

Somers Town

Future

Neighbourhoods

2030

# Somers Town Area Based Strategy 2023-2030

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

**SOMERS TOWN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
FORUM**

  
**Somers Town**  
Community Association

 **Camden**

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# What is the Future Neighbourhood 2030 programme?

- Future Neighbourhoods 2030 (FN 2030) is a £7.7 million multi-year programme. In 2021, the GLA invited London boroughs, Business Improvement Districts and other local partnerships to contribute to a green recovery, by supporting neighbourhoods to become exemplar models of sustainability and innovation.
- The vision for a Future Neighbourhood is one that embraces a green recovery and commits to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, whilst addressing London's health and social inequalities. This will mean Future Neighbourhoods where Londoners are working together to lower emissions, clean up their air, improve their local green spaces, reduce their waste and transform their homes.
- In March 2022, the GLA awarded Somers Town funding as one of two areas to pilot this approach due to the projects proposed successfully meeting the programme's themes, the Mayor's Green New Deal aims, and a commitment to work with communities to create a Future Neighbourhood that meets local needs.

# What is the Future Neighbourhood 2030 area-based strategy?

- It is a long-term plan for Somers Town that identifies further work that needs to happen locally to make our community more resilient to global climate change.
- The strategy is driven by the knowledge and experiences of local residents, community groups and partners.
- Somers Town Community Association and Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum alongside LB Camden and other partners have led the development of this FN 2030 area-based strategy.
- Some GLA funding has already begun to support projects in Somers Town. However, new projects and ideas in this strategy will need additional resourcing.





# Future Neighbourhood 2030 mission and programme themes

## **The GLA has set the following Green New Deal mission objectives for the strategy:**

- Improve the natural environment and air quality, tackle climate and ecological emergencies
- Promote and incentivise activities that sustain and grow London's green economy
- Prioritise interventions reducing health inequalities and social injustices
- Engage Londoners and businesses in their journey to become a zero pollution and greener city

## **And these are the programme themes:**

- Retrofitting of homes, commercial and public buildings
- Creating a decarbonised, smart and integrated energy system
- Improving air quality and creating zero emission zones
- Climate adapted, resilient and green neighbourhoods
- Zero waste, circular economy



# A rights-based approach

- Climate change is a human rights issue. Some of our most fundamental human rights will be challenged in the coming years, as extreme weather events and rising sea levels threaten individuals and communities across the planet.
- What happens globally reverberates in Somers Town: some of the places most vulnerable to global climate change – such as Bangladesh, Sudan and Somalia – have strong connections to Somers Town.
- The development of the strategy began by talking to residents, community groups and partners about how we could meet the mission objectives and programme themes in the context of universal human rights and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- Seven rights/goals emerged from the engagement. They were: life free from poverty, food, health, education, water and sanitation, sustainable development and housing.
- Other rights/goals also considered relevant were gender equality/reduced inequalities and peace, justice and strong institutions.



# A rights-based approach

The strategy development workshops also determined what mattered to local people personally and for the community of Somers Town.

These 13 priorities scored highest:

- Family & children
- Health & wellbeing
- Education
- Strong community
- Better local environment/buildings
- Friends
- Access to good local jobs
- Personal & community safety
- Community centres & venues
- Importance of outside/green spaces
- Faith
- Action on sustainability & recycling
- Homes, inside & out

We have used the rights/goals and these community priorities as a framework to show how the area-based strategy will meet the mission and programme themes of FN 2030. The global and local context of the rights, the objectives and some suggested actions are in the following slides.

# United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Learn more and take action.



# The right to life free from poverty



## Global context

**UN Goal: To end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030.**

### Why?

In 2015, more than 700 million people, or 10 per cent of the world population, lived in extreme poverty, struggling to fulfil the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation. Things have been improving. However, the COVID-19 pandemic reversed the trend of poverty reduction with tens of millions of people at risk of being pushed back into extreme poverty, causing the first increase in global poverty in more than 20 years.

### What are the challenges?

Even before COVID-19, baseline projections suggested that 6 per cent of the global population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of ending poverty.

Having a job does not guarantee a decent living. In fact, 7.1 per cent of employed workers and their families world-wide lived in extreme poverty in 2019, a positive decline compared to 2010, but the number is expected to rise in light of the long-term consequences of the pandemic.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Climate change disproportionately affects those experiencing poverty. People experiencing poverty are often more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, as well as less likely to have the resources to adapt to the effects of the collapsing climate. If you struggle to afford food, installing a heat pump is but a pipedream. On the other hand, if we overcome poverty, communities can become more resilient and can reduce, mitigate, and adapt to climate change.

Poverty has many dimensions, but its causes include unemployment, social exclusion, and high vulnerability of certain populations to disasters, diseases and other phenomena which prevent them from being productive.

