

# SE5 Forum for Camberwell

# Chair's Report for the 2023 Annual General Meeting



18/10/2023

www.se5forum.org.uk



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#### AGM - OVERVIEW OF OUR YEAR

Writing the AGM report for the SE5 Forum for Camberwell allows me, as Chair, to highlight the talents, time and creativity of an extraordinary group of people, who all care passionately about the place they call home. There is wider recognition as well to celebrate: such as when Shazna Choudhry, one of our Board Members, won an award as volunteer champion at Southwark Stars 2023 for all her work on the Health and Wellbeing event. But the full AGM report on the SE5 Forum's website sets out all we did and what we learnt. We consulted within our community, campaigned on issues that are important to us all, and collaborated on delivery. The delivery workstreams are Events, Transport, Environment, Identity and Business. We work either directly or through shared working groups, such as the Identity Group and the Trees and Green Spaces group.

As for the evening of the AGM itself, there will be some selected highlights. These show how the work that we've undertaken has been delivered through local partnerships, with community groups, Friends of Parks, local businesses or others besides. Board Members and other individual volunteers have given many hundreds of hours, which has allowed us to deliver the variety and quality of events and activities we've undertaken. But looking at all the delivery, there are three cross-cutting themes that characterise our approach.

Partnership: We have continued to strengthen our partnerships with local organisations. This was best shown in the delivery of the 2023 Health and Wellbeing festival. This attracted 1,000+ visitors who interacted with partners - 5 public sector organisations, 22 community groups/charities and 35 practitioners. Participating in the worldcupofstations, and supporting Denmark Hill Station in winning first place in England, was an opportunity to work with transport partners and build some profile on the national scene, as well as being a lot of fun.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** We have worked to ensure diversity in our partnerships, and of our Board. In September, the Board had a diversity training session with Binki Taylor, a GLA commissioner for diversity, which is another step forward on that journey.

**Outreach** Our most well-known outreach is our weekly Market Stall. Once again Barbara Pattinson, Marie Staunton, Andy Murray and Christine Coleman have initiated hundreds of conversations with locals and visitors. The Travel Guide to Camberwell, and our Parks and Green Spaces handout continue to be valued collateral to share, and much appreciated. The Camberwell Talks led by Joanna Large and her support team have experimented with new formats and new venues, which have taken us from a garlanded glade in Lettsom Gardens, to the Golden Goose theatre to hear about Camberwell's old Music Halls.

We should also record our thanks to all our **funders**, especially the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark, the King's College Hospital Charity, as well as personal donations, including money towards the new canopy keeping us dry at the Farmer's market, and the donors of raffle gifts at the Camberwell Talks. Funding allows us to scale up the impact and the reach in all the good work our volunteers are doing, so please keep that funding coming our way. If this evening you hear something tonight that inspires you to participate perhaps as a Board member, Volunteer or Partner, please come and introduce yourself. SE5 Forum welcomes everyone who is working for a better Camberwell on behalf of all of our diverse community.

Sophy Tayler: Chair 2022-2023



#### **EVENTS**

Over the last 12 months, we have hosted 14 in person and 2 online events. In particular the scale of the Feel Good Festival on health and wellbeing was ambitious. But we have continued to develop partnerships and achieve significant outreach across the wider community. Two of the largest events are described below.

# Feel Good Festival 2023 (2x locations)





We know that parts of Camberwell are among the most health-deprived in the UK, and that COVID has increased isolation and physical/mental illness. But at the same time, Camberwell has world-leading health institutions, local health services, community groups, NGOs and health and wellbeing practitioners. We also have parks like Ruskin for wellbeing activities and an established market for fresh food on the Green. The 2023 Feel Good Festival aimed to bring these assets together to help local people access health and wellbeing services; to understand the services institutions on offer; to help people avoid hospital admission by taking care of 5 vital factors underlying ill health in Camberwell - high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, alcohol, and common mental health conditions.

Over 1,000 people enjoyed our second Feel Good festival. It was held over two Saturdays in July, first on Camberwell Green and then Ruskin Park. The activities\_were highly rated by participants; and the organisation was praised by practitioners. 25% percent of those interviewed there had never visited the Camberwell Green market before. SE5 Forum worked closely with Southwark Pensioners, Spring Community Hub and Healthy Living Platform.

