitted in bus lanes.
5. **Consistent capacity for motor vehicle traffic**, without excessive provision of turning lanes at junctions.
6. A **20 m.p.h. speed limit** that is enforced.

In addition to the above the Cabinet Member for Social Regeneration, Great Estates and New Council Homes has been leading on addressing the embodied carbon and resource impact of regeneration, in the new council homes programme. Schemes are also looking at utilising timber products to reduce the huge amounts of embodied carbon in cement and steel; every tonne of cement releases 900kg of carbon and every tonne of steel 1,000kg.

The New Council Homes and Great Estates programme is focused on delivering environmentally friendly homes for rent that are low waste and low impact, and ensuring new developments deliver ecological and environmental improvements for everybody through the Great Estates programme.

The council is presently seeking a construction partner and this will be a key priority for the construction company.

These are some of the measures being taken to deliver low waste and low impact council homes:

- Bringing forward construction using low impact materials and implementing low ecological impact forms of development (rooftop development, waterways development)
- New Homes Design Guide requirements
- Nature recovery plans, biodiversity measures of new habitat development, including increase in tree canopy coverage
- Bringing forward low embodied energy development (first projects due on Woodland Road, with more due at Fendall Street, Maltby Street, Ann Moss Way, Rotherhithe Old Road)
- Explore options for partnership moves into commercial forestry.
- Establish a technical pathfinder towards carbon negative operational energy (initial target of EPC ratings of A and B for all new developments, incorporation of new heat store, energy management and renewable technologies; move to Passivhaus standard)

The Great Estates programme will include the following:

- Allotment expansion guarantee . Rolling out secure food growing plots where residents can provide a maintenance plan, basic water source and tools. Over 200 have already been identified on the 7 'pilot' estates. There

will be Commonplace exercises to help establish demand for remaining 253 estates. This will link in to food security work.

- Two community gardening coordinators now recruited to roll out allotment programme, wildflower planting, estate-based tree planting programme, enabling new community gardening groups and strengthening existing networks.
- Partnership work with London Wildlife Trust.

The following national lobbying is taking place on this agenda:

- Changes to onerous new building regulations hitting the viability of low waste low impact forms of development (e.g. retrofitting sprinklers in host building for rooftop)
- Structural timber ambiguity in building regulations, where European countries are creating new presumptions (e.g. France now require timber for all new public buildings) <https://www.architectscan.org/safe-timber>
- Reforestation presumption in planning for Green Belt for carbon capture and sustainable timber farming.

## Executive summary

On 27th March 2019 Southwark's Council Assembly resolved to call on cabinet to declare a Climate Emergency and do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

Cabinet agreed, and Southwark's commitment to adopt this ambitious target has been mirrored by a string of London boroughs and the GLA, instituting a movement for change that was first ignited by young people, including most famously Greta Thunberg.

The Environment Scrutiny Commission has taken an overview role in examining the emerging Climate Emergency strategy, which is due to come to the July 2020 Cabinet, scrutinising the focus, principles driving the strategy, themes, engagement process, and data.

The commission made a first report to cabinet in October 2019. This second report reflects on cabinet feedback to this first report and also takes a deeper dive into a number of issues, including:

- Local transport emissions ( complimented by a longer Air Quality review)
- Planning, regeneration, and carbon offsetting
- Community Energy

The following points summarise the reports main conclusions and calls for a:

- A strategy that sets out to address the ecological emergency as well as the climate emergency, and which aims to restore nature, not only limit the amount of carbon emitted.
- A strategy guided by our Fair Future promises and the environmental principle of a Just Transition.
- A data driven strategy that maps emissions and consumption data and overlays deprivation data to ensure we deliver a comprehensive, effective and fair strategy.
- A partnership orientated strategy working with all sections of the community, including our citizens, voluntary and statutory organisations, and both large and smaller business partners.
- An engaging strategy, which ensures future generations and marginalised communities are prioritised.
- A transformative strategy, which sets out to change our transport system so that by 2030 the overwhelming majority of journeys are taken by foot, bicycle and public transport and where a car, and other vehicular traffic, is the exception rather than the rule.

- A strategy that quantifies the carbon emissions and resources used in our boroughs regeneration schemes and aims to rapidly move towards a low waste, low carbon, low ecological impact built environment, though building on our pioneering Great Estates programme, and utilising the circular economy principles.
- A community focused strategy that brings Community Energy forward, by identifying all solar opportunities in the borough, starting with our local schools.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown us that governments can quickly implement socially unpopular policies in the interest of the public good and it shows that we can respond to a crisis when we need to. Society now needs to respond to the climate crisis with the same urgency and at the same comprehensive scale.

A blog published on EOS entitled 'Eight Lessons from COVID-19 to Guide Our Climate Response' quoted climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe: "The pandemic has shown that we are all part of an interconnected system. To care about biodiversity, to care about the integrity of our ecosystems, to care about our planetary boundaries and the limits on the resources we can use, and, last but not least, to care about climate change, the great threat multiplier, we only have to be one thing. And that one thing is a human living on planet Earth."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Katharine Hayhoe](#), an atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.