Growing inequality is also detrimental to economic growth, it undermines social cohesion, increases political and social tensions and, in some circumstances, drives instability and conflicts.



# The right to life free from poverty



## Local context

- Somers Town suffers from climate risks, which, combined with the levels of deprivation, make the neighbourhood vulnerable to climate change.
- According to the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Camden as a whole is less deprived compared to the national picture than in 2015. However, St Pancras and Somers Town remains the most deprived ward in Camden.
- Four of five local areas (known as Lower Super Output Areas – LSOAs) in the ward are amongst the 20% most deprived in the UK, which represents significant deprivation.
- The ward ranks worst in the borough for both the indexes for Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People.
- Estimates of equivalised household income for 2019 show that median gross household income in Camden was £36,053. However, the level for St Pancras and Somers Town was the lowest in the borough at £24,674. Household income data matters because low household income is used as a proxy for poverty.
- Those in unstable employment are most impacted by changes. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Voluntary Action Camden and Euston Foodbank reported that people in low income jobs or zero-hour contracts who had no savings suddenly had no work and no way of supporting themselves and their families.

# The right to life free from poverty



## Vision

A neighbourhood where everyone has the opportunity to improve their economic well-being and more importantly, can afford essentials to have a decent and healthy quality of life.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to life free from poverty for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Help the community to secure decent local jobs by ensuring local initiatives upskill residents and mentor them into jobs.
- Support the community to become stronger and more self-reliant by working with them to address local issues.
- Empower and equip people to raise household income and spend less on essentials.

# The right to life free from poverty



## Projects ideas

Consultation emphasised that climate change-related local jobs are crucial. Ideas include:

- Working in partnership across the area and across sectors to create a dedicated programme of training, activities, volunteering and jobs focused on climate change.
- Specifically, local businesses and institutions offering and promoting supported opportunities for training, upskilling and investment in the area around climate action, e.g. bespoke apprenticeships.
- More support for local people to set up their own eco-related businesses and entrepreneurship ideas.
- Developing the potential of the Chalton Street Market as a focus for climate change activity and jobs.

These ideas cut across other rights and goals too, specifically:

- Education
- Health

Those with responsibility for delivering these project ideas include:

- LB Camden – in a leadership role with other statutory agencies, employers and the business community; and funding specific activities and roles.
- Local employers, business sector and developers – to create better opportunities.
- Academic sector – coaching, mentoring and seconding staff to local organisations.
- Community organisations – supporting local people with training and volunteering opportunities, advice and guidance.





# The right to food



## Global context

**UN Goal: To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

### Why?

Extreme hunger and malnutrition remains a barrier to sustainable development and creates a trap from which people cannot easily escape. Hunger and malnutrition mean less productive individuals, who are more prone to disease and thus often unable to earn more and improve their livelihoods. 2 billion people in the world do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. In 2019, 144 million children under the age of 5 were stunted, and 47 million were affected by wasting.

We all want our families to have enough food to eat that is safe and nutritious. A world with zero hunger can positively impact our economies, health, education, equality, climate and social development.

With hunger limiting human development, we will not be able to achieve the other sustainable development goals such as education, health and gender equality.

### What are the challenges?

More than 690 million people were undernourished in 2019, mainly in Asia and Africa. People experiencing moderate food insecurity are typically unable to eat a healthy, balanced diet on a regular basis because of income or other resource constraints. If these trends continue, an estimated 840 million people will go hungry by 2030.

Food security requires a multi-dimensional approach – from social protection to ensuring safe, environmentally sensitive and nutritious food especially for children to transforming food systems to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable world. There will need to be investments in rural and urban areas and in social protection so poorer people have access to food and can improve their livelihoods.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Our current food systems produce more than one-third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – the main driver of climate change. That's greater than all the cars on the planet.

More than half of the food systems' GHG emissions originate from the demand for meat and dairy among high consumers of these foods. It's also a result of modern industrial agriculture, which is highly dependent on fossil fuels.

GHGs affect plant and animal growth and cause rising sea levels, warmer oceans and extreme weather and climate events. Rising land and sea temperatures, droughts, floods and unpredictable rainfall is harming livestock and crops.

# The right to food



## Local context

- There is a fundamental human right of everyone to be free from hunger, and yet there are now three food banks in Somers Town's Phoenix Road alone.
- Food insecurity – where people do not have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food – is rife in Somers Town and will only worsen during the cost-of-living crisis.
- The nearest supermarkets are within stations, are expensive and don't cater to a diverse local population.

The Somers Town Neighbourhood profile shows a range of food-related challenges for the area:

- 21% of Year 6 primary school children in Somers Town are overweight. The Camden average is 14%.
- 19% of adults in Somers Town are obese. The Camden average is 12%.
- Only 29.8% of adults in Somers Town say they eat healthily. The Camden average is 41.6%.