Our engagement with partners and practitioners included:

- 35 Health, wellbeing and nutrition practitioners (40% BAME)
- 19 community & NGOs (8 BAME led)
- 3 TRAs
- Partnership Southwark, Lambeth Together's Health & Wellbeing Bus & Kings College Hospital wellness coordinator
- The Metropolitan Police

We are so grateful for the support of King's College Hospital Charity and Lambeth Council's Social Value Fund Changing Lives - whose funding and advice made the Festival possible.



# **Community Kitchen**

The Caribbean Christmas Community Kitchen on the Green was an inclusive, free community celebration. It provided a free Caribbean lunch as well as signposting to help on food, clothing and warm spaces. Musical partners included Royal Steel Pans, Cambria Choir, Camberwell Choir School, and Give a Song. Other volunteers helped with wreath-making, and no-cook, low-cook food. Mr and Mrs Santa, assisted by a young elf, gave out 82 gifts to children.

We know that Spring Community Hub provided 350 bowls of soup (which was delicious), Ketra gave out 35 sets of hygiene products for people who needed shampoo etc. Healthy Living Platform distributed 75 pantry taster bags/info packs. Southwark Pensioners Centre also signposted people to advice including housing advice whilst we handed out lists of warm spaces. The Peckham Food Kitchen provided a clothing stall. Overall it was a fun, shared endeavour that strengthened our local partnerships.



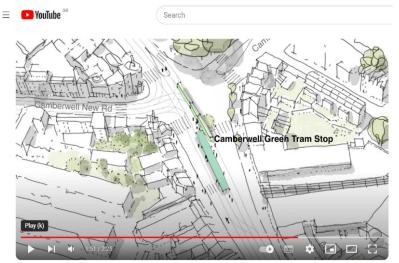




#### **TRANSPORT**

#### The Big Picture

Improvements to transport and access are needed if Camberwell is to thrive. High Street businesses cannot grow if Camberwell is an island in transport terms. We have many outlets that are attracting visitors from outside the area, but we need a holistic, thought through approach. It is also worth reiterating that post-COVID, our hospital staff and outpatient visitors are doing millions of journeys a year that need servicing. On the Southwark side, changes of Cabinet member for transport, and fact that the movement plan is still under review, prior to publication, has slowed progress at a more strategic level. Back in Autumn of '22 we were still campaigning against bus cuts. In the end, the number 12 and 45 routes were saved. Our commissioned report by Jane Bevis and publicity to respond to the TfL consultation played a part in that campaign.



We have continued to monitor progress of the Southwark Supertram project, and are aware of the pre-planning meetings that have taken place with the London Borough of Southwark. For those of you that would like to get a preview of what this service can deliver, it's worth looking at the animation on Youtube (search for Southwark Supertram). This has the potential for a real step change for Camberwell. But as and when this initiative comes through the planning application process, our own community, and other communities along the route

will need to consider their responses. We are expecting that as re-opening Camberwell Train Station is local Labour Party policy, that this will still feature in the revised transport strategy when it is published. However, the business case will now need significant revision, and the Council will have to commit resources to make that happen.





Finally, under the transport heading, we should congratulate the staff at Denmark Hill Station for their win in the World Cup of Stations this year – first in England, second in UK only behind Wemyss Bay. It was a reminder of not just the practical contribution that transport makes, but how significant it is to the local community and the identity of the area. Voting in each successive round, as we realised we were in with a chance, was so exciting!

### Learning

 Turnover in key cabinet posts at Southwark results in extensive delays, and duplication of effort for community groups



#### **BUSINESS**

#### **Delivery**

Between December 2021 and July 2022, the High Street Recovery Fund paid for the initiatives that SE5 Forum worked on on behalf of our local businesses. We were hoping for extension funding, and our marketeer Jordana Leighton continued some work into September 2022, so that we did not entirely lose the ground we had made. In summary, what we delivered with the High Street Recovery Fund, and the additional efforts from there, is described under the headings of recruitment, communication, and deliverables.



