

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.