Camberwell Town Centre
Action Plan

Southwark 2030

Southwark Council

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The Camberwell Town Centre Action Plan sets out key areas that local people, businesses, community groups and other local organisations want to see improved in Camberwell town centre.

Town centres across Southwark are unique and essential pillars of our community and their appearance is central to the way people feel about where they live. As part of our five year borough plan, Southwark 2030, town centres play a crucial role. They are essential to delivering our goal of a strong and fair economy where everyone benefits from the borough's economic strength and growth.

High streets and town centres face considerable challenges including the cost-of-living crisis and the rise of online shopping which threaten small and independent businesses. This action plan outlines how we will make our town centres cleaner, greener, safer and more vibrant places for people to visit and shop, and where businesses can rely on consistent and sufficient footfall to be successful.

What do we know about Camberwell?

Once a medieval village, Camberwell is now a thriving modern town centre surrounded by a mix of residential streets and is centred around a communal green located at the heart of the area. Its historic urban layout is important to its physical identity and contributes to the character of the area. Camberwell has a successful and busy town centre which has an established community of small businesses and a range of shops and activities for both day and nighttime. Around 31,500 residents live in the Camberwell neighbourhood. Camberwell has a more diverse population than the Southwark average, with residents and business owners having roots across the world, including from West Africa, the Caribbean, South America, Poland, Turkey, and Bangladesh to name a few.

Camberwell is home to prominent health, arts and creative institutions including the Maudsley Hospital, the Camberwell College of Arts (UAL) and the South London Gallery. Leisure and open spaces are plentiful, whether you're visiting the 400metre BMX track at Burgess Park, stopping by Camberwell Leisure Centre or another fitness studio, using the popular Camberwell library or passing through Camberwell Green. Camberwell is a transport hub and provides training and employment opportunities in the transport sector. It is well connected to other areas within Southwark by major bus routes, as well as accessible by train through Denmark Hill station.

The town centre also faces challenges. Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) can affect how safe people feel, besides creating challenges for local businesses. Camberwell Church Street is a hotspot for graffiti, flyposting and litter which impacts on people's enjoyment and experience of the town centre. The council is working closely with the Police, the London Borough of Lambeth and other organisations to address issues in the area and ensure that the town centre thrives and serves its local community.

What is the vision for the town centre?

Development in Camberwell aims to improve the streets and environment whilst respecting the local character of the area. Improvements to the town centre include creating spaces for more large and small shops, workspaces for smaller enterprises, particularly creative industries, and spaces for entertainment, leisure and cultural activities.

Encouraging cycling and walking are priorities, alongside improving public transport, with the aim of improving accessibility and encouraging footfall. The council aims to improve bus journey times and improve safety, particularly at the junction of Camberwell Road, Camberwell Church Street, and Denmark Hill. It also aims to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.

A top priority for the council, the police and other public sector organisations is tacking the challenges of crime and anti-social behaviour and ensuring that local people and businessowners feel safe. Improving safety and people's perception of the area is vital to attracting visitors and sustaining the local economy. Likewise, graffiti, flyposting, fly-tipping and litter create an unwelcoming, unclean environment so tackling these issues is also essential. This town centre action plan sets out how we are working to create a safer, cleaner town centre.

