

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: 26 April 2012	Meeting Name: Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council
Report title:		Petition – Peckham Multi Storey Car Park – free trial	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Peckham Rye	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Peckham Community Council consider a petition in respect of Peckham multi storey car park and introducing a free trial for parking.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A petition containing 250 signatures or more will be presented to the community council. A petition can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark. Petitions must relate to matters which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
3. At the meeting, the spokesperson for the petition will be invited to speak up to five minutes on the subject matter. The community council will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
4. Any relevant resource or community impact issues will be contained in the comments of the strategic director.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. A petition containing over 250 signatures has been received in respect of market stalls on Peckham Multi Storey car park. The petition states:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to open Peckham Multi Storey Car Park for free trial period of four weeks to encourage and support trade to the area. Should this trial show an increase in trade we would like the car park to be free permanently. In the economic down turn local traders need support to encourage footfall to the Peckham Town Centre area. The council already recognise the benefits of free parking as highlighted by their Christmas initiative and free weekend parking at the East Street Market. Peckham Town Centre is in the early stage of regeneration and the availability of free parking will help support the local traders by offering a vital service to increase the appeal to potential customers. Currently potential customers divert to the free parking offered at the East Street Market and Surrey Quays way from Peckham.

Peckham Town Centre is recognised as a unique shopping location with a large number of independent traders and services ranging from the Cinema,

West African fresh foods, Chinese fresh foods, Churches, Mosques, Fusion Gym, Library the list is endless. With the Olympics it is a great opportunity to put Peckham on the map!"

6. The community council should decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. The community council has no decision making powers in relation to this issue but could refer the issue to the appropriate decision maker.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Comments of the Deputy Chief Executive

7. Southwark council is backing business in Peckham and supporting local trade in a number of ways. The Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan has now completed the final consultation process. The aim of the Action Plan is to bring about long lasting improvements to Peckham and Nunhead and restore the once vibrant and very important South London town centre. The Plan looks overall at improving the environment, creating more jobs and supporting the diverse communities and businesses including developing the creative industries now based in Peckham.
8. With funding from the Council and the Mayors Regeneration Fund, work can now progress on much needed improvements in and around Rye Lane Station, opening out a square and transforming the immediate environment. Southwark has invested in improving the shop fronts and town centre environment in Peckham through the Investing in Local Retail Environments programme, supported local businesses immediately after the riot last Summer and has launched a Community Restoration Fund to support improvements particularly in areas most affected by the riots. Southwark has also made a bid to the "Portas Pilot" for Peckham which, if the Council is successful will enable businesses to coordinate and put together practical projects to improve growth and trade with the addition of a Town Team that will lead the work on transforming the high street. The Council remains committed to working with the community to enable Peckham to realise its immense potential.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure

9. Officers have considered the proposal of offering a free trial in the multi-storey car park and have the following concerns.
 - There would be no way of determining who would be shoppers and who would be commuters, this proposal would in effect encourage more commuter parking to the area causing increased pressure on the road network. This would be contrary to the existing policies of increasing travel by sustainable transport Network Management Policy (2010) 4.3.
 - The cost to the Council through loss of income and additional costs would be in the region of £150,000
10. In 2010 a car parking study was carried out which examined the future demand for parking resulting from different levels of growth in Peckham and Nunhead. The study identified 2,225 car parking spaces in and around Peckham town centre, consisting of on-street spaces, off-street council owned car parks and supermarket car parks. The study showed that less than half the off-street car parking spaces are used during the week, rising to 60% at the weekend. In addition, it highlighted that even taking possible forecasted growth of shops and

businesses in Peckham over the next 10 years into account, there would still be an excess of car parking spaces in all but the highest growth scenario.

11. There is also free parking on week ends in all Peckham Car Parks from 23 April 2012. This replicates the charges in Stead Street Car Park which serves East Street shoppers.
12. This year from 23 April charges were reduced in the multi-storey car park by 23% for all day parking, with additional percentage reductions of 16.7% for up to 2 hours, and 3.7% for up to 3 hours. Season ticket prices have also been frozen.
13. Charges to park in council owned Town Centre car parks during Monday – Friday are already amongst the lowest in Central London.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Petition - Stop the current market stalls trading on Peckham Square	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer, 160 Tooley Street.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	26 April 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Deputy Chief Executive	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	26 April 2012	