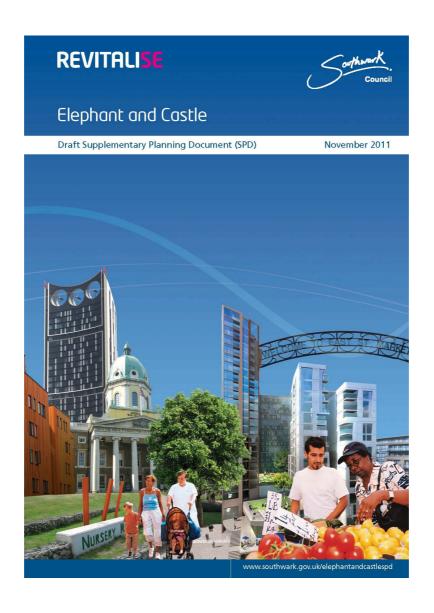


WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (21 JANUARY 2012)

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT ELEPHANT & CASTLE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

REPORT ON THE DRAFT SPD CONSULTATION WORKSHOP



Introduction

- 1. This report sets out a record of the feedback which was obtained at the Walworth Community Council meeting which included the Elephant & Castle SPD workshop.
- 2. Attendance at the meeting comprised of:
- Ward Councillors:
 - Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
 - Councillor Darren Merrill (Vice-Chair)
 - Councillor Catherine Bowman
 - Councillor Neil Coyle
 - Councillor Patrick Diamond
 - Councillor Dan Garfield
 - Councillor Abdul Mohamed
 - Councillor Helen Morrissey
- Southwark Council officers
 - ➤ Planning Policy team 7 officers
 - Transport Group Manager Strategic Projects
 - Design and Conservation Manager
 - Elephant and Castle Project Director
- Local residents and interested members of the public.

Background

- 3. The Walworth Community Council meeting was held at the Walworth Academy, Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ on Saturday, 21 January 2012. The meeting was the first community council meeting in 2012.
- 4. Community councils are part of the council's decision making process and are a focal point for discussion on local matters. Local councillors elected to represent the area sit on the community councils and take decisions relating to key areas such as
 - Traffic management
 - Community safety
 - Planning applications
 - Environmental improvements
 - Appointment of primary school governors.
- 5. Community council meetings are also a forum for consultation with local people and provide an opportunity for residents to influence how council services are delivered.
- 6. The Planning Policy team requested to attend the meeting in order to consult with residents on the draft SPD proposals, in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement. The consultation period for the SPD ran from 15 November 2011 until 7 February 2012.

Publicity

- 7. The meeting was advertised on the council's SPD webpage www.southwark.gov.uk/elephantandcastlespd; at SPD consultation meetings with local business representatives and residents and also via the channels available to the constitutional team i.e. through the website, through a mailout, and publicity through councillor surgeries.
- 8. The publicity for the Community Council meeting was called "Have your say: A vision for the Elephant & Castle".

Meeting format

- 9. The first half of the meeting was dedicated to various community announcements and a presentation on the council's Budget 2012/13 by Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet member for finance, resources.
- 10. The second half of the meeting was dedicated to consultation on the SPD, comprising of two fifteen minute workshops. Further detail is set out below.
- 11. The Planning Policy manager provided a power point presentation to introduce the SPD consultation workshop sessions. A brief overview of the SPD was provided, which included the purpose of the SPD, and its vision and the objectives for new development.
- 12. Consultation exhibition 'pop-up' banners were displayed in the hall to provide a summary of the themes and objectives in the draft SPD accompanied by photos and maps (Appendix 1).

The workshops

- 13. The workshops comprised of two 15 minute sessions. This provided the opportunity for people to discuss two different 'Themes' from the SPD.
- 14. Nine tables were organised around the hall with a designated 'Theme', so that the participants could choose what they wanted to discuss. These themes were: Transport; Social and Community Infrastructure; Built Environment; Natural Environment; Town Centre; Housing.
- 15. Each table was facilitated by a council officer and a councillor.
- 16. A questionnaire was provided for participants, to guide discussion and also to provide written comments (Appendix 2). We have summarised the main points made during each workshop below. The views expressed are of the workshop participants and do not necessarily reflect those of Southwark Council.