Town centre actions

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Short-term			
Support for businesses, social enterprises and charities	The Greener Southwark Business Accelerator Programme will support local businesses to make savings and enhance their sustainability practices. Eligible organisations may access match funding grants of up to £5,000 to facilitate targeted interventions, including energy efficiency improvements and waste reduction strategies. The council funds a range of programmes to support businesses, social enterprises and charities. This includes support for high street businesses, recruitment support for hospitality businesses, and procurement support for businesses to help them access contract opportunities with public and private sector organisations. Find out more and apply	**Southwark Council, Hatch Enterprise, Heart of the City, Trampoline, Do It Now Now, The Southwark Climate Collective, Rinova**	Programmes open for applications and offer support at various times. Many applications open in Spring 2026
Grants and Funding	Funding opportunities for projects to improve Camberwell town centre includes: • Culture Grants: Residents and businesses can apply for funding to host events that celebrate Southwark's rich cultural diversity and bring our communities together. • Neighbourhood Grants: This fund supports projects that improve public spaces and address local priorities identified by residents and businesses. Find out more	**Southwark Council**	Application windows open at different times throughout the year. Find out more
Thriving High Streets Fund Round 3	The Thriving High Streets Fund has been awarded to two projects to help revitalise the high street. Camberwell Sounds is running a programme of grassroots music events to boost Camberwell as a cultural destination. SE5 Forum has received funding for the Eat Around the World Festival as well as other activities to increase footfall to Camberwell.	**Projects delivered by Camberwell Sounds and the SE5 Forum** **Funded by Southwark Council**	March 2026
Camberwell Library Meeting Pods	Camberwell Library will soon offer fully accessible meeting pods, providing affordable, quiet spaces for residents to use throughout the day. Whether you're studying, working remotely, holding a virtual meeting, or need a calm place to focus, these pods are designed to support a range of everyday needs. They'll be especially useful for freelancers, small business owners, and anyone looking for a flexible space to get things done.	**Southwark Council**	Available from Summer 2026
Cultural Celebrations (subject to ratification)	A series of events celebrating culture and community will take place in Camberwell. Funded by The Cultural Celebrations Fund, the events aim to bring visitors and locals to the area and support the town centre. The events in Camberwell include: • The World Garden 30th Anniversary in Burgess Park celebrating with music, art, talks and cultural tours. • Making Our Neighbourhood which is a micro-festival in Burgess Park combining live music, communal meals, craft workshops, and cultural talks. It aims to promote unity through food, music, and conversation. • The Beat Goes On is a SEND Community Festival for people with SEND, their families and carers. The festival will feature music, dance, art, games and stalls and aims to promote empowerment, creativity, and awareness.	**Southwark Council delivered by** **Friends of Burgess Park, Sounds Between CIC, and Black Stock Media Ltd.**	May to August 2026
E-cargo bikes	To help transition to sustainable and affordable transportation, Southwark businesses can apply for £900 vouchers to trial e-cargo bikes, covering half of the £300 monthly fee over six months. Bikes can be returned at no cost, or the subscription continued until full ownership. Apply here: Try Before You Bike.	**Funded by Southwark Council, operated by Peddle My Wheels**	May to August 2026
Community Toilets	Many people plan trips to our high streets around toilet availability. This includes those with medical conditions, disabilities, older residents, and families with young children. We are asking businesses to make their toilets available to all, without the need to be paying customers. Please register with Toilet Map to show your support. Residents can use the Toilet Map website to locate the 4 public toilets in Camberwell managed by the council as well as businesses who have listed their toilets as being accessible to all.	**Southwark Council**	Ongoing

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Digital Town Centre App	Funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been allocated towards a Digital Town Centre App for Camberwell. The Camberwell Life App is a centralised hub for local businesses, residents and community groups providing business listings, promotions, events and special offers. Download the app by searching "Camberwell Life" in the App Store or Google Play. Businesses can find out more about being listed by contacting SE5 Forum on admin@se5forum.org.uk.	**Southwark Council and SE5 Forum**	Ongoing
Medium-term			
Community Safety	The council works in partnership with the police, probation service, fire service and health partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and make the borough safer. This includes crime prevention initiatives such as: • Wardens that regularly patrol the town centre, along with the police, to offer a visible and reassuring presence and keep people safe. • Services to provide support to vulnerable people, including those experiencing exploitation, substance misuse, or mental health challenges. • Monitoring CCTV in town centres 24/7. A CCTV upgrade will see all existing Town Centre council CCTV cameras upgraded to HD by December 2026. You can view the CCTV locations here. • Working with businesses to raise awareness and promote initiatives to help prevent violence against women and girls. This includes distribution of anti-spiking kits, and promotion of Safe Havens and the Women's Night Safety Charter. • Borough wide offer of women's self-defence classes for residents. • The Southwark Policing Oversight Board which aims to improve trust and confidence through addressing issues such as transparency and accountability. • The council offers free self-defence sessions for women aged 18+ living in Southwark to support them to learn practical skills to protect themselves and feel more empowered. Over 250 women have benefited from the training so far. Signup here. • The new Women's Safety Alliance service which is available to all those living in Southwark, including men and boys, who have experienced, or are at risk of, gender based abuse. To support a safer Southwark, it is important for everyone, including businesses, to report crime so that we allocate resources to the places that need it the most.	**Community Safety Partnership: Southwark Council, police, probation service, fire service and health partners**	Ongoing

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Town centre cleanliness: waste, fly-tipping, flyposting, litter and graffiti	**Waste management and Enforcement** • Vicarage Grove is a trial location for tackling fly-tipping and a targeted campaign has commenced to address persistent fly-tipping problems. • Fines for environmental crimes such as fly-tipping and littering have increased and targeted enforcement patrols are now in place. Businesses caught fly-tipping face a £1,000 Fixed Penalty Notice, with unlimited fines if prosecuted. • At Brunswick Park enforcement officers conduct random patrols two to three times weekly, issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), collecting evidence, and closely monitoring hotspot areas. • The council is launching a volunteering pilot in March, with volunteers carrying out regular litter picks and removing fly-posting. • We are undertaking a review of waste sack management on Camberwell Church Street's night-time economy to tackle excessive business waste and reduce evening and night-time build-up. **Graffiti Management** • A 'graffiti blitz' programme has been introduced on Camberwell Church Street, which means that since last year, the team has carried out daily removal works leading to a noticeable reduction in the appearance of graffiti and positive feedback from both residents and businesses. This is being expanded to other graffiti 'hot spot' locations in Camberwell town centre • The council will be working with impacted businesses to identify and agree physical preventative measures to prevent and deter graffiti from reoccurring. • A free graffiti removal service is available for streetfacing graffiti below 2.5 metres. Businesses can sign up here: Graffiti and Flyposting Consent Form	**Southwark Council, with support from the SE5 Forum and local businesses**	Initial pilot work, including Vicarage Grove and Camberwell Church Street trial locations to be completed Spring 2026. Regular street cleaning and graffiti removal ongoing. Volunteering project launch in March 2026.
Re-development of Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court	There are plans to redevelop the Magistrates' Court into a mixed-use scheme. Although the scheme already has planning permission, it is currently undergoing variations. The development is intended to deliver positive benefits for both the local economy and the wider community.	**Camberwell Developments Limited**	Timeframes to be confirmed.

