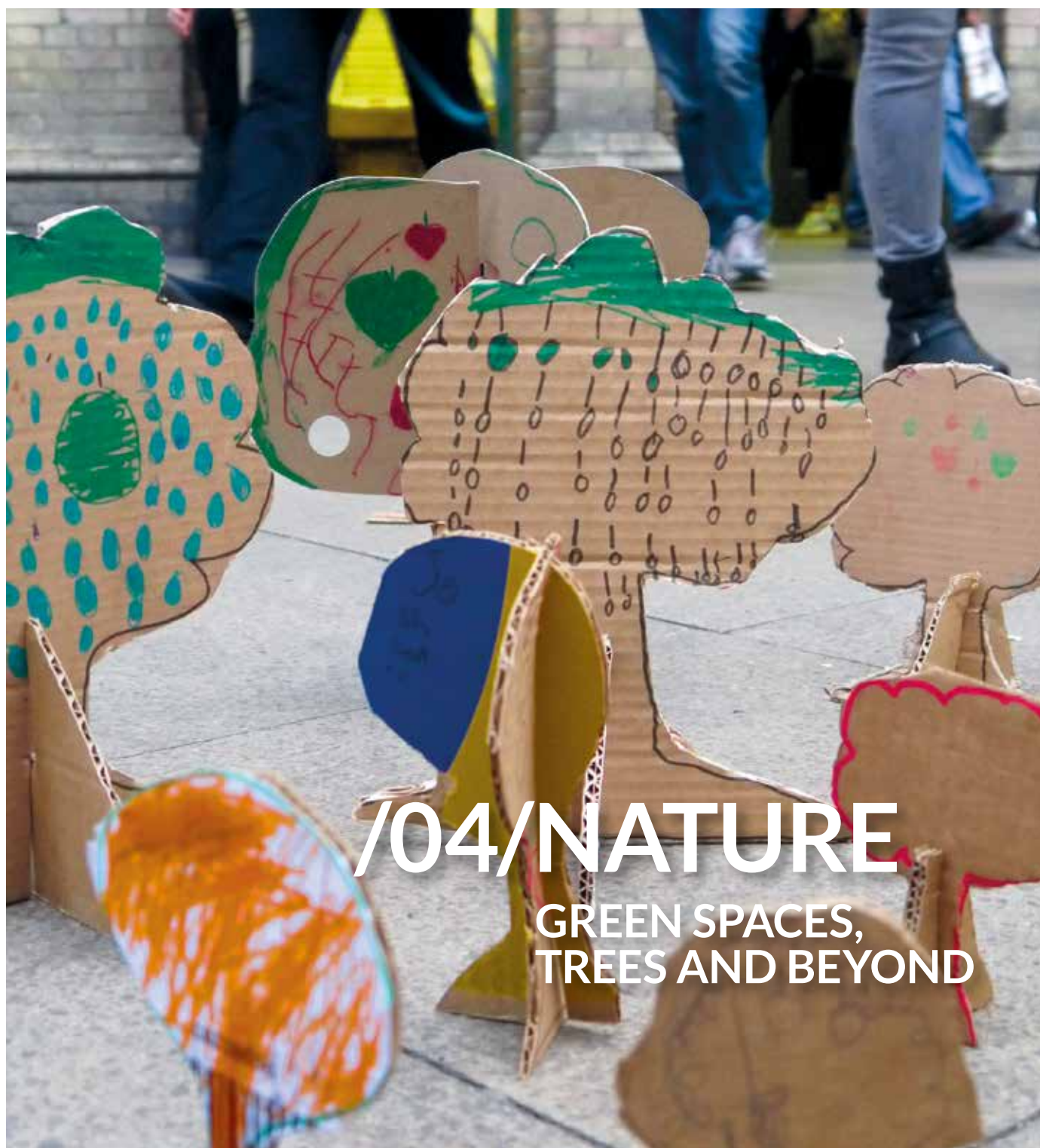


PECKHAM WEEKLIES

PECKHAMWEEKLIES.ORG.UK



/04/NATURE

GREEN SPACES,
TREES AND BEYOND

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NATURE

THIS IS #4 OF THE PECKHAM WEEKLIES

The editorial process

While the CODESIGN project has now ended, the editorial team keeps going! Since September we have been meeting on Tuesday evenings to discuss and produce the “Peckham Weeklies” with the aim of capturing and presenting local intelligence. By addressing planning and strategic issues, place specific proposals and general observations, the magazine aims to frame aspirations for the centre of Peckham and inform its future. The information gathered provides valuable insights into how Peckham ticks and the context for numerous future development projects as outlined in the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan.

Trees are on top of the wish-list for the centre of Peckham, only surpassed by more seating. People told us that they value nature and feel protective about local parks, small green spaces and wildlife. Green and open spaces are important to the quality of life and attractiveness of dense urban environments. As city dwellers we rely on these spaces for enjoyment, recreation or play and need them for providing shade, cleaner air and wildlife habitats. Green spaces shouldn't be seen in isolation from each other but are part of an extensive network that spans across the city linking parks, private gardens, allotments, green verges, trees, roofs and green walls to name a few. The protection and extension of green corridors through the city supports biodiversity and wildlife habitats while providing valuable breathing spaces for residents.

Green networks are also promoted as alternative transport routes for walking and cycling thus forming part of London's transport infrastructure.

While the centre of Peckham provides an above average amount of open spaces for London, the quality of these small parks are consistently considered below average quality and value (Southwark Open Space Strategy). Warwick Gardens, supported by Warwick Garden Friends Group and awarded a Green Flag is the only exception and visited by scientists from across the UK for its important wildlife habitats. Also local initiatives have highlighted the possibilities that the currently inaccessible railway embankments off Rye Lane could offer to the centre of Peckham.

The existing open spaces shouldn't be taken for granted as their existence is far from secure. Most parks and local green spaces are owned by the Council and are at risk of being released as development sites to accommodate the housing targets in inner London. Open spaces need your protection!

This WEEKLY edition highlights that the involvement and support of residents and local businesses in the maintenance and improvement of green spaces in the centre of Peckham is the way forward. Get involved!.

*Ulrike Steven
(Architect)*

Themes for forthcoming issues:

No.1 / Culture

No.2 / Play

No.3 / History

No.4 / Nature

No.5 / Public space

No.6 / Commerce

No.7 / Made in Peckham

No.8 / In the dark

Now half way through the production of the eight planned issues, we would like to evaluate the outcomes so far and **welcome your feedback**. Please tell us what you think!

Email Ulrike@what-if.info

WEEKLYs are available online at www.peckhamweeklies.org.uk

Get involved

We are looking for new contributors for the next issues. Come along on Tuesday evening or contact Ulrike@what-if.info

The Weeklies editorial team meets on Tuesdays 7pm at All Saints Hall, Blenheim Grove (walk through the gate next to the church, the hall is in the courtyard) and are open to all.

Editorial team:

The fourth Peckham CoDesign Weekly was produced by a team of local residents:

[Yelena Chernyakova](#) graphic designer

[Eileen Conn](#) Coordinator Peckham Vision

[Charlotte Fereday](#) service designer

[Dan Harder](#) graphic designer, <http://concentric.blue>

[Flossy Harry](#) A level student

[Kevin Jones](#) landscape architect

[Audrey Kidd](#) Peckham Vision

[Peter Lurie](#) singer, architect, blogging coach, flower documenter

[Michelle Male Shaw](#) architect

[Penny Metal](#) graphic designer, DJ, insect photographer

[Hannah Padgett](#) Sustrans

[Amy Poulson](#) architect

[Veronica Simpson](#) journalist

[Ulrike Steven](#) architect, What if: projects

[Benjamin Vaughan](#) illustrator

[Corinne Turner](#) Peckham Vision

[André Viljoen](#) architect

Supported by: Izzy Parker (designer), Ash Sakula team (architects, coDesign), Ben (resident), Kwame Afriyie (architect), Andrea Cippitelli (architect), Alistair Huggett (Southwark), Amy Poulson (architect), Ian Rennie (banker), Susan Schott (Southwark kitchen), Clyde Watson (architect, Peckham Vision), Lorelie Wilson (Copeland Park), Nick Woodford (architect)

PECKHAM IS GREEN

But the spaces generally scored lower in terms of quality than other spaces in the borough. Green spaces add great ecological, social and economic value to neighbourhoods. They are a precious resource worth improving and protecting for future generations. Council and neighbours: collaborate!



