Local people have been telling us they are worried about air pollution and want fewer cars and trucks passing through their streets. Southwark Green Party measured nitrogen dioxide pollution. It was more than twice the legal limit in Camberwell, and way above the legal limit outside many local schools.

Eleanor Margolies says: ‘This is an urgent health issue. Over 500 people signed our petition to ask the Mayor of London to clean up dirty diesel buses. And Southwark Council needs to take action too. The council should:

• Keep long-distance traffic to main roads, not residential streets
• Support zero emission delivery schemes
• Tell drivers how they can help by turning engines off when they stop for a minute or more.’

Eleanor has been working with the ‘Green Growers’ group, volunteers who help Southwark groups that need help with their community gardens. The group has planted vegetables on the East Dulwich Estate and revived a herb garden on the Rockingham Estate near Elephant and Castle. In Camberwell, they weeded Benhill Road Nature Garden, trimmed back shrubs ready for the winter, picked up litter and cleared the pond of weed.

Eleanor helped local volunteers tidy up Benhill Road Nature Garden.
TRANSPORT FOR LONDON FUNDING FOR QUIETWAY 7 IS BRINGING WELCOME IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING WIDER PAVEMENTS OUTSIDE BRUNSWICK PARK ON BENHILL ROAD. IT WILL BE SAFER TO CYCLE AND TO CROSS THE ROAD.

But contractors working for Southwark put in new humps on Edmund Street – and made them too steep! Eleanor says: ‘For users of mobility scooters, bike trailers or cycles adapted for disabled people, humps of the wrong shape are a real danger, making the quietway useless. I’ve been chasing Southwark to get the contractor to fix their mistake so the route works for everyone.’

SPEED HUMPS ARE TOO BUMPY!
ELEANOR’S GOT THE HUMP ABOUT COUNCIL FAILURES ON ACCESS FOR ALL

Transport for London funding for Quietway 7 is bringing welcome improvements including wider pavements outside Brunswick Park on Benhill Road. It will be safer to cycle and to cross the road.

But contractors working for Southwark put in new humps on Edmund Street – and made them too steep! Eleanor says: ‘For users of mobility scooters, bike trailers or cycles adapted for disabled people, humps of the wrong shape are a real danger, making the quietway useless. I’ve been chasing Southwark to get the contractor to fix their mistake so the route works for everyone.’

ELEANOR SAYS: NEW CROSSING IS ON THE WAY
BUT COUNCIL COMMUNICATION COULD BE SO MUCH BETTER, SAYS LOCAL CAMPAIGNER

The last issue of Green News reported on the campaign by local residents for a crossing of Denmark Hill at Love Walk – first consulted on by Southwark Council way back in 2011.

Eleanor says: ‘I’ve been asking council officers to update residents about their plans for Camberwell. In October, I spotted an official Traffic Order for the new crossing. When it’s built, this will make it much safer to get around – especially to King’s. But there’s still nothing about the start date on the council website. Communication could be so much better!’

HIGH RISE SURPRISE?
CONTROVERSIAL REWRITE OF HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS CLOSE TO BURGESS PARK

People living near Burgess Park have expressed surprise that Labour councillors have slipped a new sentence into the council’s ‘Area Vision’. It reads: ‘There may be opportunities for taller buildings on key development sites in appropriate locations.’ Cllr Mark Williams said about this that he could see new blocks of up to 12 storeys being built in Camberwell and Peckham. Campaigner Atus Mariqueo-Russell says: ‘This major change in policy is being pushed through without proper consultation. And if local people can’t afford to live in these new towers, they won’t help our housing crisis. We know that Labour-controlled Southwark has failed to make private developers keep their promises on affordable housing.’

Eleanor and Caroline Russell supported local calls for a crossing at Love Walk.

CONTACT US

We’d love to hear from you! – Eleanor, Atus and Susie

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USEFUL LINKS

How can you protect yourself from air pollution? Advice for everyone including parents, commuters and older people:
breathelondon.org

What’s happening with Southwark council consultations? Read our comments:
southwarkgreenparty.org.uk

Find out more or get involved with local gardening projects:
greengrowersblog.wordpress.com

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‘No junk mail?’ We don’t see political communications and community news as junk mail but as an important part of the democratic process.