Are you running a business in Camberwell? You can show your support for the Camberwell Identity campaign and show solidarity with the Camberwell business community by using the camberwell branding, for free, in your shop/ business front, or on your communications material. By doing this, you can help us raise the profile of camberwell so everybody knows what a great area this is to live and work!

#### Recruitment

- 85 Camberwell Champions businesses were recruited
- 189 SE5 business contacts and email addresses collected

#### Communication

- 10 email campaigns to 174 business emails
- 4 physical editions of our "LOVE LOCAL" newsletter
- 250 "LOVE LOCAL" newsletters hand delivered to all SE5 businesses in January, February, April, June
- 1 Zoom business forum with 22 attendees meeting Cllr Jason Ochere (6 from BAME participants)
- 1 In-person meeting with Councillor Martin Seaton and local businesses organised with Southwark Council in May 2023

#### **Deliverables**

- 19 businesses (12 BAME owned) benefitting from an A-Board publicity scheme Feb July yielding positive results.
- 3 Camberwell Saturday social media campaigns promoting a cross section of businesses
  @camberwelllife (Feast for a Fiver, Feast, Eat Outside)
- 9 businesses (4 BAME owned) received direct business support



- 8 further businesses received advice and contacts
- 2 businesses recruited for local artists to paint murals on shutters

We are now looking to scale the work and have applied for further funding from Southwark's High Street Recovery Fund to continue the marketing activities which were successful under the first grant. Our goal is to deliver:

- Marketing and media materials for 8 campaigns promoting Camberwell businesses
- Outdoor and online promotion of Camberwell's carbon neutral businesses
- Newsletter for business, undertaking the writing, production and distribution
- Organise three meetings for local businesses with Southwark
- Casework helping individual businesses with specific problems by linking them to local services

# Learning

Lessons learnt from work with Camberwell businesses are:

- 1. Camberwell needs to develop a common agenda for the High Street with Southwark Council and Local businesses
- 2. Camberwell needs a local business leadership group to be the voice of local businesses. This autumn we will do a call out to encourage the formation group
- 3. Promoting Camberwell businesses in particular sectors can help footfall





# IDENTITY (co-delivery)

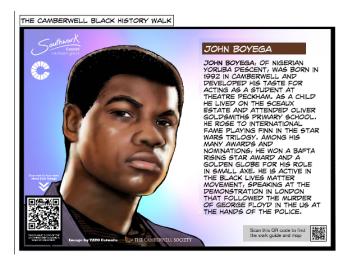
We campaigned for pending Parliamentary constituency changes to recognise Camberwell's identity. We were disappointed therefore when final boundaries resulted in three rather than two MPs now each representing part of our area. We envisage challenges in co-ordinating their support and interest. However, despite the way that political boundaries have been drawn, there is overwhelming evidence of the strong sense of identity for the area, and wide participation in the activities of the Identity group from so many different stakeholders.

## The Camberwell Identity Group

The SE5 Forum was a founding partner of the Camberwell Identity group with Camberwell Society and Camberwell Arts. Since 2018, the group has consulted widely to develop a Camberwell Identity, the Camberwell C and other brand images are available to all to download from the Camberwell. Life website.

**Branding.** The Camberwell Identity campaign aims to promote and celebrate the unique character and spirit of Camberwell through a visual identity and messaging to showcase the culture, and community that make Camberwell special. The exciting part is that local groups and businesses can use the Camberwell branding for free! This includes incorporating it into shop/business front or on communications materials. They are available to download via Camberwell.Life.

The Travel Guide to Camberwell is the essential companion for those in search of the real SE5, researched and written by local residents. It Includes comprehensive information on Camberwell's history, architectural gems, must-visit attractions, dining and drinking spots, and shopping opportunities. The 3rd edition was launched in June this year and the group has secured funding from Southwark Council and Hunters Estate Agents for the June 2024 edition. The Black History Walk for Camberwell is due to be launched on 9th December, and represents yet another way of enjoying Camberwell – accessible to all ages.