*'Healthy weight, healthy lives in St Pancras & Somers Town'*, a 3-year project that reported on the ward in 2017, gained 12 insights including:

- There is poor availability of good quality, affordable, healthy food produce.
- There is a demand for more community gardening and food-growing opportunities.

# The right to food



## Vision

A neighbourhood where everyone has access to healthy and good value food, where residents understand and practice healthy cooking and have opportunities to experience food growing.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to food for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Increase opportunities to access good quality, good value, culturally appropriate foodstuffs, fruit and vegetables for all residents in the neighbourhood.
- Work with key statutory and non-statutory partners to ensure all children, in school or not, have access to healthy and nutritious food.
- Increase awareness, skills, opportunities and confidence around locally grown food, the benefits of healthy cooking and eating, and the need to reduce food waste.

# The right to food



## Projects ideas

Consultation for this strategy emphasised that food security is an important local issue. Project ideas include:

- More food and growing projects that use local resources and assets such as estate gardens.
- Better information sharing on local growing initiatives, using expertise and skills of groups already doing this in the area.
- More healthy eating and cooking clubs and events that improve the sharing of advice to residents that also help to improve language skills and overcome loneliness and isolation.
- Projects that reduce food waste by redistributing unused foods to those in need.
- Market stalls that provide better access to cheap, healthy, diverse foods.

These ideas link to other rights and goals too, specifically:

- Education
- Health
- Life free from poverty
- Housing
- Sustainable development

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – raising awareness, linking with statutory partners, funding specific activities and roles.
- Community organisations – running projects and events, raising awareness and spreading good practice.
- Schools – supporting, publicising and championing healthy eating/food security in schools.
- Local people/residents – becoming active in local initiatives and setting up/joining local initiatives.





# The right to water and sanitation



## Global context

### UN Goal: To ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all.

#### Why?

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right.

The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world's population is already experiencing severe water scarcity at least one month a year.

Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education. Nevertheless, countries face growing challenges linked to water scarcity, water pollution, degraded water-related ecosystems and cooperation over transboundary water basins.

#### What are the challenges?

In 2017, an estimated 3 billion people world-wide lacked the ability to safely wash their hands at home – one of the cheapest, easiest and most effective ways to prevent the spread of diseases like the coronavirus.

Water, sanitation and hygiene services are also not always available at medical care facilities: in 2016, one in four facilities around the world lacked basic water supplies, one in five had no sanitation services, and two in five had no soap and water or alcohol based hand rub, at points of care.

And today, 4.2 billion people are still faced with daily challenges accessing even the most basic of services. Of these, 673 million people practised open defecation.

By managing our water sustainably, we are also able to better manage our production of food and energy and contribute to decent work and economic growth. Moreover, we can preserve our water ecosystems, their biodiversity, and take action on climate change.

#### What are the links between this and climate change?

Water availability is becoming less predictable in many places. In some regions, droughts are exacerbating water scarcity and thereby negatively impacting people's health and productivity and threatening sustainable development and biodiversity worldwide.

Ensuring that everyone has access to sustainable water and sanitation services is a critical climate change mitigation strategy for the years ahead.

Without better infrastructure and management, millions of people will continue to die every year from water-related diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea, and there will be further losses in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, undermining prosperity and efforts towards a more sustainable future.

# The right to water and sanitation



## Local context

- There will be water shortages in North London very soon. The rivers Lea and Thames are drying up. The average Londoner uses 149 litres of water a day, higher than the national average (141 litres) and much higher than the government target (110 litres).
- Surprisingly, London gets less rainfall each year than Sydney, Istanbul or Rome.
- These factors, combined with a projected population increase in Somers Town, means the amount of available water per person will decrease.
- Meanwhile, flooding events are likely to increase, powered by increasing numbers of violent storms. There are also polluting discharges during hot weather and frustrations about the time taken to repair infrastructure and leaks.
- The level of climate risk as defined by the GLA's Climate Risk tool is real in Somers Town, including high levels of heat and flood risk, with the latter borne out by evidence from Camden's flood risk modelling, which shows 1 in 30 year flood risk on a number of housing estates in the area.
- Perceptions of drought and flood risks in the area are often under-estimated in a local population influenced by extreme weather events in countries from where many local people migrated, such as Somalia and Bangladesh.

# The right to water and sanitation



## Vision

A neighbourhood where everyone has access to safe water and is supported to use water more efficiently; where the risk of flash flooding is understood and reduced and where more efficient use of water is understood and practiced.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to water and sanitation for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Increase awareness around the water challenges coming our way due to the changing climate, including understanding of flash flooding and dehydration in hot weather.
- Implement actions in the local area to improve infrastructure, such as storm drains and protection against water damage to buildings.
- Increase opportunities to use water more efficiently across the neighbourhood, including reusing water where appropriate.



