

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013

Including themed debate on: Local business and Enterprise

SOME COMMUNITY VIEWS

What activities or projects would you like to see more of in town centres and high streets to help them grow and thrive?

- I live in Honor Oak, and come to Peckham to shop for clothes, meat and other things...I like the meat in Peckham, but there should be more supermarkets. Some of the meat shops are too dirty, so I avoid them. You can tell the dirty ones by the way they smell.
- We used to live near the High Street for many years, but we have moved to Bromley now. The high street is definitely not the same, it is noisy and unsafe. The Citizens' Advice Bureau is gone, we only find one in Peckham Rye now.
- The High Street is too overcrowded with a lot of foodstuff hanging out, extensions on to the pavement – there is the market place for that. Another thing, is the fouling of the street, and the rubbish – we have a lot of tourism, as a country we are depending more and more on tourism, they are not coming to see fouling, rubbish, marketing items hanging out on the street. They are coming to a high street which is turned into business place where they can purchase whatever they need...
- We have a McDonald's here a bargain shop over there, but not too much of the same thing...I'm not seeing a sign marked "college", or place of learning...there should be more places of culture, for visitors who come here. Look out of the window, see what that young woman is doing (taking photos with her mobile), what is she seeing?
- Fit more spaces in for the enterprising people of the area.
- More structured activities for children and young people.
- Parks should hold activities for young people especially on school holidays.
- Entertainment facilities for adults and children.
- Social space, sitting areas.
- Sports activities.
- Crèche provision for parents.
- More shopping provision for Asian people so that they do not travel out of the borough.
- Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre is very depressing, (it) needs better shops. The look and the environment needs to be improved.

- Some shops are great in the area e.g. on the Walworth Road; Baldwin's, Pauls Discount Store, Eroma, Turkish Store. These shops must be supported in hard times with affordable rates so they are not pushed out by Wonga and betting shops.
- Support for homeless elderly and disabled people.
- Transport access.
- Transport costs (are) too high so people are forced to shop in their local facility with very limited choice.
- Clean the streets.
- Food street festivals to bring community together.
- Shops close (too) early at Elephant & Castle.
- Council to (provide) support with loans to develop shops at Harper Road.
- Council to sign post and offer support to existing shops to survive in these hard times.
- Affordable rents.
- So many premises are empty - support local residents to set up businesses.
- Play areas.
- Seating areas.
- Cinemas – diverse films, Hollywood, Bollywood etc.
- Leisure activities.
- Better quality of shops; Next, Gap, John Lewis etc alongside cheaper stores. Give us a variety and selection of stores. We don't want to have to go to the West End dragging our kids. It's too much hassle. We want to stay local and get to shop on the high street.
- Better, bigger shops.
- Big brands.
- Shops of interest to the local community. Halal shops and clothes shops reflecting the community. We don't want to go to Green Street to get our Asian clothes but we have to as there aren't any shops or variety.
- Parking.
- No blocked roads, access for all from the main roads.
- Less business is being done on the high street, with less employment as a consequence – more and more business is being done on mobile phones.

- In all shopping areas and high streets, security is such an important factor – I was in a shopping mall when a young child stole a woman's mobile phone! People would avoid areas like that.
- We need more libraries, social activities for the youngsters, youth centres and employment centres to help the young find jobs
- Take care of the youngsters first as they are our future.
- It needs regeneration – which is happening..
- Mother and baby groups, cinemas, leisure complex which has swimming, bowling and different activities for kids
- Play areas, mother and toddler groups, youth areas
- More police and more security in shops and a safer environment.
- A variety of arts projects is a good way of getting local people engaged and involved regardless of age.
- Considering we are in a recession I think people are more interested in surviving day to day coping with ever increasing costs than worrying about town centres and high streets thriving.
- I can't think of any projects but town centres/high streets in areas such as the Walworth Road and Peckham – Rye Lane - need to be more desirable for the whole community. A lot of those shops are uninviting and only attract a certain shopper. Also (there are) too many loan shops, betting offices and poundshops though they are useful as it's cheap.
- I live near to Camberwell Green, the area should be more developed. There is a need to have more useful shops to the residents. Less betting shops, because betting shops are not helping the residents. For instance (we need): clothing, children shops, early learning centre shops.
- Early learning centres for kids, shops that actually educate people.
- Reduction in the amount of betting shops, scrapyards, old garages and similar businesses that do not promote community integration and sense of belonging and make the high street dirty and less appealing to be used as urban realm.
- More learning centres, and healthy solutions for the community such as a gyms.

