

# GREEN NEWS

## SOUTHWARK

Local co-leaders



Eleanor Margolies & Phil Vabulas

# WE BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO A SAFE, SECURE HOME

## Council's plans continue to push out poorest

The London Assembly estimates Southwark will lose 2,051 social rented homes as a result of current property schemes, and that across London 80% of building will only be affordable by 8% of the population. Southwark is in the bottom three boroughs for delivering affordable housing. And private renters are continuing to suffer from unfair treatment.

So rather than creating a "fairer" Southwark, both current and previous councils have delivered deals that are pushing our communities to breaking point.

On the Ledbury estate in Peckham, successive councils ignored residents' concerns over building safety. An engineers' report finally commissioned this year found that the four blocks were at risk of collapse from a gas explosion. 71% of residents surveyed were dissatisfied with the Council's response.



Working with Ledbury residents



Sian & John petitioning the Home Office

## LESSONS FROM LAKANAL

### Greens campaigning for fire safety

The Grenfell Tower disaster left the whole nation in shock, but the similarities to Southwark's own tragic fire in 2009 at Lakanal House, Camberwell, where six died, were startling.

Green activist John Tyson and Green London Assembly member Sian Berry presented a petition with over 100,000 signatures to the Home Office calling on the Government to implement recommendations from the Lakanal inquest. Proposals such as retro-fitting sprinklers, made by the coroner in a letter sent to government ministers in 2013, had been largely ignored.

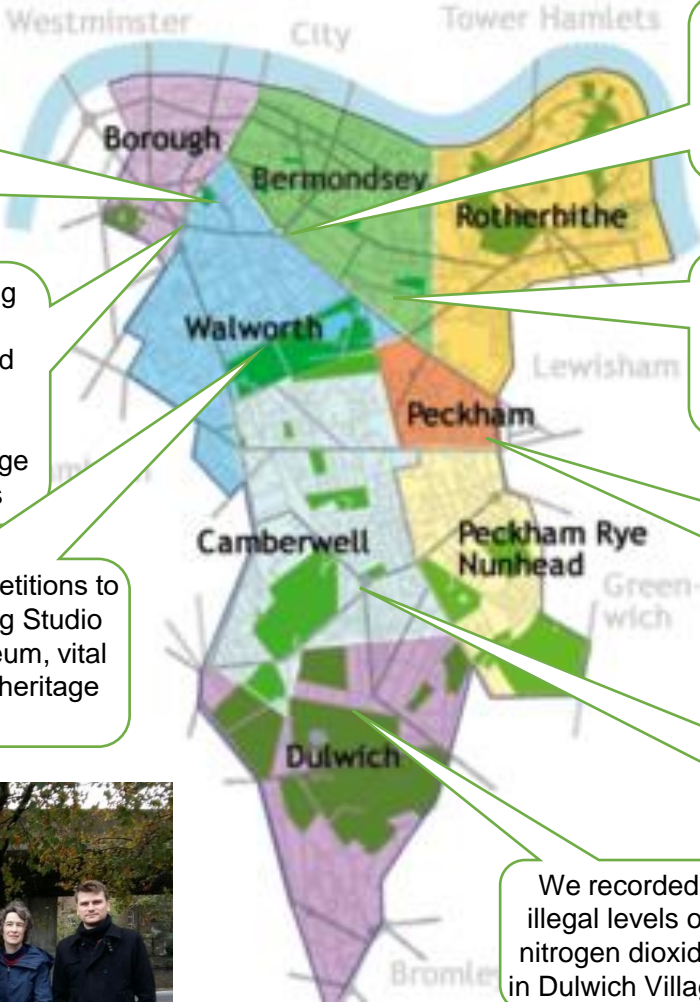
Sian has worked closely with the Grenfell community, and is a well-regarded expert on housing in London, speaking at many events.

### Southwark Green Party calls for:

- Enforcement of all deals agreed by the Council with developers to build social and affordable housing
- Resident ballots to be held on any proposed demolition
- Refurbishment over demolition (where it doesn't put residents at risk)
- Rights of private renters, including renters' unions, to be protected
- Support for local community groups wishing to manage community assets
- Support for community land trusts wishing to build homes
- Support for the homeless to find shelter and permanent homes

Green Growers is our voluntary group helping community gardens across the borough, including the Rockingham Estate

Southwark Greens joined a cross-party campaign calling on TfL to add a tube station at Bricklayers roundabout to their proposed Bakerloo extension



Our activists have been helping locals around the Elephant & Castle shopping centre worried about the regeneration and proposed demolition. The shopping centre has been a huge community asset for decades

We're engaging with the amazing Vital OKR, who are working to stop the demolition of crucial businesses and industry on the Old Kent Road

We're supporting the petitions to save Harker's Painting Studio and the Cinema Museum, vital parts of Southwark's heritage and culture

Our members promote Peckham Vision's work creating a sustainable future for Peckham's vibrant community

We're actively promoting safe cycling across the borough, including Camberwell's Quietways

We recorded illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide in Dulwich Village



**Greens at the Bricklayers tube rally**

**Campaigning, with HACAN, against more planes over Southwark**



## AIR POLLUTION

In February 2017 we placed air pollution monitors at 20 sites across the borough. 18 of these recorded nitrogen dioxide above the EU legal limit, with several at more than double.

In September, Green London Assembly member Caroline Russell presented our petition to the Mayor calling for buses on 15 Southwark routes to be replaced with electric, hydrogen or hybrid vehicles before 2018.

**Eleanor puts up a diffusion tube monitor in Peckham**



## GET IN TOUCH



If you have a comment or query about our area, we would love to know. Here's how you can get in touch:

**Email** [contact@southwark.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:contact@southwark.greenparty.org.uk)

**Twitter** @southwarkgp

**Facebook** Southwark Green Party

**Want to meet?** We're happy to arrange a time

# GO GREEN – CHANGE FOR THE BETTER