

Southwark Youth council Feedback re Health of the borough.

Payday loans and pawnshops

- Makes people dependent and pressured to use money you don't have
- Not a secure system

Payday loan shops charge high interest rates and usually end up aggravating their customers' financial situation. People shouldn't be in a situation where they have to rely on money from payday loan or pawn shops. There are probably situations where these shops can be useful for short term loans however.

Cleanliness of our borough

- Very unhygienic and smelly
- Terrible cleanliness due to unkemptness of shops (e.g. leaving fish and rubbish in bins to rot)

Litter is an eyesore and discourages people from living in areas and/or spending money in those areas. In Herne Hill and Dulwich litter's rarely a problem.

Parks and open spaces

- Age limits on parks are restrictive
- Unkempt parks which could have violated safety regulations

Generally speaking, the borough has a wide range of parks, especially in the south of the borough; Burgess park's an especially good example of a park as it's always clean and both its tennis courts and its bmx track are constantly in use. Outdoor gyms in parks are useful because they're free whereas the cost of gym memberships in the south of the borough ranges from about £5.00 to £40.00 a month depending on how regularly you use it. The disadvantage of these gyms (as oppose to fee paying gyms) is that they're unlikely to be used when the weather is bad and they only have equipment that uses body weight (as oppose to heavier weights). Also Some of the equipment is placed in unsafe areas. Eg there is a single cross trainer placed on its own by bushes near the Burgess park exit near ST Georges road.

Provision of cycle paths

- Not enough cycle paths provided especially in places outside of central London
- Lack of cycle paths induces and raises likelihood of deaths and accidents

Cycle paths are common in busier parts of the borough but rare in less busier parts; this discourages cycling by making the borough less safe for cyclists, however making new cycling paths would increase congestion for cars. A possible solution to this could be to provide more convex mirrors at busy junctions. Another way to achieve this would be to enforce laws concerning when cyclists can and can't cross at junctions which are often disobeyed.

Safe walking routes

- Not enough street lights

In terms of providing safe walking routes, many routes are badly lit at night, causing people to not go down them for fear of their own safety. There should be more safe haven sites around the borough and it should be well publicised in schools etc.

Indoor gym exercise

- Not widely advertised and a lack of knowledge on what is available

Availability of alcohol

Few teenagers try and get served alcohol in pubs and bars anymore as they have a reputation for not serving the underage. Most teenagers rely on certain newsagents to get served nowadays, which are most willing to serve teenagers if they're regular customers.

Healthy eating establishments

- Practically non-existent
- Add more establishments in the borough
- Should be cheap and healthy