Summary of discussion in workshops

17. Town Centre: Shops and Business

 There were mixed views expressed about the centre. Some people would prefer to cross the river than shop at Elephant and Castle. It is seen as a functional shopping area where people go to a specific shop and then leave. This issue was mentioned for the shopping centre, but particularly for the Walworth Road area.

- There was a feeling that people are always leaving Elephant and Castle to go elsewhere to shop and rarely coming into the area (transport connections considered a strength and weakness in this regard).
- Some residents felt like there was a good sense of local community and enjoyed going to the town centre because it was busy and vibrant. Some people remarked that they thought that Elephant and Castle is getting to be a better place to live
- Support provided for promoting more linkages between all of the shopping parades and linking the shopping centre with Walworth Road. This should also incorporate Harper Road and New Kent Road. The SPD should also look at shopping parades just outside of the area
- Promote more of a balance between independent/specialist shops and the multiple/large retail shops. It will be important to attract a broad range of retailers and services (i.e. banks) and ensure there is variety.
- There also needs to be a focus on other uses to support shops in the town centre. More restaurants and cafes will be important – particularly the smaller, local, independent styles.
- East Street market needs further support. There is too much of the same type of stall traders. It is currently not well used and the public realm needs improvements. There was discussion on other good examples of markets in the borough e.g. East Dulwich, Borough, Bermondsey. It will be important that East Street market retains its own style and doesn't copy others, but it could try to borrow some ideas from these markets. The range of products and use of space was considered better at these markets. Suggestion of introducing more specialist, temporary markets in Elephant although also mentioned that this might harm existing local traders who are already finding things difficult.
- The Latin American community is very prevalent and needs to be integral to the redevelopment of the centre. Support was provided for the affordable retail policy, but concern for the proposed minimum 10% requirement for large retail developments.
- The SPD should promote the use of vacant shops.
- The safety and security in the area needs improving to attract larger retailers to the area. Some people felt that the shopping centre was not a safe space and felt uncomfortable shopping there (this feeling extended to the pedestrian subways).
- It will be important to ensure training and jobs are provided for local people, particularly younger people. A key issue is the loss of big employers (i.e. council offices). Need to be clear what the economic assumptions are that underpin our job growth figures. More offices, more shops, more construction work all mentioned as possible areas for new jobs.
- More carparking should be introduced to improve the shopping experience.
 Surrey Quays cited as a good example. Suggestion of short stay parking system that benefits local residents who already have parking permits.
- Public transport is good, but buses are too crowded, especially if you have shopping bags.

18. **Housing**

- There was an overwhelming desire for more affordable homes to be provided in the area.
- There is an issue of buy-to-let properties in the area and the council should out more restrictions in place to prevent this trend.
- There were concerns that the council has not sufficiently linked the Elephant and Castle SPD properly with the Affordable Housing SPD.
- The SPD needs to define locally what we mean by affordable housing.
- There should be a cap on private housing.
- Mixed views on whether shared ownership works.

19. **Natural Environment**

- Open spaces are needed and much loved in the area.
- Open spaces should have defined areas for dogs where their owners can take them – dog fouling is an issue in our open spaces.
- We should think more about green spaces and even living walls and living roofs. Living roofs need a sufficient depth of soil to grow.
- Open spaces should be promoted for their educational roles and schools should be encouraged to carry out activities in the open spaces. The value of open spaces for biodiversity and heritage should be advertised on education boards around the area.
- A good example of open space is the recently landscaped area opposite the Old Vic. It looks nice, is green and open and is not filled with equipment.
- Another space that works well is the space the park on Harper Road. This is an example of open space that needs minimal lighting – Lighting is important for open space and getting the right light level is important.
- Open space needs to be safe and well lit if they are to be well used.
- It is important that the Elephant & Castle have an identifiable town centre a town square this should be an important open space at the heart of the Elephant & Castle.
- There is a proposal for a new public square at Wansey St as part of the Heygate redevelopment. This should be worked on in conjunction with the local community.
- Paisley Park needs improvements.
- The Heygate Park should open onto Walworth Road or at least have clear links between the park and Walworth Road.
- The approach should be to provide more intermittent green space through the area as part of new development. Public realm should include play space for children
- The names of parks and more street names should be included on the maps.
- Open space is best when it is in multiple use. In some areas people have used the courts around blocks to create allotments. Developments should be

encouraged to provide allotment space – informal areas for people to grow their own crops. It would be nice if some of our open spaces could be left to grow wild.