- Public green spaces: 2.2 ha
- Inaccessible green spaces: 0.97 ha
- Shared green, housing estates (accessible): 0.77 ha
- Greening projects: 0.23 ha
- Public trees: Street trees, railway embankments
- Private gardens: 11.6ha
- Below average quality and/or value

Accessible green spaces (protected open space)

1. Warwick Gardens (Proposed site of Importance for Nature Conservation)
2. Holly Grove Shrubbery
3. Bellenden Road Tree Nursery (Site of Local Importance to Nature Conservation)
4. Highshore Rd Open Space
5. McDermott Road Nature Garden
6. Cossal Park
7. Lyndhurst Square Flaxyard (not protected open space)
8. Sumner Road green (not protected open space)

Inaccessible green spaces

9. Blenheim Grove "wilderness"
10. Former rifle range "wilderness"
11. "wilderness" along railway, ground level
12. "green corridor" at high level, potential green route towards Queens Road
13. Nunhead Railway Embankment

Greening projects and initiatives

14. Rye Lane orchard
15. All Saints community garden
16. Bournemouth Close greening (Sustrans)

Quality Assessment

The range and condition of facilities within each open space were assessed using a scoring criterion method derived from the Civic Trust Green Flag standard assessment which is also consistent with the GLA guidance. The standard is based partly on a physical site appraisal of 27 criteria relating to the range, quality and condition of park facilities which accounts for 70% of the overall score and a desk research element relating to management arrangements and sustainability which comprises of the remaining 30% of the score.

Refer to: Southwark Open Space Strategy / Evidence Base Report

OPEN SPACES AT RISK

Part of Peckham's great charm derives from the existing green spaces and 'pocket parks' within the town centre. Even seeing greenery at high level, growing from the walls of the railway arches, adds delight and biodiversity. It would be an asset if some of the currently inaccessible green spaces were made available for public use and if the new station square could have greenery to enhance the centre of Rye Lane, which currently lacks trees, helping to link up a chain of pocket parks of ecological and environmental benefit.

The new Southwark Plan suggests that protected open spaces including Metropolitan Open Land, Borough Open Land as well as amenity spaces on housing estates might have to be released to accommodate the housing target.

(Reference: Southwark Plan (draft), page 21, DM4: Locations for new homes)

GREEN POCKETS

NATURE NEEDS TO BE EVERYWHERE



Cossall Park



Choumert Square



William Griggs' Garden



Clifton Estate



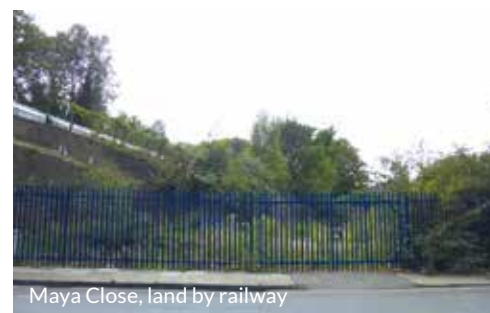
View from multi-storey car park



Warwick Gardens



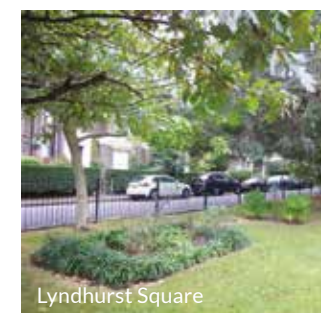
Kirkwood Nature Reserve



Maya Close, land by railway



Parkstone Road Estate



Lyndhurst Square



London Wildlife Trust, Bellenden Road



Sri Chinmoy Peace Garden,
Thomas Calton Centre



Derek Jarman Garden,
Frank's Café, Multi Storey Car Park roof



McDermott Grove



Nutbrook Street



Cossall Park

VOICES OF PECKHAM

SELECTED QUOTES FROM COMMONPLACE COMPILED BY CHARLOTTE FEREDAY

People have different opinions, likes and dislikes. This is how they said it:

All comments can be found on Commonplace:
www.peckhamcodesign.org/commonplace

“

“It would be great to maybe draw on some of the enthusiasm for community gardening in the area and grow things with their participation. How about some raised veg beds so children make the connection with where food comes from in the veg stalls.”

“Peckham is full of semi-tropical planting in people's gardens which makes it always feel more tropical and warm on a sunny day. banana trees and palms. That would be great in the new square - it reminds you of the caribbean and ties you into the side streets.”

“Connection between buses and station is a priority... I'd like to see a square, too many parks in England and I'd like to have a square with all the activities that populates it”

“There's no planting between the Blenheim Grove Church and Rye Lane, maybe some greenery would be nice.”

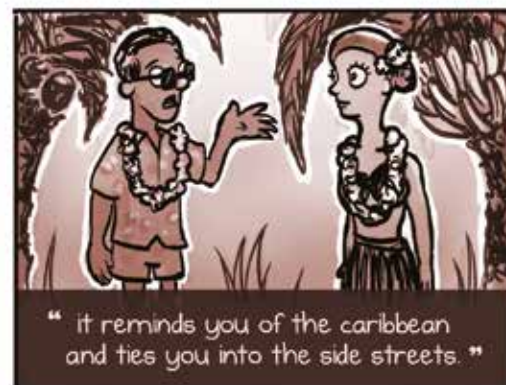
“The station needs an upgrade to the current station volume flow, with an access for wheelchairs and baby prams. Also need a more green type space.”

“You can just plant a few trees - even plant a massive creeper and grass wall or something, and provide more lighting and seating, but keep the 1930s architecture and the people as they are! Let us celebrate the area for its unique demographic and local population!”

“The space outside the train station leaves such a bad impression for visitors and should be redeveloped with a more open feel including a fountain? flowerbeds etc..?”

”

SEMI-TROPICAL



<http://peckhamcodesign.org/commonplace>

“

“Peckham as urban eco-pioneer = Edible planting fruit trees, green walls, micro forest gardening, rain water harvesting. Peckham needs a 3rd identity separate from individual stories, race, social geography. Could this be as an exemplar sustainable urban community?”

“Some more trees and greening of the area would add to the exoticism.”

ON OTHER GREEN SPACES

“Peckham is full of tiny green spaces like this [on McDermott Road] which makes it a softer more inviting, breathable area than it would be otherwise. Would like that greenness reflected in a new square - don't make it harsh and industrial.”

“[The unused green space at the North end of Bellenden Road] could be a great hub of a community food growing project? With the number of Food Charities for families without enough income to feed themselves in the local area why not give people skills to grow their own and even take it to market?”

“[Choumert Square] is a very linear square. It's a beautiful alley with lots of green and village character in the centre of Peckham. Feels like holiday!”

“Overgrown and fenced off pocket of land adjacent to the railway [on Blenheim Grove]. This small green space could become an accessible bit of wilderness in the centre of Peckham.”

“There are too many street drinkers in this bit of green [on Holly Grove] so at the moment it's not being used much and there's not much planting so doesn't make you feel like you'd want to sit there.”

FROM TREASURE HUNT, NATURE

“It would be great to have green routes in Peckham, nice to feel that you are in nature. Would need to be safe with lighting. Let's open up all the hidden green spaces”

“A map of the local area that includes green spaces would be useful.”

“I would rather walk in a space that is green with trees.”

“Spring bulbs, and annual flowers have been planted at the bases of street trees and the edges of park railings. These are much appreciated for example the snowdrops all along Holly Grove Shrubbery brought joy to many last winter. There were tiny daffodils around street trees in Lyndhurst Way. These are tiny examples but even small interventions make a difference.”

