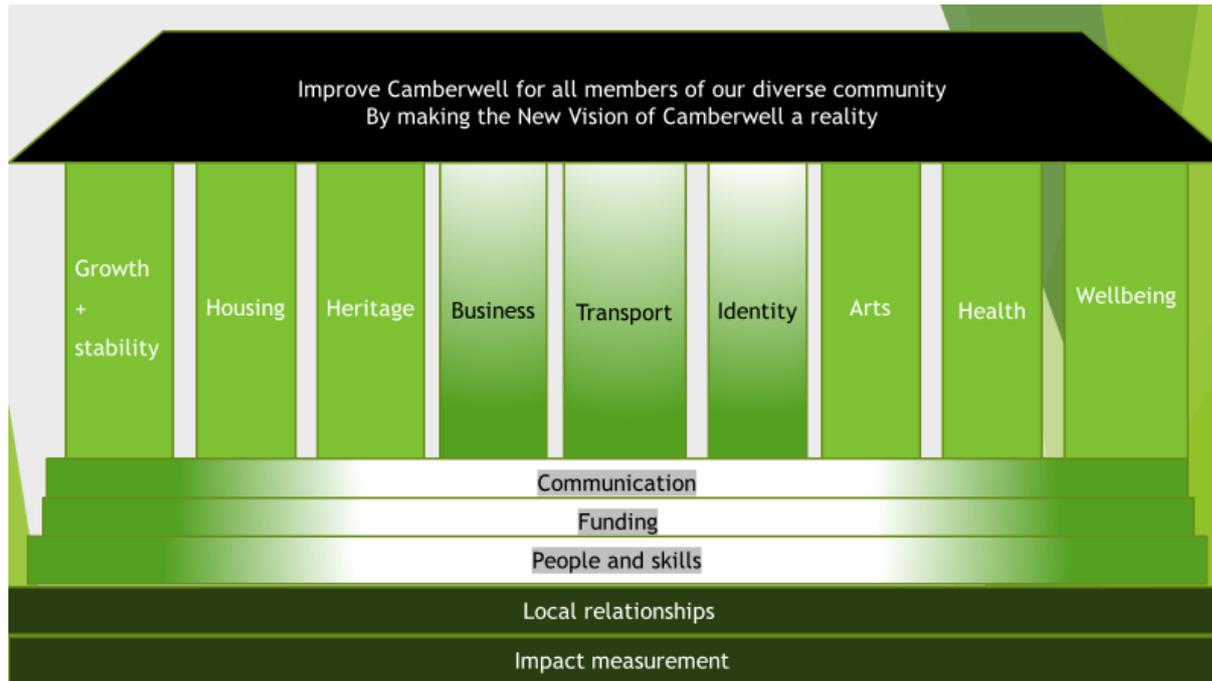


# SE5 Forum for Camberwell AGM: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Chair's Annual Report 2017-2018



The SE5 Forum's New Vision for Camberwell, is the result of wide consultation and some of its language is reflected in the New Southwark Plan. The Plan/Vision was discussed again at an Open Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February and then adopted. The Board developed a three-year Strategy and Action Plan, which prioritised working directly on Transport, Business and Identity for 2018-21. It worked indirectly on Safety and Arts through appointing a lead Board member to support other local groups working on these issues. It invested time in communications, funding and developing its Board skills to implement the strategy:

### **Transport**

The priorities from the strategy are:

#### Reopen Camberwell Station

Freedom of Information requests finally produced the feasibility studies for the reopening of Camberwell Station, which prioritised a stop of a few minutes for commuters from Kent over the major advantage of Camberwell commuters of a rail station. The studies failed to take into account increased population and the social benefits of the station such as better access to the hospital. SE5 Forum held a photo opportunity wearing anti-pollution masks on Camberwell Green in support of the reopening of Camberwell Station and its arguments for reopening the station were reported in the press. The petition to reopen the station reached over 2000 signatures and the SE5 Forum briefed local MPs Helen Hayes and Harriet Harman who presented the petition to Transport Minister Jo Johnson in

May. The SE5 Forum solicited support from candidates in the Council elections and several, including Council Leader Peter John, gave their support. We met with Caroline Pidgeon, GLA Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee, who raised our concerns with TFL. No decision on the future of the station has yet been made.

### Denmark Hill new entrance

The SE5 Forum has requested information on the second entrance, badly needed to deal with overcrowding at Denmark Hill Station. Network Rail and Thameslink have recognised the need for improvement. We understand that funding could be available at the end of 2018 to start work in 2019 but we have as yet no date for the opening of a second entrance. Jonathan Burns, travel and transport manager at South London and Maudsley Trust, has been co-opted onto the Board for his expertise.