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Long-term			
Southwark Pensioners Centre	The council has committed £1m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) toward a new Southwark Pensioners Centre near the existing premises on Camberwell Road. The centre will contain a welcoming entrance and informative lobby space, 3 new activity rooms with programmed classes including exercise, arts and crafts, and kitchen and garden space for gathering and sharing food.	**Southwark Council**	To be completed by 2027
Better Bus Southwark	The council is working with TfL on a scheme to improve bus performance and reliability. It aims to cut journey times by up to 30%, reducing the need for travel by car and helping work towards a cleaner, greener Southwark. It also aligns closely with our Streets for People strategy, which sets out a bold vision for improving residents' quality of life by changing how we all travel and use our streets. Consultation and engagement will play a central role in shaping the scheme, ensuring that improvements reflect the needs and priorities of local residents and businesses. Follow the latest developments.	**Southwark Council and TFL**	Delivery to begin in 2027.
SC1 London	The SC1 London is a health and life science innovation district in South Central London. It brings public sector partners together with start-ups and innovative business with the goal of optimising health equity. It aims to locate health start-ups and businesses in town centres with a goal to create more jobs locally.	**South London Maudsley Hospital, King's College Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust, Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's College London, Guys and St Thomas' Foundation, King's Health Partners and Lambeth Council and Southwark Council**	Ongoing

How we're listening to your feedback

You Told Us	What we are doing
A safer Southwark: Crime and ASB are concerns	• Southwark Council is considering introducing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to help tackle behaviour that negatively impacts people in the borough. A consultation sought people's views, and the feedback will be used to help make a decision on whether the PSPO will be introduced.
A healthy environment: You're concerned about e-bikes and scooters cluttering pavements	• We are working to improve hire bike parking provision across the borough and now have a nearly 250 micromobility parking bays across the borough, working to deliver more in areas with more issues. Alongside this we are improving requirements around parking bays, so users are required to end their trip in a bay if there is one nearby. We are also working on future additional parking, which should further improve the issues faced across the borough.
Empowering people: You want to be involved on changes in your neighbourhood	• A Camberwell Neighbourhood meeting to engage with the local community was held on 26 November 2025. At this meeting residents were updated on the feedback so far from the Camberwell Neighbourhood consultation. The meeting involved discussing the key priorities for the area as raised by residents. The ambition is that the community plan reflecting these local needs and aspirations will be published in Spring 2026. • The Neighbourhoods Grant for 2026/27 received a strong response, with many applications submitted by local groups and individuals proposing projects to improve their neighbourhood. Applicants had the opportunity to present their ideas to ward councillors on 14 January 2026 and funding decisions will be announced on Wednesday 11 March 2026. To follow the latest developments in the Camberwell Neighbourhood, please follow this page: Camberwell Neighbourhood | London Borough of Southwark.
Other developments in Camberwell: You're concerned that developments that are slow to progress can attract ASB and create uncertainty for businesses	• Some developments in the area have not progressed as quickly as expected, including the Valmar Trading Estate and Butterfly Walk Shopping Centre. • Both schemes were granted permission between 2021 and 2023, with the former proposed for new homes, a hotel and a cinema, whereas the latter was proposed as a hotel, a cafe, and some residential units. • Developments, including those that are still at the planning stage can have an impact on town centres, for example, attracting ASB and can create high turnover of businesses because of feelings of uncertainty. • We will seek to update residents and the wider community on plans for the developments in the area, including the opportunities they present.

Useful Contacts and Information

The Camberwell Town Centre Action Plan is updated every year. We want to hear your ideas and feedback, such as services you'd like in your town centre, or issues the town centre action plan should prioritise. Share your views.

Safety

- Report a crime
  - If someone is in immediate danger call 999
  - If it's in the past report online
- Report ASB and noise nuisance
  - Call Southwark Council 020 7525 5777
- Sign up to the council's community safety newsletter or email CommunitySafety@southwark.gov.uk
- Sign up to Met Engage to get to know your local police officers and help shape how they police your local area.

Town Centre and Environment

- Report a problem in the town centre (like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting).
- A free graffiti removal service is available for private residents and businesses.

Support for Businesses

- Find out about support and advice for businesses
- Apply for a street furniture or pavement license (for shop displays, advertising boards or tables outside your premises)
- Sign up to the council's business newsletter

Staying Well

- Find out more about the Health on the High Street programme and Hubs for Health