”

SMALL THINGS MAKE THE BIG THINGS HAPPEN

ENRICHING HABITATS FOR OUR INSECT RESIDENTS IN PECKHAM

For the past four years I have been photographing the insects of Warwick Gardens. What started out as a survey of 'an insignificant park in London' has turned out to be a revelation with over 430 different species being recorded. The sheer diversity of insect life in this park has astounded me and has put Peckham firmly on the entomological map prompting curious entomologists from all over the country to visit, all the while commenting that Warwick Gardens is such a small park. Small yes, but packs a big invertebrate punch! Exciting finds have included the first UK sighting of the 'Peckham' leafhopper *Orientalis ishidae*, robust populations of Mottled shield bug and Southern oak bush-cricket, and quite a few Notable B (uncommon) species including Scarce fungus weevil and several solitary wasps. This survey has contributed in a small way to the Green Flag Award, earned in 2012, with big benefits for all of us in terms of valuable green space.

And all this tiny life is happening alongside the usual hubbub of a local park – Sunday footballers, dog walkers, children running around and the summer sunbathers. This co-existence fascinates me. I like that the digger wasps are busily making their nests in a log directly beneath someone eating their lunchtime sandwiches. I love the highs of discovering all the Roesel's bush-cricket nymphs I recorded in the spring survived a precarious childhood and matured into adults who light up a summer's day with their singing. The lows of finding that all the tortoiseshell butterfly caterpillars have been eaten by birds. And I must be the only person in Peckham who fretted over a wasp spiders' decision to spin her web low down in the grass next to the football pitch, with twice daily visits to check she hadn't been squashed by a football!

A lot of people don't like insects or are scared of them. I am slowly winning them round with my photos and enthusiasm for all things with six legs and wings. Information is key to this. It's fine to tell someone 'it's a wasp...' and watch them freak out, but adding '...a solitary wasp which won't sting you and will take all the aphids from your rose bush to feed her young' vastly diminishes any fears. I don't expect to turn people into entomophiles but by creating awareness of them and the importance of their habitats can go a long way in reviewing attitudes towards them. It's my small contribution towards change.

Bit by bit

Change is scary to most people, more so at the moment in these times of economic uncertainty and the ever-increasing pace of life. But change can be persuaded along in bite-size pieces. People can't always visualise planning proposals in 2 dimensions on a piece of paper, but are happy to 'test' ideas out. When it comes to creating or changing green spaces a small test patch of wildflowers can be extended into a verge, a planted box of herbs can lead to more planted boxes, even a bee hotel nailed to a wall can eventually be turned into an estate of bee hotels. People need to see the ideas in practice. The success of wild-planting in housing estates, through the

Neighbourhoods Green programme, has led to once sceptical communities embracing a new approach to making their estates more natural.

I want us to be linking up our green spaces to create corridors – or living landscapes – for insects to navigate between places. This aligns with the current ecological policy of 'bigger, better, more joined up' being taken forward in our towns and cities as well as the wider countryside. The current B-Lines project, spearheaded by Buglife, encourages us to 'create wide strips of permanent, wildflower-rich habitats linked together to form a network which will benefit bees, butterflies and other insects'. Although initially set up to link meadows together we can put ourselves on the map with our own urban B-Lines by linking up our parks, gardens and green spaces with wildflower-rich borders, window boxes and planters. These relatively low-cost, low-maintenance solutions are small but the benefits to wildlife, and us, are big. Flowers enrich our spirits, clean the air and provide valuable food for our insects.

However, a lot of new landscape initiatives are not necessarily ecologically useful. Ideally planting should be with locally native species reflecting the local ecological vernacular, or at least plants that support local insects. In Holly Grove the winter flowering mahonia with its bright yellow blooms, though native to Asia and North America, has been



Warwick Gardens: Park with Green Flag Award; maintained by Warwick Gardens Friends Group and LB Southwark.



adopted by the Buff-tailed bumblebee as a valuable food source resulting in this bee adapting to life in the winter. This is exciting new behaviour for a species that traditionally hibernates.

And mirrored planting should be adopted. The newly planted edible hedge in Warwick Gardens could be replicated in Holly Grove and William Grigg's Garden using identical plants creating snack bars for insects. Encouraging Morrisons and Lidl to incorporate native planting schemes in their car parks would go a long way to linking the green spaces either side of Peckham High Street. In the case of Lidl they could take inspiration from the Bellenden Road Nature Garden by creating a space to allow plants to naturally colonise. Supermarkets, with their large expanse of walls, are also perfect places to erect bee hotels. Inspire residents to 'leave a patch to grow wild' in their gardens in the connecting streets and a B-Line will have been extended all the way to Warwick Gardens. Go further and we can link up to Peckham Rye Park. Eventually B-Lines could be extended to link up all the green spaces in Peckham and beyond.

Creating specific insect-friendly habitats is also important. The stag beetle, Britain's largest beetle, is a threatened species but as the London Wildlife Trust has shown through its work, there is a stronghold in south London. Peckham is a stag beetle 'hotspot' and we need to encourage them to stay, so log piles in our green spaces for their larvae to develop need to be installed. The aforementioned bee hotels encourage nesting solitary bees and wasps, important pollinators, into the landscape. These small inclusions don't have to be visible, they can be tucked away amongst existing planting, or introduced in less well-used spaces such as car parks.

Healthy competition

Sometimes a big statement can be made. Competitions are good for this. My award-winning bug hotel Innvertebrate, which sits in Bunhill Fields cemetery, was the result of a competition run by British Land aimed at the corporate building world to garner interest in architecture within the environment. Local businesses could adopt this idea to commission our own boutique bug and bee hotels, create unique designs for flower planters or even hold annual planting displays in our parks.

Finally, information is vital. Whilst environmental schemes have been going on for the past 40 years they still require explanation. Plonking a log pile in Holly Grove might look to some as though the council have forgotten to tidy up but an adjacent sign explaining the reason for it turns it into a habitat. Well-designed and informative signage indicates care and a sense of local ownership, and should be adopted wherever possible.

These are some small solutions for instigating change for the better but once established we can be bolder with our ideas for bigger change. It can lead the way to incorporating more nature-friendly greenery into our developments. The health of our insect populations are vital in supporting the world's ecosystems and Peckham should be embracing the chance to fully integrate them into our lives.

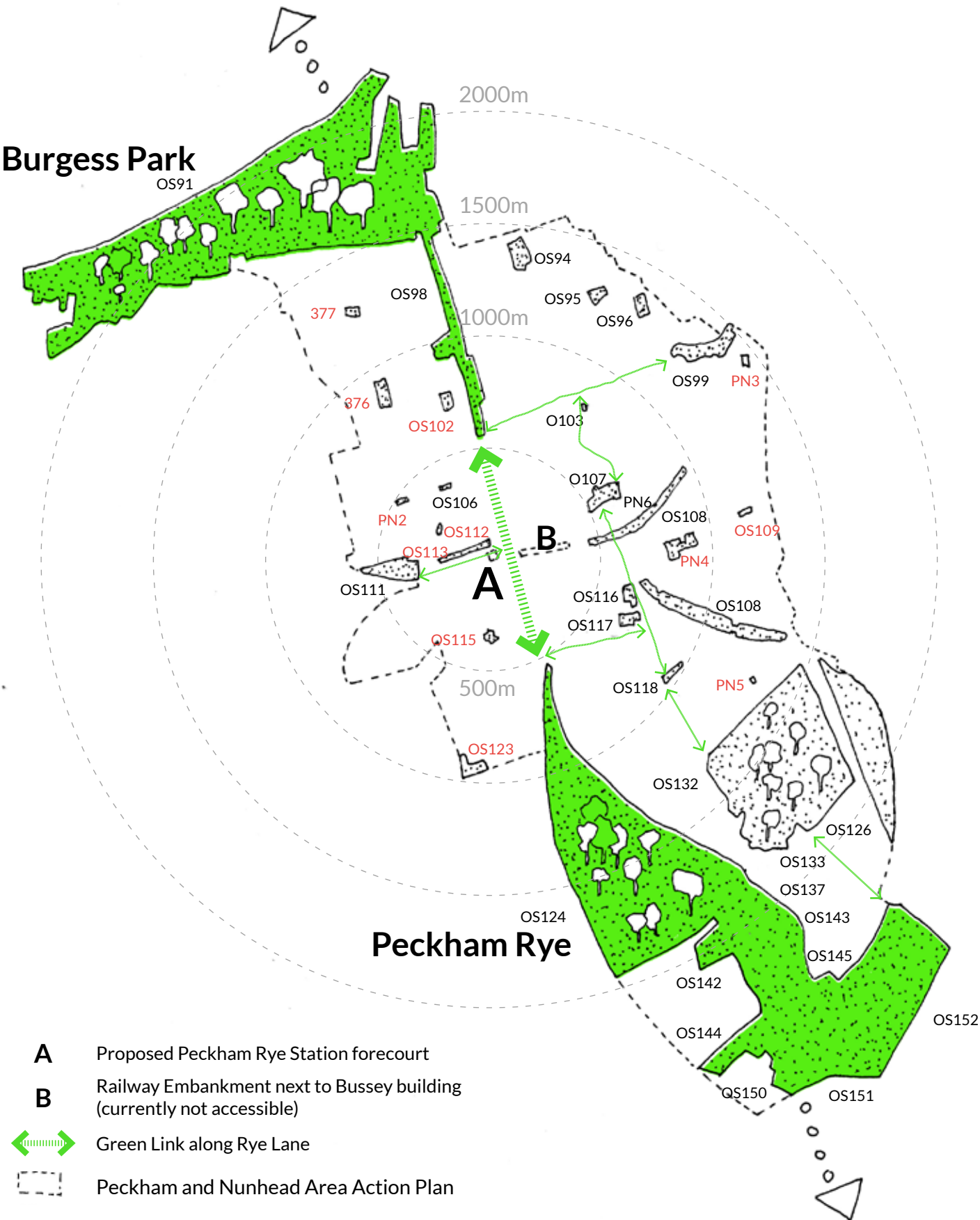
Penny Metal is a graphic designer, DJ and insect photographer. She has lived in Peckham for 20 years.