### Town Centre scheme

The SE5 Forum expressed its concern at the Camberwell Community Council Meeting that the Town Centre scheme had been scaled down. As Chair, I met with Transport for London to discuss options. I visited Walthamstow Mini-Holland scheme, which has transformed a town centre that was dominated by roads, in order to look at how alternative options work in practice.

Air Quality – Our work has focused on Green buses and bus depots, stopping buses idling and being maintained or parked on the main road. The SE5 Forum briefed local Councillor Kieron Williams that buses were standing idle with their engines running. He took this up with Southwark, who agreed to put up signs where the buses stop to instruct drivers to turn off their engines. Southwark started enforcement in April.

In addition, SE5 Forum has attended meetings about the proposal for a north-south Super Tram link. The Society's AGM will focus on Air Quality in Camberwell.

### **Business**

The priorities from the strategy are:

To build a database of local businesses.

Promote networking between businesses via social media & public meetings.

Investigate if local businesses want to work together through the Camberwell Business Engagement Network project.

Working with the Camberwell Business Network (Chair, Suzanne Vincent of Urban Village), the SE5 Forum secured £5000 in funding from Lambeth to hire a part-time worker. Oli Perrins starts in August and will build a database, visit local business, hold two meetings, produce a newsletter and identify business priorities.

In addition, the SE5 Forum wants to engage business through the Network in rationalising waste bins and reducing litter.

## **Identity**

The Board decided to prioritise developing an identity for Camberwell because Camberwell is on the boundary between councils, and its identity is being eroded with key institutions such as Kings using Denmark Hill rather than Camberwell. Neighbouring centres such as Brixton and Peckham now have a stronger identity that people identify with. Camberwell suffers from a lack of geographical definition in terms of transport: no railway or tube station. There is a churn of people, typical of inner city, which is overlaid with an established community wary of new incomers buying into private developments.

A common identity could help social cohesion in Camberwell. It will also support the SE5 Forum's other objectives. But a strategic, cohesive and sustained approach is needed to deliver lasting results. 2018-2020 is timely and relevant as the Identity project can link to local initiatives such as Creative Camberwell, Business and Transport and to the new updated local plan.

The priority now is to:

Develop an inclusive process that engages local people: We have talked to Herne Hill about their creation of a local identity and a process has been designed by local residents who are experts in identity and branding

Recruit fundraiser and put in funding applications for projects

Deliver events, digital resources for schools, visitors and locals; public signs such as blue plaques and path markers.

## **Arts**

We have attended meetings on developing a Creative Enterprise Zone between Camberwell and Peckham in order to get a voice for Camberwell in this exciting project.

We attended the opening, by Grayson Perry, of the new Camberwell College of Art building.

## **Safety**

A lead Board member attends the local safer neighbourhoods panels. The SE5 Forum supported the Camberwell Green Safer Neighbourhood Panel Chair who secured funding from the Co-operative for key equipment (mirrors and metal detectors) for knife sweeps.

## **Funding**

The SE5 Forum relies on support from Lambeth Council, which gave us a grant of £5000 for our running costs. Even more importantly, we receive valuable and valued help and advice from Gerry Evans of the Lambeth Forum Network, where we also learn from the experience of other community forums.

The SE5 Forum successfully bid for £5000 to develop the Camberwell Business Engagement Project for 12 months.

The Christmas Party raised £130. The Market Stall is primarily an outreach activity, which made £3000 and covered its costs.

## **Communications**

Our new administrator Marika Thorogood has reworked the homepage of the website with the help of the website designer Stani, so that visitors can now access Twitter Feed, latest News, Calendar, Submit Event to Calendar and Subscribe to Newsletter directly on the homepage. Web page views have increased by 55.2% over the year. The Board agreed a Communications Plan, which sets out who we need to communicate with on the priorities of Business, Transport and Identity and how social media, Mailchimp, press coverage can enhance our campaigns. We have had two press releases on our work covered as articles in Southwark News. The market stall continues to promote the SE5 Forum and recruit new members for the forum.

## **People and skills**

The Board received an excellent training session from Community Southwark on governance covering constitutions, conflict resolution, codes of conduct, induction of new trustees, updating policies and data protection. The SE5 Forum continues to rely on Lambeth for advice and in particular wants to thank Gerry Evans, who has been an astonishing support over the years. Stephen Shemilt has been fulfilling the dual roles of The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) Stakeholder Manager representative on the SE5 Forum board and acting SE5 Forum Secretary until a permanent replacement could be found. The Board want to thank him for his excellent work. A new Secretary Marie Staunton and a new Treasurer Adam Woodward have been appointed. We successfully nominated Mark Webb for the Southwark Civic Award of the Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell. SE5 Forum is also Community Southwark community Group of the Year.

**SE5 Forum Chair: Barbara Pattinson**