- Open space helps with pollution and creates safe environments away from the roads.
- Traffic is dangerous in this area and open space helps to make the area safer for children getting to and from school. This is very important on our busy roads like the New Kent Road because it is a fast-moving road and it is not easy to cross it particularly for children and elderly people. Trees create nice pathways but must be well defined and properly separated from traffic, the pavement and new development.

20. Built Environment

- The top of Walworth Road needs greater improvement as it is currently dark and unsafe with a lack of activity and surveillance especially at night.
- The public realm should include signage to key destinations and point out the heritage value of local buildings and significance of the area.
- On Falmouth Road the public realm is good but pavements are not wide enough for the trees.
- Elephant and Castle is not a traditional town centre. The arterial road running through the centre makes it difficult for a central area of public realm – where would the heart of the town centre/high street be located?
- Public realm in this area should take on different forms, i.e. a network of local spaces of different sizes linked together with different functions. We quite like public realm to be informal.
- Routes through developments are good. Very important to create good links for pedestrians and cyclists across these public spaces.
- The shopping centre has a strong Latin-American Community. We think that
 every community should have an opportunity to express their cultural
 presence in the town centre.
- Keep 'things of value' e.g. trees on Heygate Estate. Consultation should be a 'bottom-up' approach i.e. talk to local people for their knowledge and insight
- Roofs should be well designed and lift overruns are badly designed. The roof
 of a building is very important and could be an open space in itself.
- It is not nice when front gardens are fenced off with high fences. Front doors
 and main entrances should be celebrated. The forecourts of buildings are a
 part of the street experience. It is nice when you can see through the building
 to the courtyards from the street.
- Developments that rise straight from the edge of the road are not nice and are not well designed. The height of the building should have a good proportion relative to the street. Tall buildings should have wide spaces around them; like Strata but preferably with less paving.

21. Social and Community Infrastructure

- New community facilities are needed for in the area. Support for facilities to be made available for different groups.
- A large community space is needed, in order to be able to accommodate large events and groups.
- Schools should provide access to their meeting rooms and halls after-hours for use by community groups.
- There should be more protection of existing creative industries and new space is needed to accommodate more small businesses.
- The use of vacant space should be prioritised. These spaces could be converted to community facilities.
- The Fusion leisure centre is used by a Latin American church group on Sundays. The redevelopment of the site will displace this church group.
- More communal space is needed outside of the central area, in the residential areas of the opportunity area.

22. Transport

- Mixed views were expressed on car-free development.
- No car parking provision on the Heygate site would be inappropriate as it would not encourage a stable community (in respect of attracting families and catering for life choices)
- Separation of cycle routes from traffic is important in the area
- Concern was raised that there should be increased provision of public toilets, especially (but not exclusively) in areas near night clubs.

NEXT STEPS

- 23. This report will be included in the meeting minutes to be reported at the next Walworth Community Council meeting. It will also be part of the Elephant and Castle SPD Consultation Report.
- 24. All the comments made in this report, and those which were provided on the questionnaires, have been considered by the council and have informed the final version of the Elephant and Castle SPD.
- 25. The SPD will be put forward for adoption to the council's Cabinet in March 2012 and once adopted will be used to inform decisions on planning applications and guide development in the area over the 15 year lifetime of the plan.

Thank you to all who participated at the workshop event.





Elephant and Castle opportunity area Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The SPD will set out our vision to manage changes in the area over the next 15 years and will provide a framework to guide future development in Elephant and Castle.

This SPD will also be called an opportunity area planning framework which will be used by the Mayor of London to guide his decisions on planning matters in the area.

Our vision is for the area to be able to fulfill its potential as an attractive central London destination and a great place to live, visit, shop and do business.

- We are promoting provision of up to 45,000 square metres of new shopping and leisure floor space, including affordable space
- The area will provide at least 4000 new homes (including 1,400 affordable homes)
- We plan to generate around 5,000 new jobs in a range of sectors including retail, offices, hotels, and leisure
- There will be tall buildings on some sites where this helps stimulate regeneration and creates a distinctive place
- We will plan for a highly efficient public transport hub, including an improved Northern Line station and better access to platforms.
- Existing subways will be removed and replaced by surface pedestrian crossings creating a more attractive and safe environment with priority for public transport users, cyclists and walkers over the car.
- Elephant and Castle will meet the highest possible environmental standards through using low and zero carbon technologies, including renewable energy sources, heat network and combined heat and power
- We want to work with the local community and our partners to make the Elephant and Castle a successful place.