# The right to water and sanitation



## Projects ideas

The consultation found that local people identified water shortages, flooding and infrastructure as key issues. Project ideas include:

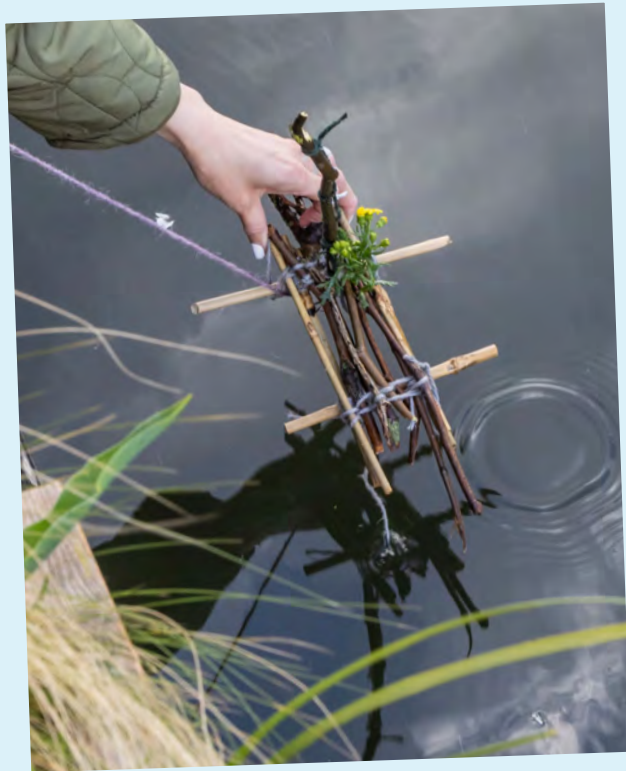
- A need for better education and awareness raising about both flood risks and saving water; and why it is an issue for everyone.
- Myth-busting about perceived poor quality of piped water and other high-consumption practices, e.g. reducing bottle water usage.
- Projects that increase water harvesting, such as learning how to install and safely manage water butts as part of estate greening projects.
- Planting in the ground to reduce run-off during periods of heavy rainfall and stop the sewers from being overwhelmed.
- Repairing mains water leaks quickly and improving the overall water infrastructure to prevent water entering housing and other buildings, especially during flash floods.

These ideas link to other rights and goals too, specifically:

- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Sustainable development

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – raising awareness, linking with statutory partners, building partnership responses.
- Public utilities – quicker repairs, better investment in water management, improved infrastructure, awareness-raising, practical actions.
- Schools – supporting, publicising and championing water awareness amongst school children, e.g. promote shorter showers, fuller washing machines, reusable bottles and devices in cisterns.
- Community groups – greening and planting projects, spreading skills and knowledge, lobbying on issues of concern.



Photos: John Sturrock

# The right to health



## Global context

**UN Goal: To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

### Why?

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being is important to building prosperous societies.

In 2017, only around one third to half of the global population was covered by essential health services. If current trends continue, only 39 per cent to 63 per cent of the global population will be covered by essential health services by 2030.

### What are the challenges?

Most countries, especially poor countries, have insufficient health facilities, medical supplies and health care workers for the surge in demand.

There has been progress in areas such as in reducing maternal and child mortality, increasing coverage of immunization and reducing some infectious diseases.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated health systems globally and threatens already achieved health outcomes. In rich and poor countries alike, this health emergency has pushed people into bankruptcy or poverty.

Concerted efforts are required to achieve universal health coverage and sustainable financing for health; address the growing burden of diseases and tackle antimicrobial resistance and devastating climate damage environmental factors contributing to ill health.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Extreme climate and weather events, such as droughts, floods and heatwaves, are increasing in severity and frequency across the world. These changes are harming our health on a large scale.

Around a third of heat-related deaths are already attributable to climate change, and the number of extreme weather disasters driven by climate change has increased fivefold over the past 50 years, killing more than 2 million people.

There is also growing evidence about the risks of extreme heat to maternal and neonatal health, mental health and chronic noncommunicable diseases, like asthma and diabetes.