**Murals** are a way of improving the area, and bringing the immediate community together to celebrate particular aspects of Camberwell Life. The Identity group has continued to work with Southwark Council, and other partners, on the design aspects of the regeneration aspects of Camberwell Station Road. This includes a mural on the former station walls, which will highlight the buildings original function – until such time as a new station is reopened. The images show the design, and local residents participating in consultation. In collaboration with Dreaon McDonald Simms from Southwark Youth Parliament and the Poets Estate TRA



committee, we have embarked on a mural project for Masterman House. The aim is to celebrate Olympic BMX medalist Kai Whyte, who resided in Masterman House and trained at the nearby Peckham BMX club. The mural would be located on New Church Rd and would highlight Kai's achievements and the support he received from the community. Through public consultation, we are looking at additional themes to be incorporated to inspire young people, showcase local opportunities, and create pride in the community.





Social Media and Press: Many people are finding out what's happening in Camberwell, through social media platforms that use the Camberwell.Life handle. These platforms serve as powerful tools to roll out our narrative and identity, fostering a sense of civic pride among our community. We showcase the diverse aspects of our community, including its people, architecture, businesses, history, and cultural activities. Our social media channels have been active for three years, and we have successfully garnered a following of 5,000 on Instagram. Twitter following has now grown to nearly 1,300 followers. There's user engagement with highly engaged posts promoting local events such as the Autumn Arts market and the workshops for our Black History Walk project at Theatre Peckham. Facebook following remains strong, at nearly 1,000 followers. We create and distribute press releases to local media outlets, highlighting our Camberwell Identity initiatives, to ensure they receive the coverage they deserve. These outlets provide another way to strengthen Camberwell community and showcase the unique identity of our area.

**Planning.** The group also pro-actively engages with local developments to promote a sympathetic approach to Camberwell and not use just generic build ideas. It advocates for considerations such as green spaces, safe walk-throughs, and the incorporation of the Camberwell identity into the design. In the past year we have had success with Butterfly Walk and good conversations with the Magistrates Court.

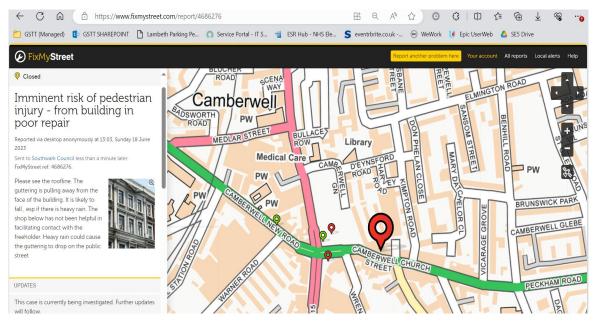
## Learning

• Working in partnership with other groups can be more effective. Getting the voice of a member of the Southwark Youth Parliament on the group has been very helpful.



# **ENVIRONMENT** (direct and co-delivery)

# Clean Up Camberwell Campaign



Example from my personal account - Red pin means closed

In 2022 Tony Jones of SE5 Forum launched the Clean Up Camberwell Campaign with a letter to Southwark's new CEO, Althea Loderick. Southwark responded promptly to his first plea to join many other Local Councils in using Fix My Street - a simple app that allows members of the public to report public realm problems like potholes, rubbish and obstructions. Tony has posted 1,200 reports on Fix my Street. Nearly all have been resolved. We check by clicking on https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Southwark and zooming in to Camberwell on the map to see what is still outstanding.

We asked for a deep clean of Camberwell town centre. This was done just before the local council election. Timed waste collection has been enforced. This means that businesses can only put bins out on the streets at set times just before they are collected. Unused telephone kiosks were used as toilets. One phone kiosk has been removed in Camberwell Station Road - others are in train. But more locals complaints are needed to get action, or use a different approach. For example, a kiosk in Deptford High Street has been transformed into a free food and book bank by local volunteers.