Portional eres resources (constitution)



Elephant and Castle vision

We are consulting on the draft SPD until 7 February 2012

- Fill in a questionnaire to have your say
- Read the report and supporting documents on our website
- Contact planningpolicy@southwark.gov.uk or call 020 7525 5471
- Get involved in the discussion about the future of Elephant and Castle on our facebook page





Shopping, leisure and business

Our approach to shopping, leisure and business includes:

- Strengthening the Elephant and Castle and Walworth Road as a major shopping destination by promoting up to 45,000sqm of new retail and leisure space. The shopping centre will be remodelled and a new retail quarter developed on the Heygate site. It important we retain local businesses and new shopping floorspace should include affordable retail space.
- Providing a vibrant mix of activities in the town centre, ensuring it is busy throughout the day and evening.
- Reinforcing retail activities on the main roads leading into the town centre.
- Improve the variety of arts, cultural and entertainment offer by providing more cafes and restaurants as well as new leisure and cultural facilities.
- Supporting business space to be renewed in the area and encouraging the development of an enterprise culture by providing more opportunities for local people and small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).
- Supporting the regeneration of the railway arches, enabling their use for a mix of uses including business, retail and community uses.



We will support improvements to East Street market



New homes, shops, leisure space and a market square on Flephant Road

Homes

Our approach to new homes includes:

- > Building a minimum of 4,000 homes.
- Providing at least 1,400 affordable homes, including social rented and shared ownership homes.
- Ensuring that at least 10% of new homes have three or more bedrooms and that all new homes provide good quality accommodation and have generous room sizes.
- Helping address needs for student housing, whilst ensuring that a mix and choice of housing types is available in all character areas.



New homes in a mixed use development on Amelia Street



New homes in Strata and Crampton Street





Social and community infrastructure

Our approach to social and community infrastructure includes:

- Ensuring that new development promotes healthy and active lifestyles.
- Helping to transform leisure opportunities by building a new leisure centre, including a new swimming pool.
- Providing more and improved educational, health and community facilities which meet the needs of existing and future residents.
- Promoting new arts, cultural, leisure and entertainment space on the Heygate site, 50 New Kent Road and the shopping centre to support a lively and vibrant town centre.
- Supporting the growth of London South Bank University and London College of Communication (University of the Arts).
- Supporting student housing as part of a mix of housing types.



New developments will provide children's play facilities

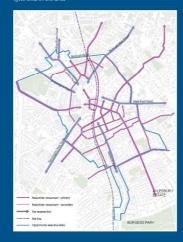
Transport and movement

Our approach to transport and movement in the area includes:

- Improving bus, tube and rail facilities and the pedestrian and cycle connections between them
- Improving the Northern Line station by providing an improved ticket hall and additional lifts or escalator access to the platforms.
- Replacing the subways under the northern roundabout with surface level crossings.
- Converting London Road into a public transport only corridor and introducing two-way traffic movement on St George's Road.
- Minimising the amount of car parking provided
- Using development opportunities to provide a high quality network of pedestrian and cycle links which are attractive, safe and easy to use.



We want to improve and upgrade the network of pedestrian and







Urban design

Our approach to urban design in the

- Putting in place strong design measure to help reinforce the best elements of the area's character and create a positive identity for areas in need of regeneration.
- Conserving the area's heritage. We are proposing new conservation areas at Larcom Street and Elliott's Row and are extending protection of buildings to include "locally listed" buildings.
- Using tall buildings to help signal the regeneration of the area, strengthen gateways into the area and enhance the skyline. Tall buildings must be designed sensitively to avoid micro-climate effects such as wind and overshadowing.
- Working with TfL, developers and the community to transform the quality of the public realm in the opportunity area.



The area has a rich and diverse heritage





New development should conserve and enhance the area's heritage



Tall buildings strategy: view from the north and sout





Natural environment

Our approach to the natural environment in the area includes

- Promoting a network of high quality open spaces which have a range of functions including recreation, children's play, sports and food growing.
- Using sustainable urban drainage systems to reduce the risk of flooding.
- Expecting development to retain and enhance trees and canopy cover wherever possible as part of the urban forest.
- Maximising and extending ecological diversity through promoting nature conservation in new and existing spaces, high quality landscaping, tree planting and a network of green routes.
- Requiring developers to meet the highest possible environmental standards including Code of Sustainable Homes Level 4 and BREEAM excellent.