# The right to health



## Local context

People in Somers Town have poorer mental and physical health and die earlier than people in many other parts of Camden. For example:

- Life expectancy at birth for a male in St Pancras and Somers Town is 78.0 years compared to the Camden average of 82.1. For a female, average life expectancy is 81.6 years compared to the Camden average of 86.5.
  - 9.5% of residents in Somers Town have self-reported bad health. The borough average is 5.6%.
  - Smoking prevalence locally is at 26%, above the Camden average of 20%.
  - 18% of people over 18 have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression. The Camden average is 15%.
  - Another way of looking at this is data is that Somers Town men and women enjoy 18 and 19 fewer years of good health than the average.
- Somers Town suffers from air pollution, and contains three Air Quality Focus Areas. The boundary roads: Euston, Eversholt and Midland, all exceed legal NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean limit, despite a drop in pollution during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Particulate Matter pollution also exceeds World Health Organization guidelines. This is having measurable public health impacts with Somers Town ward having the highest prevalence of asthma in 0-18 year-olds in Camden.
- Breathing clean air, exercising, eating a healthy diet, having a home that remains cool in the summer and warm in the winter are all important for our physical health and mental wellbeing.



# The right to health



## Vision

A neighbourhood where the local environment is conducive to good health for all, including access to green spaces, clean air and spaces to socialize and exercise.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to health for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Increase awareness of health risks related to air pollution both outdoors and indoors in order to empower residents to take actions to reduce their exposure.
- Increase opportunities for residents to enjoy outdoor spaces in a safe and inclusive way.
- Increase awareness around healthy cooking and eating.

# The right to health



## Projects ideas

The community felt strongly that local people and organisations have experience of stepping up to meet mental and physical health needs and that this can be harnessed to create more activities that bring health benefits. Ideas include:

- Building on good local initiatives to bring additional health benefits, e.g. encouraging bike rides and outdoor activities, sports and fitness groups, outdoor gyms.
- Improving cleanliness of public areas to encourage more people outside to socialise and use public spaces.
- Focusing on specific, identified health needs such as women's health and personal safety.
- Use health-related activities and events to encourage lower consumption, raise awareness of climate change, spread good practice, build connections and lobby for change.
- Linking social prescribing in GP surgeries/hospitals and other public health venues with climate change activities, signposting, informing and advising.

These ideas link to other rights and goals too, specifically:

- Education
- Housing
- Sustainable development

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – raising awareness, linking with statutory partners, building partnership responses.
- Public health – more social prescribing/GP-link work; more preventative work around smoking cessation/alcohol/drugs.
- Schools – supporting, publicising and championing good health and the links with the environment.
- Community organisations – running climate change events and green activities that also bring health benefits; promote community spaces as venues for informal meeting places/discussion forums/warm hubs/information and advice hubs.
- Local people – local action, self-help.





# The right to education



## Global context

**UN Goal: To ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.**

### Why?

Education enables upward socio-economic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. Education helps reduce inequalities and reach gender equality; and is crucial to fostering tolerance, more peaceful societies and tackling climate change.

In 2018, about 258 million children/young people were out of school, nearly one fifth of the global population in that age group. The COVID-19 pandemic made this significantly worse.

### What are the challenges?

The primary school completion rate reached 84 per cent in 2018, up from 70 per cent in 2000 and under current trends, is expected to reach 89 per cent globally by 2030.

Despite years of steady growth in enrolment rates, non-proficiency rates remain disturbingly high. In 2018, some 773 million adults – two-thirds of whom are women – remained illiterate in terms of reading and writing skills. And the sheer magnitude of school closures due to COVID-19 is setting back progress on access to education.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces the biggest challenges in providing schools with basic resources. The situation is extreme at the primary and lower secondary levels, where less than one half of schools in sub-Saharan Africa have access to drinking water, electricity, computers and the Internet.

Inequalities will also worsen unless the digital divide – the gap between under-connected and highly digitalized countries – is not addressed.

Women and girls are one of the worst impacted groups. About one-third of countries in the developing regions have not achieved gender parity in primary education.

These disadvantages in education also translate into lack of access to skills and limited opportunities in the labour market for young women.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Education is a critical agent in addressing the issue of climate change. Education can encourage people to change their attitudes and behaviour; it also helps them to make informed decisions. In the classroom, young people can be taught the impact of global warming and learn how to adapt to climate change. Education empowers all people, but especially motivates the young to take action.

Knowing the facts about climate change helps eliminate the fear of an issue which is frequently coloured by doom and gloom in the public arena. In this context, UNICEF has tapped into the minds and imaginations of children around the world to capture what it means to be a child growing up in the age of rapid climate change.



# The right to education



## Local context

- According to the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation, St Pancras and Somers Town has one LSOA that is within the 20% most deprived nationally for the education, skills and training domain. Two others (out of a total of eight in the ward) are in the most deprived 30% nationally for this indicator.
- The Camden Neighbourhood Profiles show that in Somers Town, 24.2% of residents have no qualification. This is double the borough average of 12.7%.
- There are other challenges that impact on the right to education locally. For instance 26.5% of households are without broadband. This is well above the average for the borough, which is 17.3%. And in terms of communication, any climate action needs to respond to local circumstances such as the proportion of local residents whose main language is English is only 67% compared with 77% across the borough as a whole.
- Addressing the connections between climate issues and current community challenges to empower people to act is a vital part of the strategy. We want to enable local people to access and develop learning tools and resources that influence and inform the decisions that are made locally.

