

# We Make Camden Community Conversation

On the 7th of March **Somers Town Community Association** hosted an event with **Camden Council** at **The St Pancras and Somers Town Living Centre** to talk about **We Make Camden**, a shared vision for the future of Camden that sets out what we collectively want to achieve together as a borough.

The event was aimed at engaging with residents and partners around how they can get involved with **We Make Camden** and the **Camden Missions and Challenges**. This summary captures the comments, experiences and ideas shared by attendees during their discussions at this event.

## Key themes emerging from the event:

**Too much consultation and not enough action!**

Attendee's comments, experiences and ideas are captured here and arranged by **Camden Missions and Challenges**. Ideas for social action and any follow-up, where given are in yellow under each mission.

<b>DIGITAL:</b> <b>Everyone in Camden can access and be part of a digital society</b>	
Challenges facing our neighbourhood	Resident's experiences and comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unequal access to Wi-Fi and hardware required</li> <li>• Don't use social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of IT hardware, software and staying connected is too high</li> <li>• "I don't use social media, don't trust political corporations/bodies and politicians very much"</li> </ul>
<b>Ideas for social action and any follow-up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community fibre project</li> </ul>	

<b>YOUNG PEOPLE:</b> <b>By 2025, every young person has access to economic opportunity that enables them to be safe and secure</b>	
Challenges facing our neighbourhood	Resident's experiences and comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide meaningful opportunities for young people</li> <li>• Support for neuro-diverse young people, especially around education and employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger organisations tend to work in isolation</li> <li>• Local Job Hub is tailored to the needs of individuals</li> <li>• Camden has tended to deliver 'to' and not 'for'</li> </ul>

<b>SAFETY:</b> <b>Everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities</b>	
Challenges facing our neighbourhood	Resident's experiences and comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating safe spaces for young people</li> <li>• Is community safety just about the threat of violence?</li> <li>• Lots of drugs in the area driving a high crime rate</li> <li>• Loss of confidence because of lockdown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people in general don't feel 'safe'</li> <li>• Safety from the risks posed by pollution</li> </ul>
<b>Ideas for social action and any follow-up</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie and the team are working with young women on this issue</li> </ul>	

<b>HOUSING:</b> <b>Camden has enough decent, safe, warm, and family-friendly housing to support our communities</b>	
Challenges facing our neighbourhood	Resident's experiences and comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of street homelessness in the area</li> <li>• Need for more public housing at rents that can be afforded by everyone</li> <li>• Overcrowding in flats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lack of decent, affordable housing in the area</li> </ul>

## FOOD:

**By 2030, everyone eats well every day with nutritious, affordable, sustainable food**

### Challenges facing our neighbourhood

- Good local shops selling quality fresh produce at affordable prices
- 15-minute neighbourhood

### Resident's experiences and comments

- Early in the pandemic a food hub was put together in a week!
- The Future Neighbourhoods Project is addressing this
- Things work better when people get together
- Story Garden is a good example of learning, growing, cooking, eating, and conversing
- Urban Community Project charges £3 for £30 worth of healthy food ingredients
- Take and Make project

### Ideas for social action and any follow-up

- More information about the Rhyl Community Kitchen
- Could the council provide growing beds or spaces with schools?

## ESTATES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS:

**By 2030, Camden's estates and their neighbourhoods are healthy, sustainable and unlock creativity**

### Challenges facing our neighbourhood

- Easy access to services
- More appealing and affordable shops
- Clean and well-maintained streets
- Better play facilities
- Better maintained Green Spaces
- Easy access to public open spaces

### Resident's experiences and comments

- We need to be able to access everything from one 'hub'
- Litter in the area is a real problem
- Dog fouling isn't properly dealt with

### Ideas for social action and any follow-up

- The History Bike project
- Restart the Culture Festival
- Guidance on how to join TRA and gain access to funding and community space
- Funding to install a bike shed on my estate

## OTHER CAMDEN CHALLENGES

### Challenges facing our neighbourhood

- Turning consultation into action!
- Improving our mental health, including children's mental health
- Building more engagement
- Engaging disabled people
- Debt is a rising problem
- Signposting to community services
- Agencies working together
- Good data on access needs across the community

### Resident's experiences and comments

- Lots of money spent on employing consultants for the Greening Phoenix Road project
- Not much confidence in the British Library extension consultation
- What happened to the 2016 report into mental health amongst the Bangladeshi community?
- 'Connect the dots' – make people aware of what's going on in the area
- Hold something like this (community conversation) for young people
- Sarah E made a passionate statement about the need to get more disabled residents involved in community life
- We need more debt advice and advice around managing money and benefits (Universal Credit)
- Lack of transparency around who is winning funding bids – are they from the community?

### Ideas for social action and any follow-up

- Employ someone in neighbourhoods to connect local skills to people who need it/them.
- Set up instrument classes (e.g. steel pan)