

**SE5 Forum AGM 2020: Post Covid Camberwell****Wednesday 7 October 2020 6.30-8.30pm on ZOOM****CHAIR'S REPORT**

Covid hit Camberwell this year and has dramatically affected the lives of our residents, health, care and transport workers. The community responded with Covid groups of volunteers looking after their neighbours, local postmasters delivering medicines and new volunteers enabling foodbanks to help over 1000 people. SE5 Forum used social media and our website to let people know what help and advice is available. In a recent consultation on health and wellbeing, 15-year olds at Sacred Heart School said "Coping with COVID is about us being a diverse but strong and united community. We care for each other"

Before and during lockdown we worked closely with local groups (particularly Camberwell Arts, the Camberwell Society and Camberwell Identity) to achieve a lot - from the successful campaign for a new second entrance for Denmark Hill station, to creating a new identity for Camberwell reflected in a new mural, banners and bags and planning a new Love Local campaign to support local businesses.

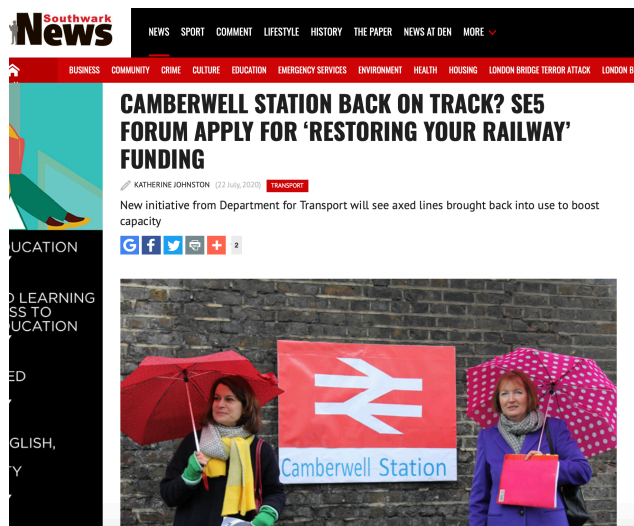
SE5 Forum membership continues to grow and now stands at 1526. We are always delighted to meet members and local groups at our market stall on Saturdays from 10 to 2pm. Sadly we were not able to run the market stall during lockdown from March but reopened in September with new volunteers and plans to make the stall a resource for all local community groups. We continue to engage with local groups with the Chair of SE5 Forum attending some 45 local meetings and events since January on issue as varied as releasing Camberwell Beauty butterflies to mental health and improving our roads.

TRANSPORT**Priorities in SE5 Forum Strategy & Action Plan**

- Denmark Hill second entrance
- Reopen Camberwell Station
- Town Centre scheme
- Air quality - green buses, new routes, new depots

Achievements

The campaign for a second entrance for Denmark Hill station has succeeded! After years of local campaigning, of protests, of many meetings between the rail companies and the Chair of SE5 Forum, the Camberwell Society, our MPs, Southwark Council, the Maudsley and King's College Hospital about the dangerous overcrowding at Denmark Hill, funding has now been allocated for a second entrance. The new entrance in Windsor Walk is due to open in April 2021 and will reflect the Camberwell identity (see below).



The campaign to reopen Camberwell Station continues - SE5 Forum has

applied for a Restore Your Railways grant from the Department of Transport to make the investment case to reopen the station. Reopening the station would really help local residents as well as all the millions attending King's College Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital.

Camberwell's station closed to passengers in 1916 and goods services ceased in 1964. In 2018 a Transport for London study suggested any benefit to Camberwell would be outweighed by the

impact on commuters from Kent. But they did not take into account the increase in residents in Camberwell and in visitors to King's. This funding would help with plans, including building costs, timetabling options, early design work and feedback from residents.

Other outstanding campaigns include a new lift for Loughborough Junction Station - which is inaccessible to prams and people with disabilities. SE5 Forum and other local groups submitted a proposal to the consultation on the station last year but no progress has yet been made. SE5 Forum has also been following the progress of a proposed tram service between Camberwell and London Bridge. We understand that TfL are now discussing technical and planning issues with the promoter.