We want to maintain and improve a network of open spaces



St Mary's churchyard

Delivery and implementation

Our approach to delivery and implementation in the area includes:

- Continuing to work with key stakeholders including the local community, landowners, developers, businesses, NHS Southwark, English Heritage, the GLA and Transport for London to deliver the vision and objectives of the SPD.
- Ensuring that physical and social infrastructure needed to support the expanded residential and worker population at the Elephant and Castle is delivered in a timely manner.
- Requiring a section 106 tariff to help fund needed improvements.
- Ensuring that comprehensive redevelopment maximises opportunities to make use of vacant sites on an interim basis.



We want to improve the nature conservation value of open spaces





Elephant and Castle character areas

The SPD sets out guidance for nine character areas which have been identified in the opportunity area. Our strategy for each area is to:

Central Area

- Promote the redevelopment or remodelling of the shopping centre.
- Promote a range of retail unit sizes and appropriately located affordable retail units
- Provide a range of new arts, cultural, leisure and entertainment uses.
- Strengthen pedestrian and cycle links in the area.
- Improve the northern line station by providing an improved ticket hall and additional lifts or escalator access to the platforms.
- Replace the subways under the northern roundabout with surface level crossings.
- Promote London Road as a public transport only corridor and introduce two-way traffic movement on St George's Road.
- Build a new leisure centre
- Consider the development of taller buildings on key sites.

Enterprise Quarter:

- > Continue to support the educational, economic and business function of the area.
- > Promote active uses at ground floor.
- Consider the development of taller buildings on key sites.
- Pedestrianise Keyworth Street and improve the gateways into the university.
- Protect the character of the St. George's Circus Conservation Area and improve public realm around the obelisk.

West Square

- Reinforce tree-planting and improve pedestrian and cycle routes to the surrounding area.
- Protect the character of the West Square Conservation Area.
- Designate a new conservation area around Elliott's Row.

Rockingham

- Improve the public realm around the shops on Harper Road.
- Improve green links and make better use of green spaces.
- > Look for opportunities to make improvements to the Rockingham Community Centre.

Rail Corridor

- > Encourage a range of town centre uses in the railway arches.
- > Introduce additional east-west routes through the arches.
- Create a new neighbourhood on Manor Place depot with a sympathetic conversion of the former baths.



Heygate Stree

- > Create a vibrant new quarter on the
- Provide a mix of retail types and sizes.
- Promote a new market square and public park on the Heygate site and link new and existing spaces into the network of green routes.
- Provide around 3,000 new homes including 2,500 on the Heygate site.
- Introduce north-south routes through the Heygate site and east-west movement through the railway viaduct.
- Promote a taller building at the northern end of Walworth Road to define a gateway into the central area.
- Maximise the retention of trees on the Hevaate site.

Pullens

- Improve pedestrian and cycle routes through the railway viaduct.
- Green streets and improve green links
- Protect the character of the Pullens Conservation Area.

Brandon Street

- Explore opportunities to improve East Street market.
- > Improve green links and pedestrian and cycle routes into the surrounding area.
- Improve nature conservation in Nursery Row Park.
- Designate a new conservation area around Larcom Street.

Walworth Road

- Ensure new development provides a mix of uses, including active ground floor frontages.
- Look for opportunities to improve shop fronts.
- > Restrict growth of hot-food takeaways.
- Reinforce the character of the street.

Appendix 2

Walworth Community Council 21 January 2012

Draft Elephant and Castle Opportunity Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Workshop 1

Town Centre (Shopping and jobs) (SPD1, SPD2, SPD3, SPD4)

Homes (SPD5)

1. Town Centre (Shopping and jobs)

How often do you visit the Elephant and Castle shopping centre and/or the Walworth Road for shopping?

What kind of shopping do you do (food, clothes, appliances)? Are there other things you do on Walworth Road and in the shopping centre e.g. visit banks, restaurants, pubs, leisure facilities (bingo, bowling)?

What improvements could be made to the range and type of shops in the area?