# The right to education



## Vision

A neighbourhood where education is inclusive and supportive of lifelong learning, through a range of channels, to empower people to take actions to improve their quality of life.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to education for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Ensure that any intervention to support the local community has an educational component so that residents are empowered to make informed decisions.
- Ensures education is inclusive at all levels and tailored to reach the desired sector of the community.
- Increase the number of people with qualifications, including in practical skills that respect the importance of different types of knowledge and learning; and grow traditional skills as well as digital learning.

# The right to education



## Project ideas

The consultation identified an enthusiastic and committed view that young people should be the leaders for climate change and sustainable living in Somers Town. Projects ideas include:

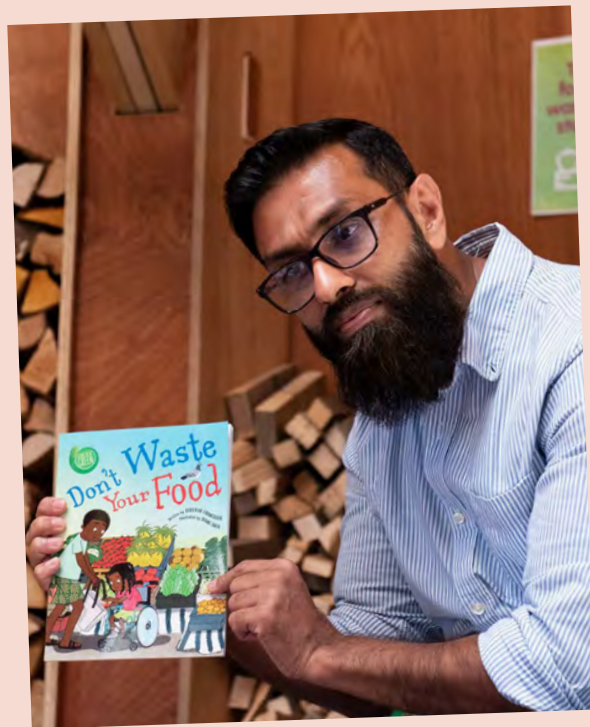
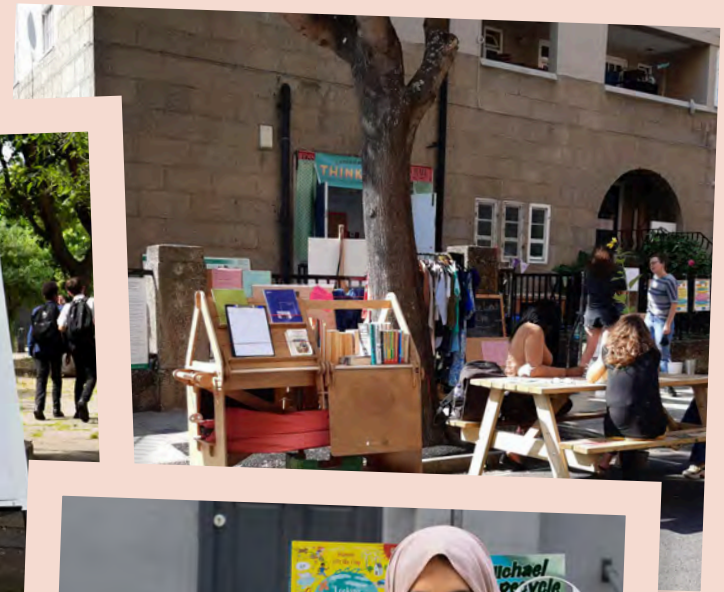
- Ensuring the buy-in of young people to climate change action early through formal schools education and informal education within the family.
- Projects to identify/champion young role models to run projects, e.g. recycling, work through youth groups.
- Specific work with schools to ensure collaboration opportunities are identified and developed.
- Promote and support life-long learning – clubs, groups and events that spread good practice about recycling, clothes swaps, access to community-focused information about consumption.
- Creating tools and resources that influence and inform project delivery to support sustainable local activity, e.g. the Scone digital platform; but also recognising that word-of-mouth is important in Somers Town.
- Building recognition of the climate action campaign in Somers Town and also more widely in London and beyond.

These ideas link to other rights and goals too, specifically:

- Life free from poverty
- Health
- Housing
- Sustainable development
- Food
- Water

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – raising awareness, linking with statutory partners and schools to build partnership responses.
- Schools – supporting, publicising and championing green and climate change education; encourage positive youth action around climate change.
- Community organisations – supporting projects that empower green youth champions/youth eco-warriors.
- Local people – local action, self-help.