SE5 Forum organised a consultation with Network Rail on their Strategy for London hosted by Camberwell College of Arts in January. Local residents and groups were concerned about road pollution, congestion, unreliable and overcrowded buses and train station access and access to local hospitals. We suggested that better transport could attract new anchor organisations, boost arts and health businesses in Camberwell, reduce pollution and asked Network Rail to consider better access to transport, integrating light rail or tram and linking stations to freight hubs to for example delivery bikes as part of a low carbon neighbourhood.

Town Centre scheme - some changes have been made to the Town Centre e.g. new crossings. SE5 Forum has been very engaged in the consultation but is disappointed that the changes have been unambitious. SE5 Forum has supported proposals to Southwark Council by local groups to create a green walk between Camberwell Green and Burgess Park and production of the Camberwell Tree Walk.

Air Quality / green buses

Go ahead, which runs Camberwell Bus Garage, is rolling out electric buses in 2020. SE5 Forum continues to remind bus garages that engines should not idle and pollute while stopped but must be switched off.

BUSINESS

Priorities approved in the SE5 Forum Strategy & Action Plan

With the help of a Local Economy Grant from Southwark Council we will carry out a survey and build a database, organise public meetings for businesses and publish a report.

SE5 Forum aimed to promote local businesses through social media, a newsletter to promote local businesses, encourage residents to shop locally, promote food outlets to local workers and encourage visitors and workers from the hospital to walk down the hill to Camberwell.

Achievements

Before lockdown the Forum held two meetings with businesses which decided against a newsletter but were instead in favour of a “Love Local” campaign to promote local independent businesses. It was agreed there is an opportunity to draw more people from the NHS sites into the centre of Camberwell, as well as those who are new to the area or who are working more from home and can patronise local businesses. During lockdown, SE5 Forum used our website and social media to publicise the businesses that were open and produced a map in the form of an A1 poster, which the Camberwell Society displayed at Denmark Hill station.

With the Camberwell Identity group we worked on the Love Local campaign, which will be launched at the AGM. The campaign promotes local businesses and encourages residents to support local business. More than 20 like-minded independent businesses have already signed up as Camberwell Champions to help promote & support Camberwell. They get free use of Camberwell ID branding and assets within their business and will display storefront Love Local window stickers, hand out free coasters so customers can leave reviews and feedback on social media and the new Camberwell Life website, get a listing on the Camberwell Live website and are part of the Love Local Twitter group.



IDENTITY

Priorities approved in the SE5 Forum Strategy & Action Plan

By 2021 to create a core identity for Camberwell. With community partners and local stakeholders deliver projects supporting key themes of the identity of Camberwell.

Last year we set up the Camberwell Identity Group, which has an independent Chair and representatives of SE5 Forum, Camberwell Arts, Camberwell Society and Sceaux Gardens TRA. The group consulted widely on an identity for Camberwell, commissioned Studio Sutherland to create the Identity. We also worked with Sacred Heart School to arrange new Camberwell murals under the railway bridge on Camberwell New Road. Distinctive lettering is also now another mural on the bridge outside the Phoenix at Denmark Hill Station.



This year the SE5 Forum has obtained grants from Southwark Council and worked with the group to:

- install street lamp banners from Denmark Hill station down to Camberwell Green
- produce bags with the Identity brand designs that can be used by local businesses and that will become instantly recognisable
- a website www.camberwell.life where we will promote different business offers, stories and events
- an online version of the Travel Guide to Camberwell
- a map of Camberwell - the final artwork is being agreed and they will be put up around Camberwell in the next month
- branding of Denmark Hill station's new entrance with the Camberwell identity and consult the community on a new public artwork for the station on the theme of health and well being

THE BEAR

On behalf of local residents, we have applied to Southwark Council to make the former pub The Bear on the corner of Camberwell Station Road and Camberwell new Road an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This means that if the developers try and sell the building, the community has six months to raise the finance to buy the building.

GOVERNANCE

SE5 Forum adopted a set of values to govern how we work together, a diversity action plan and held a hearing into a complaint. Thank you to the board members, volunteers, active residents, partners and agencies that have helped us over the past year – especially Lambeth Forum Network, which provided our core funding and a large amount of support and practical advice.