

Eileen Conn - Written Statement for the Examination in Public (EiP) of the New Southwark Plan (NSP).

I have lived in Peckham since 1973 and for much of that time have been active as a resident in planning and other neighbourhood matters. I have co-ordinated the work of Peckham Vision and SPN (Southwark Planning Network) to encourage and develop systems to support others to take part. My main areas of concern about the soundness of the policies are informed by that community work and my own views from living and working in the borough. I have responded to all NSP consultations, and made representations on policies which appear in each Matter except SP4, in particular IP7 Community Involvement (SCI), SP2 Regeneration that works for all, SP5 Healthy active lives, Peckham site allocations, Local List, tall buildings and borough views.

February 2021

Matter 8 – Design, heritage and tall buildings	THURS 4 MARCH AM
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Issue 1

Whether the Plan is justified, effective, consistent with national policy and in general conformity with the London Plan in relation to design, heritage and tall buildings.

Relevant Policies – P12, P13, P18, P20, P22 – P25

Policy P25 – Local List

8.09 Does the policy offer appropriate protection for non-designated heritage assets in the Borough consistent with paragraph 197 of the NPPF? Has there been progress on preparing a Local List in Southwark and how does this relate to the Heritage SPD?

A draft SPD has finally been issued for consultation from January to 5th April 2021. There has not yet been time to consider this and discuss it within our communities locally. We have heard that a public meeting with the Council is being arranged for mid February but this will be after the submission deadline for these Written Statements. There will however have been time, by the EiP session for Matter 8, to have formed more complete responses to these Questions. In the meantime, these are some initial comments.

Community engagement:

- The Local List is included now as a policy in the NSP as a result of a community campaign across the borough during the NSP consultations. It was one of the Amended Policies in 2019.
- As part of that community action Peckham Vision worked with the Peckham Heritage Regeneration Partnership (PHRP) to arrange community workshops about the role of the Local List in protecting heritage. This was because the policy will be much more effective if it finds an effective way to tap into local knowledge about heritage and identify candidates for protection.
- We know from our experience of community work on planning, that such an activity is a very effective tool for helping people to engage with other local people in planning and related matters. This is because they can relate to the issues in a constructive way from personal lived knowledge of the places. Because it brings people together in furthering their mutual interests in their own neighbourhoods, it is the kind of activity that also helps to counter loneliness and nurture a greater sense of health and well being. This helps the planning process to contribute significantly to SP5 on 'Healthy, active lives'.
- This is so important that it needs to be written in as an additional policy in P25 to have a proactive process developed with the community to ensure wide participation. This is supported by the importance given to community experience and knowledge and inclusivity by Historic England's Advice Note on 'Local Heritage Listing; Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage' (December 2020).

Property owners & leaseholders

- NPPF Paragraph 197 encourages balanced judgement about the effects of development on non designated heritage assets. To be effective, property owners and leaseholders need guidance in carrying out their responsibilities for local heritage. This is important enough also to be included as a policy commitment in the NSP policy for the Local List in P25.

Definition of non designated heritage assets

- Part 2 of the policy appears to confine the Local List to 'buildings and structures', whereas it is defined in the draft SPD as 'buildings, structures and spaces'. It is important for the policy and the SPD to have the same definition, and to insert 'and spaces' in part 1.

Eileen Conn MA (Oxon) MBE
Woman of Influence for 2020 - The Planner
Southwark News - <https://bit.ly/2zUoHtD>
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