# The right to sustainable development



## Global context

**UN Goal: To make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

### Why?

Rapid urbanization has meant that 4 billion people – over half of the global population – in the world's cities face worsening air pollution, inadequate infrastructure and services, and unplanned urban sprawl.

Cities are unequal. Inequality can lead to unrest and insecurity, pollution deteriorates everyone's health and affects workers' productivity and therefore the economy, and natural disasters and climate change have the potential to disrupt everyone's lifestyles.

### What are the challenges?

Successful examples of containing COVID-19 demonstrate the remarkable resilience and adaptability of urban communities in adjusting to new norms. Following COVID-19, the majority of national and city governments are revisiting urban planning to help prevent the next pandemic.

However, the cost of poorly planned urbanization can be seen in some of the huge slums, tangled traffic, greenhouse gas emissions and sprawling suburbs all over the world. By choosing to act sustainably we choose to build cities where all citizens live a decent quality of life, and form a part of the city's productive dynamic, creating shared prosperity and social stability without harming the environment.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Urban areas are major contributors to climate change, accounting for 71 to 76 per cent of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from global final energy use, and represent high concentrations of financial, infrastructure and human assets and activities that are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

In the coming decades, hundreds of millions of people in urban areas are likely to be affected by rising sea levels, increased precipitation, inland floods, more frequent and stronger cyclones and storms, and periods of more extreme heat and cold.

Many major coastal cities with populations of more than 10 million people are already under threat as over 90% of urban areas are coastal. Climate change may also negatively impact infrastructure and worsen access to basic urban services and quality of life in cities.

Cities also see significant inequality, high levels of urban energy consumption and pollution.

The cost of putting in place sustainable practices is minimal in comparison with the benefits. For example, there is a cost to creating a functional public transport network, but the benefits are huge in terms of economic activity, quality of life, the environment, and the overall success of a networked city.

# The right to sustainable development



## Local context

- The Government's Indicators of Multiple Disadvantage show that one LSOA in St Pancras and Somers Town is in the 10% most deprived nationally for the Living Environment domain. This represents extreme deprivation: poor air quality, high number of road accidents, poor quality of housing. A further four LSOAs are within the 30% most deprived for this indicator.
- Somers Town is also a place of green space deficiency with the St Pancras and Somers Town ward having only 0.6 hectares of public open space for every 1,000 people, well below the Camden average and significantly below more affluent wards to the north of the borough. Safe play and outdoor relaxation is at a premium in Somers Town where almost no one has a garden, where there are many children, and where mobility/poverty/cultural issues all limit choice.
- The area faces unprecedented challenges from redevelopment and large scale infrastructure projects, most notably HS2. It is also continuing to experience environmental degradation though the Kings Cross redevelopment and large scale housing projects.
- Somers Town residents should be free to pursue their economic, social, cultural and political development. Sustainable development can enrich communities whilst unsustainable development makes them poorer. Somers Town faces enormous environmental challenges from polluting physical development and a profound loss of mature trees, all of which must be offset.

# The right to sustainable development



## Vision

A neighbourhood that understands and embraces the principles of a sustainable development in everything it does, particularly around how developments in the area ensure real sustainable outcomes for all.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to sustainable development for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Influence positive planning and development so that it creates inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable places and buildings for Somers Town.
- Seek to hold those to account whose actions bring about environmental damage in the local area.
- Ensure that accessible green spaces in the area are protected and increased for the enjoyment of local residents.

# The right to sustainable development



## Project ideas

Consultation revealed a wide range of projects and actions that could improve sustainable development in Somers Town:

- Better co-ordination of statutory services, planning and infrastructure and utilities to create an improved local environment and appropriate building and spaces and stops the destruction of existing green spaces.
- More effective and wide-ranging compensation for development disruption.
- Better balance between cars, public transport and eco-initiatives; and more support for low emission vehicles and bikes.
- Projects between residents and statutory bodies that promote safer, more attractive streets.
- Understanding what motivates people to take action and get involved, where they feel safe and confident enough 'not to turn a blind eye'.
- More impactful representation of residents and local people on decision-making panels and consultation.