A pilot graffiti removal scheme is running until December 2023. Southwark will remove graffiti from businesses and coat shutters with a graffiti resistant coating which can be cleaned with soap and water, if businesses agree to maintain clean shutters. But graffiti which emerged in COVID at the top of buildings is still there. There is a notable reduction in bus shelter and communications cabinet graffiti. The graffiti by the Bear on Camberwell Station Road has gone. Despite the cuts in the Southwark street cleaning budget the town centre is still cleaned to schedule. But our town centre is still not as clean and clear as say Forest Hill.

New signage has appeared on Artichoke Place and lobbying for trees there paid off. They have now been planted. Long term we need some sort of community guardianship with a group of people who will pick up and pursue problems in our public realm. Tony prepared a toolkit to get locals started which will appear in Camberwell Quarterly winter edition.



## **Trees and Green Spaces Group**



The Trees and Green Spaces Group is an initiative shared between the Forum and the Camberwell Society. It has just six members, who met about 8 times during the year, to take forward the activities described below. Representatives also met with Southwark Tree Officers to discuss local tree planting, and tree health issues.

Rather than trying to run its own **litter picking** events, the group focused on making litter pickers available for local users. Pickers can be checked out, and then returned to the SE5 stand at the Farmers Market. We hope to continue to build up regular requests, as well as offering more ad-hoc responses e.g. after other events on the Green.

In May, a talk at the Urban Tree Festival about **Tiny Forests** alerted the group to an internationally used approach to increasing tree canopy and biodiversity in a targeted way. We also learned that London Borough of Southwark was applying for central funding for trees, part of which could be drawn down for this sort of project. So the group asked for Camberwell to be

considered for this. We spent time looking for possible locations, including the Elmington Estate, a proposal which was later withdrawn in recognition of some residents' concerns. At the time of writing, we are working with Friends of Burgess Park, Council Tree Officers, and Earthwatch, the delivery charity, to see if a site nearby to Neate Street and the new sports pitches might be suitable. We believe that part of the benefit of working with Earthwatch is the availability of wraparound services – education and scientific opportunities which will give residents new ways of enjoying trees in the area.

In July, the group offered guided **tree walks** to support the Feel Good Festival, including a new walk in Ruskin Park linking the trees more explicitly to human wellbeing. It was good to work with Tracie Culpitt, Health and Wellbeing at King's College Hospital on this topic. The group also worked with David More, a local resident and leading botanical artist, to provide an all-ages **tree drawing workshop** in Brunswick Park. Finally, the group has spent some time developing a community project associated with Mulberry Trees. Funding is now being sought, and the fruits of this planning work should be seen in the coming year.

#### Learning

- We need to encourage businesses that own private property to deal with graffiti
- The streetscape and cleanliness will not be solved through a single campaign; it's an ongoing responsibility
- Planning, even when just related to trees, can be a very overwhelming topic. Volunteer Johanna
  Barclay is keeping a watching brief on tree-related matters working with the planning subcommittee of the Camberwell Society, and is now just focused on major developments



## **OUTREACH**

#### The Market Stall



It's always a pleasure to meet so many people from Camberwell at the stall on a Saturday. It operates as an informal news exchange, a campaign centre or rendezvous point for volunteers needing to touch base with each other. Our stalwarts include Barbara Pattinson, Marie Staunton, Christine Coleman and Andy Murray, who not only work 'front of house' but are frequently in the store-room at the Leisure Centre counting out mugs and cards, or deciding what needs to be ordered from suppliers. It is also encouraging to see how the market itself has developed from its early tentative beginnings, and offers new businesses, and businesses new to Camberwell a chance to try out the location.

As in previous years, the help we get from Good Gym in setting up, is greatly appreciated, as was the anonymous gift which allowed us to invest in the new blue canopy – which is massively easier to set up and put down. Please do stop by and see us, next time you are passing the Green on a Saturday morning.

#### Camberwell Talks

Joanna Large, a volunteer who has previously served on our Board, has continued with great flair to lead on our outreach with the Camberwell Talks. The concept is that we ask a local resident, who can talk to a topic of interest, to share his or her enthusiasm on Monday evening with a paying audience over a glass of wine (or soft drink). We heard from William Lee Adams journalist and blogger, as he had newly returned from Eurovision in Liverpool. And Richard Norman entertained us with the history of Camberwell's Music Halls. We remain grateful to the Crypt at St Giles, for hosting so many of these events. We have branched out a few times, experimenting with the location and format of the talk itself. For example, it was highly appropriate to hold a Gardener's Question Time outdoors, at Lettsom Gardens. We also covered more specialised topics, such as Women's Physio Health with Lucy Gilligan Court of Support and Sustain, and Wine Appreciation with Patrycja Lorek from Veraison Wines.