"It's my small contribution towards change"



GREEN LINKS

Peckham has the most significant linear greenspace in the form of the Surrey Canal Walk linking Burgess Park with Peckham town centre. There is potential to extend this link southwards through the town centre to connect with Peckham Rye Park & Peckham Rye Common. *Southwark Open Space Strategy, Jan 2013, p. 78*



Site ID	Name of Space	Size (ha)	Level of Open Space Protection	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
OS91	Burgess Park	47.62	●	
OS 94	Leyton Square	1.03	●	
OS95	Bird-in-Bush Park	0.48	●	Local Importance
OS96	Caroline Gardens	0.47	●	
OS98	Surrey Canal	3.82	●	
OS99	Brimmington Park	1.79	●	
OS102	Sumner Park	0.37	●	
OS103	Goldsmith Road Nature Garden	0.09	●	Local Importance
OS106	Bellenden Road Tree Nursery	0.07	●	Local Importance
OS107	Cossall Park	1.12	●	
OS108	Nunhead Railway Embankments	4.97	●	Borough Importance (Grade 2)
OS109	St Mary Fobisher Gardens	0.14	●	
OS111	Warwick Gardens	1.53	●	
OS112	Highshore Open Space	0.09	●	Local Importance
OS113	Holly Grove Shrubbery	0.32	●	
OS115	Mc Dermott Grove Nature Garden (allotments)	0.13	●	Local Importance
OS116	Consort Park	0.34	●	Local Importance
OS117	Dr Harold Moody Park	0.51	●	
OS118	Nunhead Green	0.28	●	
OS123	Goose Green Playground	0.4	●	
OS124	Peckham Rye Park, Common + Piermont Green	42.75	●	Borough Importance (Grade 1)
OS126	Nunhead Cemetry	20.37	●	Metropolitan Importance
OS132	Water Works	0.25	●	
OS133	Nunhead Allotments	3.46	●	
OS137	Waverly School	1.46	●	
OS142	Homestall Road Playing Field (private)	1.73	●	
OS143	Aquarius Golf Course (private)	13.31	●	Borough Importance (Grade 2)
OS144	Brenchley Gardens	3.53	●	Borough Importance (Grade 2)
OS145	Camberwell New Cemetery and Grounds	17.72	●	Borough Importance (Grade 2)
OS150	One Tree Hill	6.95	●	Borough Importance (Grade 2)
OS151	Honor Oak Allotments	2.21	●	
OS152	Honor Oak Sports Ground	5.06	●	
376	Central Venture Park Playground	0.22		
377	Calypso Gardens	0.23	●	
PN1	Jowett Street Park	0.84	●	
PN2	Lyndhurst Square	0.03	●	
PN3	Montague Square	0.11	●	
PN4	Brayards Green	00.71		
PN5	Buchan Hall Sports Pitch (private)	0.06	●	

Spaces in Peckham generally scored lower in terms of quality than other spaces in the borough.

The following spaces should be prioritised for improvements:
OS103; OS150; PN1; OS142; PN5

Key

XXXXXX Below average value

Below average quality

● Metropolitan Open Land

 Borough Open Land

- Other Open Space

● Recommended for protection as Other Open Space

NEW GREEN ROUTES

GREEN PATHWAYS TO THE STATION TO THE EAST FROM RYE LANE

There are two wide green stretches of land running along on both sides of the rail tracks on the London Bridge lines, between the Bussey Building and the Scaffold Yard. They are currently unloved and neglected, but full of wild greenery. For the last couple of years, some local people #1, brought together by Peckham Vision, have been developing an idea to turn these green areas into two new green pathways, with access from Rye Lane. They would connect with the eastern side of Rye Lane, bringing two green areas right into the town centre, opposite the station.

One is a high level path reusing a redundant rail track overlooking the Scaffold Yard, and the other is a ground level path from Rye Lane between the Bussey Building and the rail embankment. Each would join Rye Lane opposite the station, on either side of the rail bridge for the London Bridge rail lines. These pathways could offer exciting opportunities for imaginative redesign of the public spaces around the station. They also open up opportunities for a green walking/cycling route between Peckham Rye station all the way to Queen's Road, Peckham.

The area across the road on the eastern side of Rye Lane provides crucial context for any new public space in front of the station. In addition, the land around the important Art Deco building opposite the station, and the historic cobbled area around it, is to be restored as part of the THI scheme (Townscape Heritage Initiative). The cobbles around that building and the brick walls holding up the rail tracks are historic features, which can be restored to add a touch of authentic Peckham history to the new public realm space.

They also link directly to the opening up of the eastern arches between the rail lines (PNAAP site 3), and to the proposed improvement of the north-south pedestrian connections. Some of the businesses on the west side of the station, and in Dovedale Court could even be relocated to the arches in the east, if needs be. There seems a strong case for thinking conceptually about the developments on west and east together. If the new proposals focus solely on the western side, linked to the improvements around the front of the station, we will miss important opportunities for creating major improvements to the look, feel and connectivity of the wider area.

This seems to me to be the perfect moment to discuss the idea of the two new green paths and the opening up of the eastern arches alongside them, to see how they can fit in with re-imagining the public realm around the station area and the arches on both sides of Rye Lane. It might even be simpler and more fruitful to integrate first the eastern arches into an expanded commercial area for the town centre rather than the western arches in Dovedale Court. The eastern arches are within the area at the centre of the new creative and cultural sector hub in central Peckham that developed adjacent to the railway viaducts both on the north and south side.

I would like to think that the interest generated by the CoDesign initiative might expand our remit for major improvements, rather than shrink our sights down to the only area that has currently been highlighted for funding - the station forecourt. With imagination and local support, we could achieve something remarkable.

For more info refer to www.peckhamvision.org

Eileen Conn, Coordinator Peckham Vision



Removal of the station archade would reveal this view towards the art deco former department store opposite the station. The square could extend across Rye Lane and link to the courtyard behind the historic building (see image below).



View from the proposed green path; a currently overgrown site next to the railtracks. If the space isn't needed for future railway lines, it could be made accessible for pedestrians.

Visit peckhamcoalline.strikingly.com for further details



Drawings by What if: projects

POCKET PLACES PECKHAM

LET'S SHARE OUR SPACES

Pocket Places Peckham is part of a nationwide initiative for Sustrans. In Peckham we are working in partnership with Southwark Council and community interest company Health Wisdom.

