



Camberwell Town Centre

Action Plan

Camberwell Town Centre

Action Plan

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, safer and more vibrant places for people to visit and shop, and where businesses can rely on consistent and sufficient footfall to be successful.

Councillor John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business

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 400-metre BMX track at Burgess Park, stopping by Camberwell Leisure Centre, using the popular Camberwell library or passing through Camberwell Green. Camberwell is a transport hub and 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 tackling the challenges of crime and anti-social behaviour and ensuring that local people and business-owners 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			
Install Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems have been installed on both sides of Camberwell Station Road to alleviate flooding risk to local businesses and residents. The rainwater runs off the street and into an underground water table that waters the plants.	Southwark Council	Complete
Tree Planting	8 new trees have been planted on Camberwell Station Road to create a welcoming environment and to cool the street in the summer.	Southwark Council	Complete
Camberwell Station Road public realm improvements	<p>The council and the Greater London Authority have invested in a public realm scheme focussing in two key areas on Camberwell Station Road to create a greener, safer, and a more welcoming environment. This includes traffic calming measures, a segregated cycle lane, reducing opportunities to abandon vehicles, introducing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems with planting and creating a plaza outside the old station building which will display artwork.</p> <p>These improvements complement the recently renovated arches which provides more space for businesses. Two new businesses have moved in and are utilising the space.</p>	Southwark Council and GLA	To be completed by 2026.

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Medium-term			
Community Safety	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wardens that regularly patrol the town centre, along with the police, to offer a visible and reassuring presence and keep people safe. • <u>Southwark Young Advisors</u> who are specially trained to work with young people at risk of crime and can signpost them to specialist services. • Monitoring CCTV in town centres 24/7. • Working with businesses to deliver training to help prevent violence against women and girls and promote the <u>Women's Night Safety Charter</u>. <p>It is important for everyone, including businesses, to report crime so that we allocate resources to the places that need it the most.</p>	Community Safety Partnership: Southwark Council, police, probation service, fire service and health partners	Ongoing
Town centre cleanliness: waste, fly-tipping, flyposting, litter and graffiti	<p>The council is piloting a new approach to improve the cleanliness of town centres, targeting fly-tipping, graffiti, fly posting and litter issues. The pilot aims to work collaboratively with businesses and residents to trial new measures that deter and prevent incidents from reoccurring. Focusing on awareness raising, education and enforcement, the council aims to drive the required long-term behaviour changes to effectively address these issues.</p> <p>Vicarage Grove is a trial location for tackling fly-tipping, while. Camberwell Church Street has been chosen as the trial area for tackling graffiti and flyposting. The Council would like to hear from local shop owners on Camberwell Church Street who suffer from graffiti and flyposting to explore what can be done together to tackle it. To find out more about the Camberwell Church Street graffiti action plan work, please email: southwark.cleaning@southwark.gov.uk</p>	Southwark Council	<p>Initial pilot work to be completed summer 2025. Approach and key learning expected to be rolled out following the initial pilots.</p> <p>Regular street cleaning and graffiti removal ongoing.</p>

Action	Description	Delivery Team	Timeframe
Traffic calming measures on Camberwell Station Road	Traffic calming measures are being installed in two key locations on Camberwell Station Road, alongside a bike lane. This aims to improve safety and enable active travel.	Southwark Council	To be completed by Spring 2025
Re-development of Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court	There are plans to re-develop the Magistrates' Court which would deliver a mixed-use scheme offering residential use, a hotel, recording studios and a community space. The development aims to positively impact on both the local economy and community.	Camberwell Developments Limited	Planning Committee Spring 2025
Long-term			
Improving bus journey times	The council is exploring options to make highways improvements to neighbouring areas such as Walworth Road. This will impact on transport to Camberwell as we aim to improve bus journey times in the area. As part of this, the council has applied for funding through Transport for London (TFL).	Southwark Council	Funding decision by summer 2025. Works to be completed by 2030
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
Support for businesses in Camberwell: you want to see new and existing small businesses in Camberwell thrive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Camberwell-based small businesses have been awarded grant funding from the Southwark Pioneers Fund, a council-funded programme to support Southwark businesses to start-up and grow. • We've funded two Camberwell-based projects through our Thriving High Streets Fund, which provides funding for projects and activities that support the high street. Both projects worked with local businesses to increase footfall in the town centre.
Air pollution: you're concerned about levels of air pollution in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In developments around Camberwell, we're integrating features that will help reduce or mitigate air pollution. • We are improving the way we manage air pollution from construction sites by increasing the number of site inspections and by requiring deployment of monitoring equipment. • We measure three air pollutants in the area; nitrogen dioxide (NO2), Particulate Matter (PM10), and fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5). Measurements show that NO2 emissions halved on Camberwell Church Street between 2012-2022.
Staying well: You want to make healthy choices for yourself and those you care for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Southwark Health Outreach Programme offers free advice and health checks to residents over 18. You can get advice on stopping smoking, preventing long-term health conditions and how to access local screening for different types of cancer. Health roadshows take place across the borough. More information can be found at Health and wellbeing roadshows Southwark Council
Other developments in Camberwell: You're concerned that developments that are slow to progress can attract ASB and create uncertainty for businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some developments in the area have not progressed, despite being given planning permission, for example 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 six months. 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

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](#)

Updated March 2025