Do you visit the markets (East Street or the shopping centre market)? What sort of improvements would you like to see to markets?

What sort of measures are needed to stimulate growth in the local economy and help support the growth of small and medium sized businesses?

4. Homes In which character areas in the opportunity area do you want to see more housing built?
When designing homes, what things is it important to think about? (e.g. provision of balconies or gardens, children's play equipment, good sized room etc)
Should all new family housing have private amenity space? (gardens, balconies or roof terraces?)
How do students add to the character of the area and do they contribute to the local economy? Should we encourage more student housing?
Please return your completed questionnaire to:
FREEPOST RSCE-TGHU-CUZB Southwark Council Planning Policy 160 Tooley Street Fifth Floor London SE1 2TZ
If you wish to be contacted about our future planning policy consultation documents please provide us with your contact details and we will add you to our mailing list
Name: Organisation: Address:
Email:

Southwark.
Council

Walworth Community Council 21 January 2012

Draft Elephant and Castle Opportunity Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Workshop 2

Social and Community Infrastructure (health facilities, schools, leisure centre, faith groups) (SPD6, SPD7, SPD8, SPD9

Transport and Movement (public transport, cycling, walking and vehicles) (SPD10, SPD11, SPD12, SPD13, SPD14)

1. Social and Community Infrastructure (health facilities, schools, leisure centre, arts and cultural facilities)

What social and community facilities do you or your family use in the area at the moment? (eg schools, health facilities, libraries, faith groups etc)

What are the needs that we should be thinking about in preparing the planning framework?

Our guidance states that new communities facilities (such as Walworth academy) should be made available outside hours for other members of the community to use? Do you agree with this? Are there other measures we can take to accommodate the needs for people to meet, hold parties, practice faiths etc?

The area has two universities: London Southwark Bank University and the London College of Communication. What are the advantages of having these universities locally?

What should our planning guidance say about the need for student housing?

2. Transport and Movement (public transport, cycling, walking and vehicles)

What is your experience of travelling in the area by the following modes of transport? What problems should we be trying to address for each of these?

•	Walking - what makes a good route for walking?	
•	Cycling - how can we encourage people to cycle more?	
•	Bus, underground and rail - what improvements are needed over the next 15 years?	
•	Car - should we be trying to keep parking levels very low in new developments? What else can we do about congestion and about existing parking problems?	
•	How often do you use public transport (bus, rail, tube) in the area?	
Plea	se return your completed questionnaire to;	
FREEPOST RSCE-TGHU-CUZB Southwark Council Planning Policy 160 Tooley Street Fifth Floor London SE1 2TZ		
	If you wish to be contacted about our future LDF consultations we will add you to our mailing list	
Nam		
	anisation:ress:	

Email:

Southwark.
Council

Walworth Community Council 21 January 2012

Draft Elephant and Castle Opportunity Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Workshop 3

Built Environment (Design, tall buildings, public realm, conservation areas) (SPD15, SPD16, SPD17)

Open Spaces (Open spaces, trees, green links, sustainability) (SPD18, SPD19)

1. Built environment (Design, tall buildings, public realm, conservation areas)

What examples are there in the area where the quality of the public realm is good? Where do buildings work particularly well with public realm?

What are the key features that make public realm feel comfortable and attractive?

In which areas should the public realm be improved? What kind of improvements should be made?

What areas in the opportunity have a really good character (buildings, open spaces, activities, people etc) and why?

What are some of the benefits and disadvantages of tall buildings?

What are the principles we should put in the planning framework to make sure that tall buildings are in the right place, have high quality design and avoid the disadvantages?

2. Open Spaces, Green routes and trees
How often to you visit open spaces, and what kind of activity do you visit open spaces for?
Where are there examples of good quality open spaces in the area? What makes them good?
Are there any open spaces in Walworth you think could be improved and how?
How can we link spaces more effectively using green links? Where should these links be and what should their function be? (e.g. biodiversity, recreation, transport, creating an attractive landscape). Can you think of examples of good green links locally or elsewhere?
Please return your completed questionnaire to;
FREEPOST RSCE-TGHU-CUZB Southwark Council Planning Policy 160 Tooley Street Fifth Floor London SE1 2TZ
If you wish to be contacted about our future planning policy consultations we will add you to our mailing list
Name: Organisation: Address:
Email: