

CAMBERWELL & PECKHAM GREEN NEWS

March 2018



Eleanor Margolies



Paula Orr



Susie Wheeldon

MILLION-POUND HOME SITS EMPTY AS HOMELESSNESS GROWS

ELEANOR SLAMS COUNCIL INACTION ON CAMBERWELL HOUSE

A four-bedroom house in Camberwell has been left unoccupied for 20 years. Local resident Eleanor Margolies said, 'In 2002, I contacted Southwark Council about this house. I was told that the council was "in negotiations" with the owner. It's a scandal that the house is still empty and rotting away 15 years later. This is a shocking waste when so many in Southwark are in need of a home.'

Local councils can make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) of unoccupied buildings. Or they can use an Empty Dwelling Management Order — they have to pay to refurbish the building but keep the rental income afterwards.



Eleanor commented, 'On the Aylesbury Estate, Southwark Council has taken high court action to force residents out of their homes with a CPO, but here in Camberwell, they seem very reluctant to use their powers to bring a private property unoccupied for 20 years back into use as a home.'

BROKEN PROMISES FROM SOUTHWARK LABOUR
Southwark Labour's 2014 manifesto promised 11,000 new homes. After the election they said they would build 1,500 council homes by the end of 2018. In fact, **only 400** new homes will have been built by the end of this year — one third of what was promised.
Councillor Mark Williams, lead member for Regeneration and New Homes, has admitted 'we will not be meeting this target'. Cllr Williams is not standing for re-election in May 2018.

Sian Berry, Green Member of the London Assembly, is working hard for council and private tenants
www.sianberry.london

HELPING CHILDREN BREATHE MORE EASILY

ELEANOR PLANTS POLLUTION SCREEN AT LOCAL SCHOOL

How can we protect children from air pollution? Many Southwark playgrounds are next to busy roads, with illegal levels of air pollution. Over half term, Green Growers Eleanor and David helped parents and children to plant ivy screens at Goose Green Primary School.

Eleanor said, 'The ivy is an instant barrier — that's important, because children's lungs are being damaged right now. But it must be backed up with strong measures from the Mayor and Southwark Council to scrap dirty diesel and cut traffic outside schools.'



TAKING DIRECT ACTION TO IMPROVE OUR AREA

LOCAL ACTIVISTS TACKLE WATER LEAKS, TREE DAMAGE AND FLYTIPPING



Eleanor volunteering with Community Speed Watch on Camberwell Road. 'The 20 mph limit saves lives. Drivers slow down when they see the hi-viz vests!'

So far in 2018 we have:
 • **taken action on flytipping** off Vestry Road and near Sceaux Gardens Estate
 • **chased Thames Water on 4 water leaks**, speeding up the repair of a leak that had been gushing for weeks over a pavement on Dalwood St
 • **reported 3 abandoned bikes** for reuse by charity and
 • **got protection for damaged trees** on McNeil Road.

THE ELEPHANT ROARED

COMMUNITIES DEMAND A BETTER DEAL FROM DEVELOPERS

Members of the local community, including Green activists, lodged more than 700 objections to plans for the demolition and redevelopment of the Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre. Like many local people, we can't accept a plan with:

- less than 4% housing at social rent, and no long-term tenancy rights — flouting Southwark's planning policies
- loss of the bingo hall, bowling alley and Coronet theatre
- too few low-cost retail units — strangling the vibrant economy of independent Latin businesses
- no space for children's play or youth activities
- loss of daylight and privacy for existing residents.

The application was rejected by councillors in January. The developers have been forced to rethink.

southwarkgreenparty.org.uk/tags/regeneration

GET TRAINS BACK ON TRACK, SAYS SUSIE

OUR STATIONS ARE DANGEROUSLY OVERCROWDED

Local people are increasingly worried about overcrowding at Denmark Hill and Peckham Rye stations. Susie Wheeldon, who lives in Peckham, says: 'It's scary to see platforms and entrances jam-packed at rush hour. And it's unbelievable that there's still no step-free access at Peckham Rye!' Rail fares rose by 3.4% on 1 January — up to £150 extra

per year. Fares have risen twice as much as pay in the last eight years. Shareholders made billions of pounds in profits last year, while passengers saw services delayed, disrupted and cancelled. This has to change.
We're calling for a new exit at Denmark Hill and for lifts to be installed at Peckham Rye as a matter of urgency.

CONTACT US



We'd love to hear from you!
 – Eleanor, Paula and Susie
 Nous parlons français
 Se habla español

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USEFUL LINKS

Protect yourself from air pollution: advice for parents, commuters and older people:
breathelondon.org

Find out more about development plans for Parkhouse Street near Burgess Park
southwarkgreenparty.org.uk/camberwell_union

Get involved with local gardening projects:
greengrowersblog.wordpress.com

Join us! join.greenparty.org.uk

ELEANOR, PAULA AND SUSIE: WORKING FOR CAMBERWELL AND PECKHAM