Sustrans believes that high streets should be shared equally by all the people that use them whether they're in a car, on two wheels or on foot. Too often high streets are dominated by heavy motorised traffic and pedestrians and cyclists are pushed to the margins.

In order to improve the experience of walking and cycling into the town centre, Pocket Places Peckham aims to transform underused spaces along Rye Lane into lively community places. Our approach is to co-design ideas with the local community and then trial them temporarily in the spaces before making the more successful trials permanent.

In Peckham we started by having lots of conversations with people who were living and working in the area, from community groups, to artists, residents to shopkeepers. The aim was to get an initial insight into Rye Lane from the experts – the people who are there all the time.

The next stage was to hold a series of co-creation workshops, taking those who were interested in being community urban designers through the design process. They were able to contribute their experiences, good and bad, and use them to come up with blue skies ideas for the area.

Over 30 ideas came out of these sessions and were put to a public vote online, on the pavement and in Peckham Rye Station. The ideas were talked through, and brought down to reality in further workshops where the discussion developed towards implementation. By winter 2013 the first draft plans for six Pocket Places were circulated and critiqued during a Candle lit Walkabout.

Working closely with Southwark Council while holding various community events the second draft plans were developed, plotting out where each of the trials should go. Over spring and with the help of an army of volunteers the trials were built and installed ready for the Pocket Places Peckham Spaces event where they were demonstrated to over 3,000 people.



Using feedback on the trials and from the Council's statutory consultation process the concept designs have been developed followed by detailed designs which will be constructed in three final Pocket Places; Moncrieff Place, Choumert Grove Car Park, and Bournemouth Close in 2015.

In Moncrieff Place, Rye Lane Orchard was trialled as result of a direct suggestion from a resident, having seen What If: Projects' installation 'Octavia's Orchard' on the Southbank. It is accompanied, among other things, by a 90 metre wall of street art which enlivens the gloomy alleyway along the side of the Multi-storey car Park. In Choumert Grove Car Park a buskers bandstand was trialled along with a 'community venue' use of the car park itself. In Bournemouth Close artwork adorned the vacant garages, while a community garden was built and planted with residents from Atwell Estate. On Rye Lane itself a radical design was applied to the road. Slowing traffic speeds by creating uncertainty for motorists and indicating the presence of pedestrians.

Many of the ideas that we trialled were successful and from the feedback we received, we learnt what could be tweaked and what needed to change completely. As we move into the construction phase concept designs and detailed designs will show how we are taking a holistic approach both to the spaces themselves and the routes into and through Rye Lane.



For more information on the Pocket Places project in Peckham visit pocketplacespeckham.wordpress.com

For further information on the Sustrans' Community Street Design projects visit www.sustrans.org.uk/our-services/what-we-do/community-street-design

About Sustrans

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

As part of our work we bring communities together to help them redesign their streets to make them safer and more attractive places to live, where people come first. These projects are known as DIY Streets or Pocket Places and offer an affordable, community-led alternative to standard street design.

This project is delivered with funding and support from Southwark Council and Health Wisdom, the Community Interest Company supported by the People's Health Trust.

RYE LANE ORCHARD

NATURE, FOOD AND A BIT OF RESPITE

Rye Lane orchard is the little sister of Octavia's orchard, a temporary installation by What if: projects using 36 wheely bins as planters for fruit trees and meadows outside the Royal Festival Hall. Octavia's orchard was commissioned in 2013 by the Southbank Centre in collaboration with the National Trust and as part of the Southbank's Festival of Neighbourhood the orchard was offered for adoption to community groups in London for their own grounds. In response to an application from Peckham, 16 bins were donated to Pocket Places Peckham and installed in Moncrieff Place, an unloved area outside the Peckham Plex Cinema.

The metal wheely bins that were used at the Southbank went into hibernation on a vacant top floor of the Peckham Plex's cinema and came out in the spring 2014 as Rye Lane orchard. Working with a group of volunteers over a period of two weeks new seating was made and painted in red and white stripes, 16 metal wheely bins were filled with soil, fruit trees were planted and wildflowers sown.

Traditional recipes on how to make quince salami, crab apple pie or Rowan jelly can be found below the corresponding trees encouraging the use of local resources and locally grown food. Peckham was well known for its market gardens until the nineteenth century. Melons, figs and grapes were all grown here. With the lack of refrigeration, food had to be grown close to its final market and Peckham was ideally situated to provide produce for the large London market on its doorstep.

Before the installation began on the site, the proposed seating for the orchard attracted a lot of criticism; it was predicted that seating would result in anti-social behavior and street drinking. Half a year later, local traders have confirmed that the seating has not caused any problem. The trees and benches continue to be maintained by the Peckham Plex staff. They water the trees, wipe clean the seating and bins and pick litter on a daily basis. Simone, the manager of the Plex points out that orchard has brought life to a very dead area. "It gave customers a place to wait or meet before a film. A lot more people from around here are using the benches for their lunch break."



The bins double up as much needed bike stands, an unforeseen benefit. Thinking about further improvements Simone suggests that more could be done to the hidden area leading into the Alley Way alongside the multi-storey car park where the real rubbish bins cause a problem.

But why are the trees in bins?

Octavia's Orchard is inspired by the work of Victorian social reformer and founder of the National Trust, Octavia Hill (1838-1912) who, a century earlier, addressed problems of urban wellbeing and campaigned for open spaces in London.

The use of the galvanized bins typically used in multi-storey housing developments aimed to highlight the continued lack of access to green space in high density housing areas and the opportunities these neglected, forgotten and unloved spaces can offer to urban communities.

Ulrike Steven, What if: projects





URBAN FARMING

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES

What is meant by nature in the city or elsewhere can be endlessly debated, but there is increasing evidence put forward by for example UNESCO that improving urban biodiversity (spaces for plants, insects, birds etc.) is essential for successful and healthy cities. At the same time the role for urban agriculture is being recognised in many cities across the world. In 2010 the United Nations Universities Institute for Advanced Studies made the following observation:

“As the rule of interdependent adjacencies in urban ecology has it: the more diversity, and the more collaboration “between unlikely partners”, the better the chances for biodiversity, sustainability, and resilience (Hester, 2006). Linked to this idea is the concept of Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes (CPULs), which represent a powerful urban design instrument for achieving local sustainability while reducing cities’ ecological footprints (Viljoen, 2005).”

From United Nations University Institute for Advanced Studies. 2010. Cities, Biodiversity and Governance: Perspectives and Challenges of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the City Level: Policy Report. UNUIAS: Yokohama. Pp 31-32.

This statement has two connections to Peckham, firstly the notion of diversity and collaboration between unlikely partners describes what makes Peckham the vibrant and dynamic place that it is. And secondly the concept for Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes (CPULs), which proposes the coherent integration of urban agriculture into cities, was developed in Peckham by Katrin Bohn and Andre Viljoen. Working with Peckham’s social and potential ecological diversity provides an opportunity for building a distinct and attractive place.

“... and so begin to create closed loop systems of ‘no waste’ production”

Just as looking with fresh eyes at Rye Lane reveals thriving micro enterprises and a rich treasure of buildings, so too looking at the ground reveals a large number of open spaces, of various sizes that could be transformed into a bio diverse and multifunctional open urban space network, that includes coherently placed urban agriculture.

A number of crops could be cultivated, some in solar greenhouses heated by the sun, producing indigenous crops and some of those currently imported from the Caribbean and Africa. Organic household and restaurant waste rather than being moved out of Peckham could be used directly to produce compost and so begin to create closed loop systems of “no waste” production. Urban agriculture on its own will not feed Peckham, but it has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to our food system while enhancing the urban environment. The potential networks of open space created by connecting existing parcels of unbuilt land, shared public spaces, certain facades and rooftops can offer walking and cycling routes as well as spaces for play and production. The educational benefits for local schools, physical and mental health benefits of being within a “natural” environment would add to an enhanced urban ecosystem.

The station square provides a natural focus for a network of continuous productive urban landscapes and it could include conveniently located markets run by existing stall holders selling crops from the area and beyond. Also CPUL costs are low compared to the cost of erecting buildings, imagine for example redesigning Choumert Grove Car Park into an urban farm, connected via All Saints Church to the Station Square, then to Moncrieff Place (where the mobile orchard is), and up onto the abandoned railway viaduct siding and into and alongside Frank’s Roof Top Bar above the Multiplex Cinema / multi story Car Park. Similar primary networks are possible running from Warwick Gardens into Holly Grove Shrubbery, connecting to the Station Square (whether this is multilevel or flat), then along the old shooting range, via the Bussey Yard towards Bournemouth Close.