To each and every one of our speakers, thank you for entertaining and informing us, and supporting the Camberwell Talks. To Milo, probably our youngest volunteer, at front of house, thank you for selling all those raffle tickets. Also Cleo Ibberson's design work has been a really successful promotion tool. I'm certain that we have many seasons worth of potential talent as speakers still to come, and would encourage anyone with a topic to make themselves known to Joanna, so that we can engage with as many different groups within the community as possible. The initiative also produces a valuable source of unrestricted funds that helps



with our general running costs. So once again, a big thank you to all our speakers and audiences for their participation.

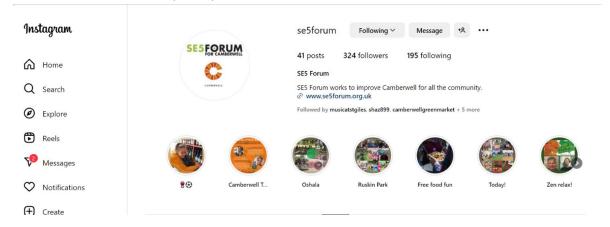






## **Digital Engagement**

Digital engagement is essential to the way we operate. We are fortunate that our Administrator, Marika Thorogood, is so talented in getting our message out across multiple digital platforms. We note that Eventbrite, although it remains free for no-charge events, is now increasing its fees significantly, something that we will have to keep under review. We have partnered with Camberwell Life for a number of years on Instagram, but have now decided that we need our own presence there. We now have 300 plus followers, from which we will build up in future years. We recognise that there is still work to be done on our website, which has not been the first priority





# LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023

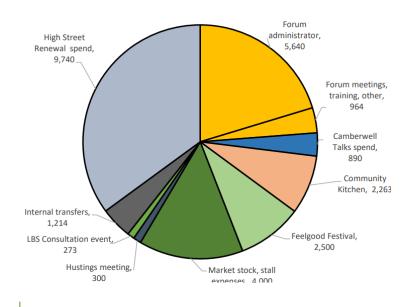
- Nigel Brissett (stepped down in Sept 23)
- Christine Coleman
- Craig Francis
- John Frankland
- Gill Henderson (co-opted June 22)
- Anthony Jones
- Mastoor Khan
- Amie Konteh
- Andy Murray
- Barbara Pattinson
- Marie Staunton
- Sophy Tayler
- Simon J Taylor
- Marika Thorogood (Administrator)



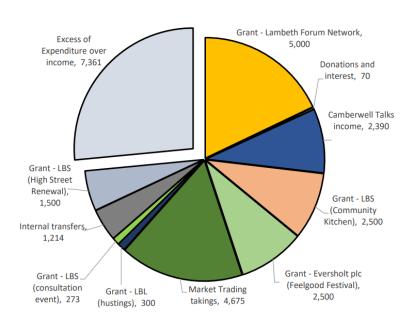
# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Summary Financial Information for the year 1 April 2022- 31 March 2023: from the accounts, See website for full details

#### EXPENDITURE £27,782



### NCOME £20,421



#### KEY

LBS = London Borough of Southwark

LBL = London Borough of Lambeth

#### NOTE 1

- Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year was largely spend of brought forward High Street Renewal funding
- Total funds brought forward were £10,942, carried forward £3,581
- Forum administration expenditure was met from income in the year and Camberwell Talks surpluses

#### NOTE 2

Grants awarded <u>after</u> the reporting year 2022-23 include from

- LBL. Lambeth Forum Network for forum expenses £5,000 and for the Ruskin Park Feel Good festival £995
- Kings Hospital Charity for the Ruskin Park Feel Good festival £2,250

**SIGNED** 

ACMurroy

Treasurer

Date:

05/10/23