

## **Report to Camberwell Community Council: Regeneration Cllr Sandra Rhule**

**May 2007**

A focus group meeting of the sub-group took place during December 2006. Those who took part were: Cllr Sandra Rhule, Maxine Douglas, Marlene Collins, and Tom Dempsey.

**The following issues were discussed:**

### **Money and Funding & Camberwell Green**

There has been a great deal of money allocated for Camberwell Green renewal that has not been used. This funding stream should be identified without delay. There is also the question of how much Camberwell has benefited from section 106 money over the years and whether LB Southwark could lever more money into Camberwell via this route.

### **Camberwell Leisure Centre**

If money were spent on the Leisure Centre and Library, this would be a great spur to the regeneration of Camberwell. They would provide a focus for the local schools and would add value to Camberwell's facilities for young people.

### **Transport, buses and the tram**

Transport matters are key to the regeneration of the Camberwell area. We see the cross river tram proposal as bringing much required extra capacity to the area, especially the under-resource Southampton Way triangle. There seems to be disparate planning processes, which should be joined up. For example:

- London Southbank University Report
- Camberwell Renewal Visual Audits
- Camberwell Travel Plan Group

### **Shops and street scene – the 'Bellenden' look**

Even when the Camberwell Green area as a town centre is cleaned, it still looks run down and shabby. Cleaner, Greener, Safer money does not cover the wholesale renewal that Camberwell requires, similar to the Bellenden area, or the current Walworth Road Project.

People would prefer a more uniform look for shops – tidier and more attractive, with some larger shops that could attract customers, and in turn support smaller independent businesses. Several plans have been put forward for a cinema project, which would generally be supported, however, large scale regeneration has been difficult were developers have been seen to over-exploit development opportunities.

Basically, there has been lots of idea and consultations – good and bad – since the inception of Community Council's in Southwark in 2002. However, there has been little action. The members of my group and I urge the Council executive to, at last, put some money where their mouth is, and spend on a total regeneration project for Camberwell – within the next administration.