Work in progress, Draft studies by M Arch students from the University of Brighton mapping open spaces in Peckham, for use in developing a “CPUL Opportunity Map”.



London has pioneered a “Green Grid” of open spaces, primarily in the East. Peckham could take these ideas forward in an urban area, in doing so it would be part of an international move to re-green cities, for example Berlin’s new open space plan encourages the development of productive landscapes, New York and Rotterdam have recently benefited from new extremely popular rooftop

and ground based urban agriculture. Working with existing urban food growers from our Capital Growth projects, allotment holders, educationalists, health professionals and ideally new commercial growers, a new essential infrastructure could be created, one that provides more experience for less unsustainable consumption!

Andre Viljoen

ANYONE FOR TREES?

THINKING ABOUT GREEN SPACES DURING OUR TREASURE HUNT ON 23.09.14

We spent an afternoon during Nature week getting people to think about green spaces and trees, and in particular what difference trees would make to the area in front of the station.

It was interesting talking to people about the green spaces they knew in the area - there are so many. From the sweeping space of Peckham Rye to the little pockets of green that you can see from Frank's rooftop.

But what's the point of green spaces in an urban area?

For Vivien, Peckham Rye and Holly Grove offer a breathing space between the buildings, while Siobhan values the chance to get involved in growing vegetables in community run Glengall Wharf Garden.

Martin values the open spaces of Peckham Rye (and the coffee) as well Warwick Garden's friendliness and the greener route Holly Grove provides on the way to the station.

Not all the green spaces people mentioned were public - Shakia called out people's front gardens, Alex suggested Nunhead Reservoir for its stunning skyline view and peacefulness, and Audrey finds nature everywhere - at the edges of pavements and around street trees - as well as in the many parks, gardens and squares.

Peckham's green spaces provide space, fresh air, a place for people of all ages to interact and play, run around and sit.

So, with all these green pockets, do we need trees in the area in front of the station?

Of the 14 people at the workshop 12 said yes. One said no, and one was uncertain.

People talked about the type of trees that they would like to see and some thought that trees could connect the station forecourt with the rest of the area.

Rowans, Plane trees, and Birch were all mentioned and can all be found lining the streets of Peckham, but there was also a call for more exotic trees - Palm Trees, Ginkgos or Cherries for their smaller size and blossom, Fruit trees for their fruit and colour.

Most people wanted quite small trees to ease congestion, but Nicole put a vote in for trees big enough to climb with tree houses in the branches.

But what about the existing green spaces?

There was a lot of enthusiasm for some kind of way-finding information at the station to help people find green spaces nearby.

A well-positioned map could highlight green spaces, or some people suggested creating green routes through the area as long as they were well marked and well lit.

It was suggested that some of the hidden green spaces could be opened up to give people more access to nature - but maybe being hidden is part of their charm?

WHAT WE WANT MORE OF:

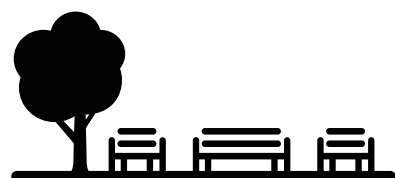
1 PLACES TO SIT



2 TREES



3 PUBLIC SPACE



Source: Commonplace statistics



URBAN TREES IN PECKHAM

POTENTIAL FOR THE STATION SQUARE

I am a Landscape Architect by profession and have lived on Rye Lane for the past 4 years. This short article is my view on the landscape of this part of Peckham and how it can be improved by the proposed works at the station square.

London is one of the greenest cities in the world mainly due to the large amount of public parks. However, contributing to this is a huge amount of mature street trees, planted with great foresight by the Victorians. Looking across the city skyline gives the viewer an impression of an urban forest canopy.

Peckham is surrounded by many superb parks and green spaces. Rye Lane itself is bookended by Burgess Park and Rye Common, where it is said in the 1760s William Blake had visions of “a tree filled with angels, bright angelic wings bespangling every bough like stars”. The station sits at the centre of Rye Lane, along which there is a lack of tree planting due to space restrictions, and has the potential to create a link between the existing green spaces. It

would also complement the green link of the railway running east west with its tree planting and green spaces; Cossall Park, Holly Grove and Warwick Gardens.

Urban trees have numerous benefits and have been proven to:

- Reduce airborne pollution
- Sequester CO₂
- Reduce storm water run off and mitigate against flooding
- Reduce the urban heat island effect and create shading
- Increase biodiversity
- Improve health and well being
- Create a sense of place

In order for these benefits to have greatest effect, large species trees should be planted. These are

species that will reach large proportions in maturity for example; Oak or London Plane.

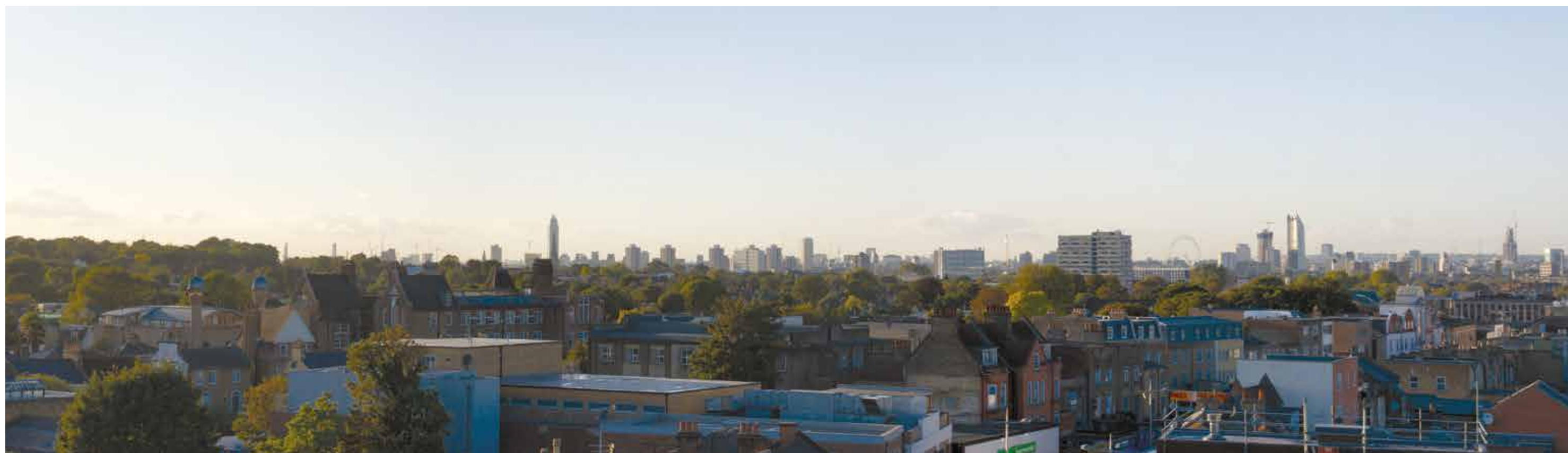
The station square should include tree planting and, where appropriate, areas of other planting. I am glad to see trees being discussed at such an early stage in the process and whilst it is useful to discuss the merits of various species, I believe the ideal outcome from the CoDesign process would be to highlight a community desire for trees and to include them in designs from the very outset. Trees are not pieces of furniture to be picked from a catalogue. Their inclusion in a space should not be isolated from the design of the space, different species can bring different qualities to the character of the square. The right tree in the right place can perform many of the benefits listed earlier and so choosing which species to plant should not be decided in isolation.

Local conditions, history, adjacent trees, design of space and planting, or aims for function of tree planting can all help to inform which tree species

are suitable. However, options can be investigated based on the character of planting. Options for tree planting themes could include; exotic species, native woodland high in biodiversity or productive orchard planting. The pluses and minuses of each approach can then be discussed, safe in the knowledge that they could all flourish.