How can we work together to make better places that help businesses flourish?

- Tourism is where you get your revenue – sometimes you see sightseeing buses passing by, we can't let them see the high street looking so untidy and dirty.
- The councillor(s) should take a good walk around – there are places (side streets from the high street) where carers and women are afraid to walk in the night.

- More support to local businesses as the rents and rates are too high for businesses to survive.
- Council to link with the local business to get their feedback and finding out the issues that affect the businesses and to sign post them for help and advice.
- Businesses flourish when people flourish so instead of giving permission for Wonga to leaflet Saturday morning shoppers at East Street, why not have Credit Union information and how to access debt advice.
- Making sure to get feedback from all communities.
- Face to face communication from the council.
- It's important to identify the needs of the local community, all backgrounds and faiths. Local business should be more open to the public and cater for majority needs. They should work in partnership with local organisations and partnerships.
- Make the area cleaner and greener. Promote a vibrant environment.
- Council and local business to work together. More communication needed to support local SMALL business.
- Reduce rates and rents so that local business can thrive.
- We don't need another Tesco local on our street. Too much big franchise pushing small local business out.
- It's too expensive to run shops because of the rent and that's why there are so many closed shops. It looks bad for business and it deprives the area. The council need to work more closely and engage with the small businesses.
- Keep money local, keep shopping local.
- Anti-social behaviour is a problem, work with parents and local Safer Neighbourhood Teams to the patrol area. It used to happen but now it's stopped.
- Drugs issues in the area. Parents need to be educated that that we ALL need to speak up about it and not hide the issue.
- More education.
- I'm a stallholder here in the shopping centre – why can't the council help small holders like me to get a foothold with a lower capped rent for one of the empty units? My business would thrive better, and another enterprising person could be a stallholder in this spot.
- Controlling the tax. We need to create more jobs so that businesses can grow.
- More investment on the youngsters, better education.
- Apprenticeships for the young and continue with consultations to hear from local people.

- Cheaper car parks in shopping areas so that more people will come out and use the businesses.
- Make small businesses more independent and allow them to come up with ideas for their business.
- Allow people with low qualifications to be more hands on with helping businesses as they may have the skills to do the job even though they don't have the education.
- The government should help more towards small businesses.
- To refurbish or modernise buildings such as the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre and Rye Lane Peckham which is messy and chaotic.
- This is something for businesses to work out and do their research.
- Businesses need to be aware of the needs of the whole community.
- My local high street is Old Kent Road. It could benefit from being cleaner through coordinated trash disposal by commercial establishments and collection times. Also, buildings should be looked after more by either their freeholders or leaseholder.
- I live around Old Kent Road, and I think the area needs be cleaner and friendlier with residents. My last option when I have to buy something is my local high street as I feel uncomfortable.
- I live in Camberwell Green, it is a very busy area and there is a lot of crime there. I think more policy around crime reduction will be helpful. Creation of a programme that includes people in transforming the place where things can be used for the community's benefit.
- Perhaps policies that aim to replace betting shops, scrapyards, old garages and similar businesses with cafés and mid-end restaurants and other places that create appealing urban places. This needs to be done reducing the amount of rubbish that lies everyday on the streets, with a better coordinated disposal and collection strategy.
- There has to be a neighbourhood-government synergy to create better spaces in the high street area. The commercial property owners have to think more about the kind of shop they allow to be set up for the convenience of the community.
- Possibly reduce high business rates and lower rents that would enable small business to flourish...like to see more arts and crafts shops locally, or artists work displayed. Don't know if it's the right sort of question.