It is essential trees are considered from the beginning and throughout the design process. Their success or failure depends on the conditions into which they are planted and a Landscape Architect should be part of the team to ensure this occurs, in my experience it is often much more difficult to successfully plant trees if not involved from the beginning. If this happens then the station square can become a multifunctional, successful green space where it's needed most, in the heart of Peckham.

Kevin Jones CMLI MA (Hons)



A MORE ORGANIC SCALE

CODESIGN INTERVIEWS DANIEL CORBY BRISTOW

Daniel Corby Bristow is 32 and first came to Peckham in 2002, studying at Camberwell College of Art; living in Bellenden Road, Choumert Grove and Nunhead. He has improved all of his landlords' gardens whilst renting and designed the Derek Jarman Garden for Bold Tendencies 2013, on the multi-storey car park roof. Dan was born in north Wales and has lived worldwide.

www.propagatingdan.com

What first brought you to Peckham?

Before I came to study all I knew about SE London was the Camberwell Carrot! I moved to Bellenden Road during its regeneration twelve years ago. Friends asked why I didn't live in East London but to me it was too cosy; Peckham was just real and a bigger mix. As a student it was about finding big, empty, unused spaces and in Peckham they still existed, especially ten years ago, there were still lots of possibilities. In East London all the money had already moved in and bought up all the warehouses but for a poor student, being in Peckham and Camberwell seemed like it was alive with opportunities, generating energy and ideas about spaces.

People change the area so it becomes very desirable and then can't afford to buy there?

Yeah, Grayson Perry did a cartoon about the four stages of gentrification and it's true. What really annoys me is I spent so much time and effort trying to persuade friends that it was a nice place, it was sooo difficult to get them over for dinner parties - then as soon as this train line came in, I've had people on the phone saying 'Oh, I'm in Tufnell Park at the moment but I'm thinking of buying in Peckham, where's a good road?' and I'm like, Go Away! I was looking to buy two years ago but instead I took a plant hunting trip to Taiwan, since then it's rocketed too high for me.



What changes have you noticed since living here?

Fancy cafes in Bellenden came and went, always felt a bit out-on-a-limb but now the floodgates have opened and East Dulwich people have moved towards Peckham. I think the train line arrival in 2012 altered things overnight and people realised how good the connections were, amazingly central. The demographic has changed, I couldn't believe how many suits were walking past me in the morning last year in Choumert Grove. That was quite a shock.

Are a lot of your clients here and has custom increased in the last 5-10 years?

Yes Peckham, Greenwich, Brockley and East London. I love being able to get to my clients easily from here. I used to work a lot in West London, but the clients were so aloof and really unpleasant, treating you like a servant; whereas 'round here and Greenwich, people are really nice. They're not the 'super rich' in Peckham, who just want to spend 'any' money. There are more people at medium budget range getting me to design their garden for about 15-20k. Yeah, Peckham is definitely becoming more affluent but I love the mix of the Refreshment Rooms next door to

the Nigerian club/bar. I get a mix of white and black clients who've made money in property.

Do you think Southwark provides/maintains enough green space in the area?

Whenever I see a building plot I think wouldn't it be great if there was a park there, even the mini ones could be utilised more. It's really nice just somewhere that's set away from the road. I absolutely love that little corner park, William Griggs' Garden, like a village green. What I would really like is more interesting street trees, not just London Planes. There are so many amazing trees that could really inspire people, like the interesting bright red bark of the Strawberry Tree. Snake or Paper Barked Maples are beautiful and can inspire people to think more about nature.

Palms are symbolic of Peckham, do you think the climate here is good for most things?

Yeah you do get away with growing more stuff in Central London, it's the heat island effect. The closer you get to Central London the hotter it is because of all the concrete and stone that gets warmed by the sun, then slowly releases the heat. Also the density of buildings and exhaust emissions add warmth in Winter. It makes a huge difference, it will always be at least 3°C warmer than outer London. Harsh winters will kill off tropical stuff. Banana plants are one of my favourites which have fruited this year, amazing exuberance and exoticism.

You've travelled extensively, so why stay in Peckham?

London is a real microcosm of the world and definitely the most diverse city I've ever been to. Peckham doesn't feel like it's awash with money, which is a nice feeling... I like it when things can be challenged, rather than gentrified or stagnant.

What would make you want to move?

I'm a country boy at heart and bought some woodland to build in Wales, where I want to implement my architectural ideas. If Peckham had still been affordable I may have bought somewhere and stayed longer but it was an excuse to move on.

What do you think about proposals for the station square?

I love the square idea and taking out the units but don't think it should be a huge, mega project; or

that something should be imposed on the area that isn't fitting. Rents should be affordable and have a bias towards independent retail, rather than multi-nationals which would just make the area soulless. I feel really strongly about that, it would be awful if it got done really glitzy and was just all Costa Coffee and Fat Face, y'know, we can go to Covent Garden for that. Hopefully it can be something done on a more organic scale.

How would you landscape the square if you were asked?

Are you asking me to pitch? It should have loads of character, be interesting, different, with lots of ideas and not look like the standard, lowest common denominator public square, with all the same planting and benches as everywhere in the city. I don't think it should look like a computer design either, like a lot do. It should be definitely designed without looking like a hodgepodge but it shouldn't be really slick and corporate looking. It needs to have vibrancy, colour and interest, scent and water - real energy to it, which could quite easily be achieved. You can get small trees to go along Rye Lane, maybe I'd put things like the Golden Rain Tree, Indian Bean Trees would be amazing, or Foxglove Trees.

Anything you don't like about Peckham?

Yeah the rubbish is a bit upsetting, there should be a plastic bag charge but also it would be nice to have more variety of shops on Rye Lane; they do basically fall into three different categories - fish, meat, nails...

What makes you smile the most about Peckham?

Seeing local kids playing in the street and inventing games to play, laughing. I love that, on Blenheim Grove. I don't think everything should be segregated and prescribed in terms of kids' play areas, they should be able make their own fun and use things how they want, not everything covered in cotton wool. Also I did the garden at No.7 Choumert Grove because I was inspired by the locals talking to each other, it's more alfresco and mediterranean style, for sitting in your front yard chatting with the neighbours, I love that and you don't get that in other parts of London - in Peckham that really does happen.

Photos and Interview by Michelle Male Shaw on 26.09.14

MOMENTS OF DELIGHT

PECKHAM IS FULL OF NATURAL TREASURES FOR THOSE WHO NOTICE THEM

When I first moved to Peckham in the mid-70s, it was not uncommon to see flocks of speckled-feathered starlings, pecking on my lawn for insects. Now, I rarely see them in my garden but they can still be seen scavenging for leftovers outside Burger King and in Lidl's carpark, not at all bothered by the feet of passers-by. They have seen the opportunity for an easier lifestyle and are embracing it.

We do get some rare, foreign bird visitors including the first ever London sighting of an American Robin, in March 2006. It was thought to have flown over from America, and it caused such a stir that it was reported on the BBC News, which brought crowds of birdwatchers to Peckham from all over the country.

A visit from another bird population brought more joy. One January Saturday a flock of about 1000 birds arrived, settling on the playing fields near Peckham Rye Common. They were mostly redwings with a few fieldfares, and over the next few days they devoured any berries they spotted. They moved on, as suddenly as they came, but they delighted the astonished residents who noticed them whilst they were here.

Recently, I had a builder from East Anglia, who loved to come to my garden because he heard more birdsong here in Peckham than he did surrounded by the fields of rural Suffolk. The song which most attracted his attention belonged to Britain's smallest bird, the tiny wren. I am lucky that they nest in the rampant ivy at the bottom of my patch.

Ivy supports many local treasures, including Peckham's population of Jersey Tiger Moths. These exotic-looking medium-sized, Concorde-shaped, cream moths, with dark stripes, and orange underwings, are frequent visitors during summer. Their caterpillars are fearsome-looking creatures.

Many other varieties of butterflies make their homes locally. In November, I was lucky to spot an unusually late Red Admiral, fluttering its way down my street amongst the autumn leaves. In addition to the well known large and small Whites, one can often see exquisite, tiny, Holly Blues, skipping down our streets in spring. If you're lucky, you might also spot the



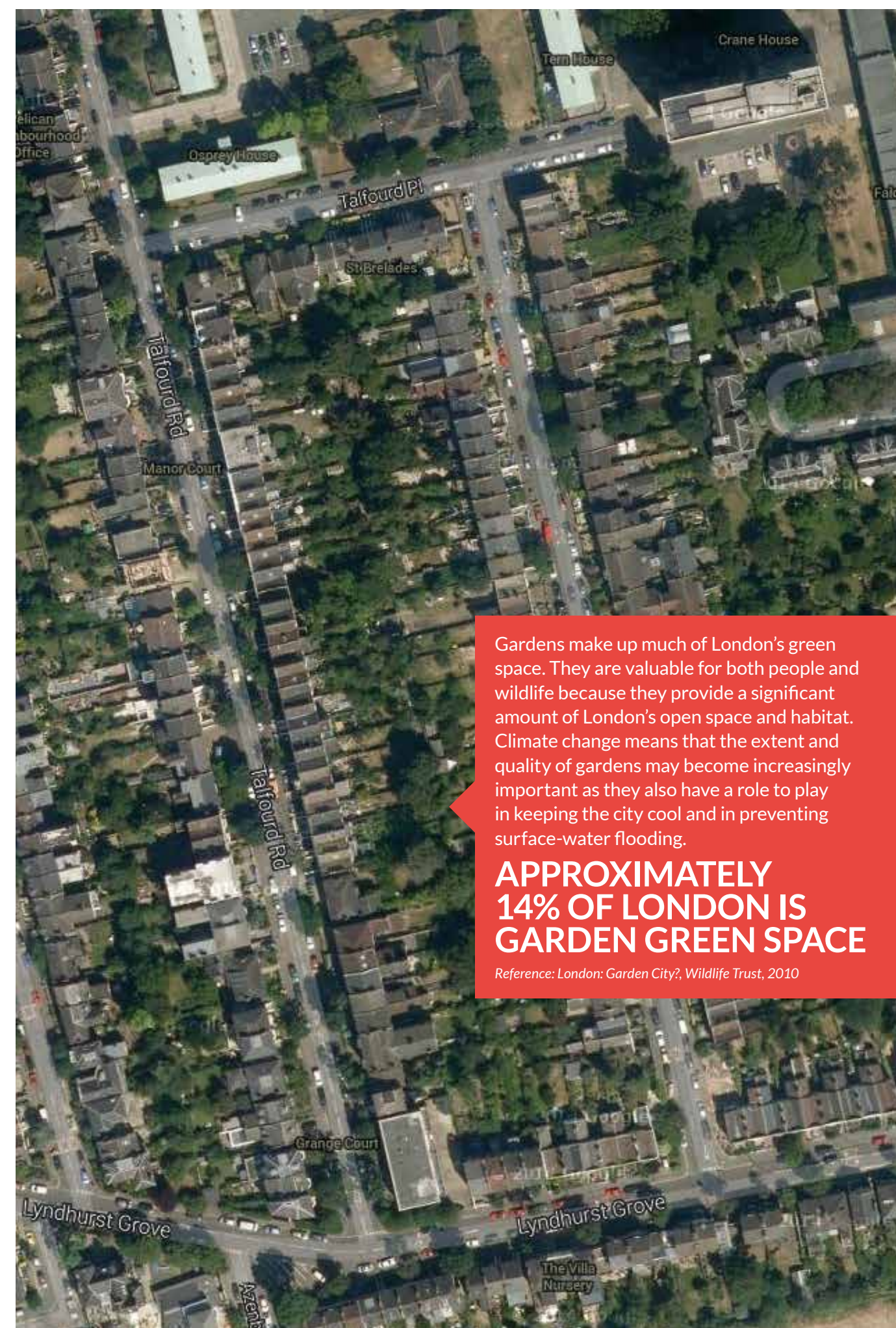
light brownish and orange butterfly, with its single C-shaped white marking on each folded wing, giving it the name of the Comma.

Humble creatures, such as snails and slugs, such as the Large British Black Slug, are unexpectedly beautiful at close quarters. The rarer Leopard slug, a large grey brown creature, with distinctive black spots, is a garden hero, as it eats smaller pest slugs.

Peckham is also a hot spot for the endangered Stag beetle. I am personally privileged, as I have had them in my garden over many years. Although not everyone sees their charms, these wonderful insects are my greatest garden delight.

I hope this account of some examples of local wildlife, has made it clear why I am so keen to share my passion for the diverse natural world which shares our lives in Peckham.

Audrey Kidd



Gardens make up much of London's green space. They are valuable for both people and wildlife because they provide a significant amount of London's open space and habitat. Climate change means that the extent and quality of gardens may become increasingly important as they also have a role to play in keeping the city cool and in preventing surface-water flooding.

**APPROXIMATELY
14% OF LONDON IS
GARDEN GREEN SPACE**

Reference: London: Garden City?, Wildlife Trust, 2010

PARADISE

FLOWERS IN PECKHAM



Some locations in the area where I have photographed flowers

Peter Lurie
singer, architect,
blogging coach, flower
documenter



When I moved to Peckham in 2010, people told me that it was ‘a wasteland’! What I discovered as a resident was the opposite: **PARADISE PECKHAM**. Everywhere I went there was a single or several flowers in the front gardens, no matter how modest or upmarket the houses. I started my **GRATITUDE** Project early in 2011, using NOTICING as a means of expressing my gratitude. I have posted a flower a day on Facebook, with more than 1,000 since then.



QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

THESE QUESTIONS WERE COMPILED BY THE WEEKLY EDITORIAL TEAM

These answers were provided by London Borough of Southwark:

What is the Southwark policy on gardening projects and allotments on Borough owned land?

All allotment sites in Southwark are managed independently by voluntary organisations. Some of the sites are owned by the council but not all. Where the allotments are on council-owned land they are managed by the allotment societies who hold a lease from the council's property team. A list can be found on Southwark's website at: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200073/parks_and_open_spaces/532/allotments_contacts There is also information regarding allotments in the council's open spaces strategy which has a section on allotments and community gardens. http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2948/open_space_strategy_2012

With regards to gardening projects, many of these are supported by the council's Cleaner Greener Safer funding.

What are the Council's views on TRA's "repurposing" pockets of Estate green space and small paved areas for growing? Would they encourage this, as a possible way of improving community well being?

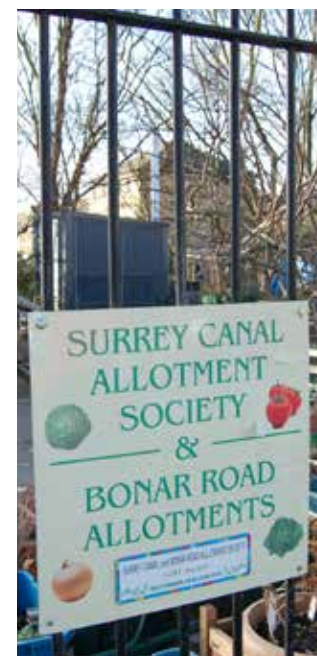
There are lots of ways residents can get involved in gardening and growing in Southwark. Again there is information on the website at: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200073/parks_and_open_spaces/3637/gardening_growing_and_conservation There is also CGC grant programme http://www.southwark.gov.uk/a_to_z/service/2021/cleaner_greener_safer that has supported many of these kinds of projects.

What are the Council's views on Guerrilla Gardening in pockets of derelict public land, where people take ownership of their streets and derelict spaces, and so beautify unloved land, whilst providing links in potential habitats for insects?

There has been council support for Guerrilla gardening for instance in the Elephant and Castle area as part of Elefest see: <http://www.elefest.org/event/guerrilla-gardening-dig-around-the-elephant/>

Does Southwark provide, as a learning resource, an accessible list of trees on public land, with if possible, full details of species and their histories?

Southwark has produced a tree management strategy see: https://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2621/tree_strategy As part of this a 'significant tree' list is currently being drawn up. There is also quite a lot of information on <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/505/trees> and some specific information on TPO's on Southwark Maps http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200023/design_conservation_and_archaeology/3553/southwark_tree_maps





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