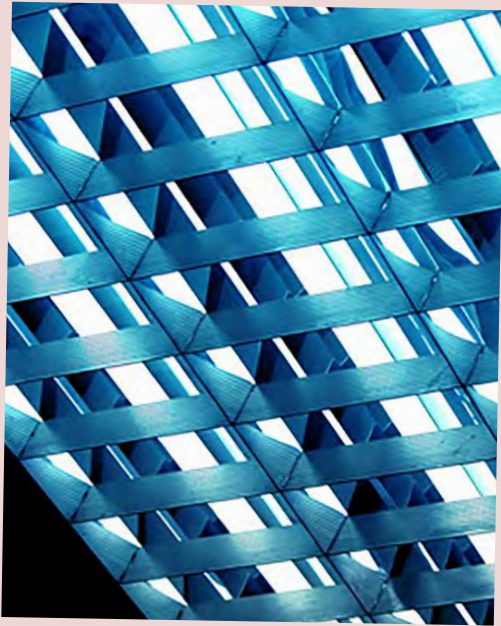
These ideas link to other rights and goals, specifically:

- Life free from poverty
- Health
- Housing
- Water

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – improved planning and development responsibilities that protect and rehabilitate the environment in Somers Town.
- Developers – meeting the full cost of environmental damage.
- Metropolitan police – more officer patrols on foot/bike to make streets feel safer and therefore encourage more people out of doors/into public spaces.
- Housing associations – better eco-lighting/CCTV on estates.
- Community organisations – role of campaign groups is important, e.g. Mums For Lungs; community groups work together better, raise the collective voice and hold others to account.
- Local people – keep abreast of changes/opportunities by engaging with consultations/decision making bodies/groups. Making everyone feel involved.





# The right to housing



## Global context

**UN Goal: To ensure that housing is the basis of stability and security for an individual or family.**

### Why?

Increasingly viewed as a commodity, housing is most importantly a human right. Under international law, to be adequately housed means having secure tenure – not having to worry about being evicted or having your home or lands taken away. It means living somewhere that is in keeping with your culture, and having access to appropriate services, schools, and employment.

Too often violations of the right to housing occur with impunity. In part, this is because, at the domestic level, housing is rarely treated as a human right.

### What are the challenges?

Housing and real estate markets worldwide have been transformed by global capital markets and financial excess. Known as the financialization of housing, the phenomenon occurs when housing is treated as a commodity – a vehicle for wealth and investment rather than a social good.

While revenues from real estate have accumulated, our cities have become increasingly unaffordable.

In many countries women, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees face discrimination in relation to housing or live in the most appalling conditions.

Spatial segregation excludes many residents from equal access to public services, education, transportation and other opportunities. Local Governments are often at the forefront of the struggle for housing and can play a key role in protecting and realizing the right to adequate housing.

More than 1.8 billion people live in informal settlements or inadequate housing with limited access to essential services such as water and sanitation, electricity and are often under threat of forced eviction. And one of the most severe violations of the right to adequate housing – homelessness – has been on a steep increase in many economically advanced countries.

### What are the links between this and climate change?

Climate change, natural disasters and armed conflict pose a threat to the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing and displace millions every year.

Climate-fuelled disasters were the primary driver of internal displacement during the past decade, forcing an estimated 20 million people a year from their homes. Those living in homelessness or lacking access to resilient or secure housing are the most adversely affected, as they often live in areas that are vulnerable to floods, hurricanes and cyclones, storm surges, mudslides, earthquakes and tsunamis. Moreover, States taking disaster risk management measures often fail to consider their effects on vulnerable communities and their right to housing.

# The right to housing



## Local context

The Neighbourhood Profile for Somers Town shows how distinctive and untypical the housing stock is in comparison with the rest of the borough.

- Only 11% of residents own their home, compared to the Camden average of 32%.
- 69% of residents in Somers Town socially rent their homes. This is the highest in the borough and is significantly above the Camden average of 34%.
- 48.5% of Somers Town residents rent their home from the Council. The Camden average is 24%.
- Private renting is low in Somers Town at 18% of residents, compared to the borough average of 31%.

Somers Town housing is typical of much social housing around the country – some of the least energy efficient in Europe, built to very different standards and with old materials. Homes are responsible for one third of London's greenhouse gas emissions. Much of Somers Town social housing would benefit from better insulation and glazing, whilst recognising that the embodied carbon of Somers Town housing stock is an important resource.

Overcrowding is common and many people struggle to pay utility bills.

We need to ensure new homes in and around Somers Town meet the highest environmental standards, whilst we work towards retrofitting, as best as possible, the existing housing stock.

# The right to housing



## Vision

A neighbourhood where everyone has access to good quality and environmentally efficient homes that provide safe and positive environment for residents.

## Objectives

The strategy seeks to improve the right to housing for people in Somers Town by supporting climate action projects that will:

- Encourage local housing providers to be actively engaged in the delivery of this strategy;
- Improving the energy efficiency, maintenance and health and safety of the housing stock in the neighbourhood;
- Ensure local developments are inclusive and contribute to addressing local development needs as part of their commitments to the area.
- Get repairs done faster
- Insulate homes and get rid of mould
- Greening of estates



# The right to housing



## Project ideas

The consultation revealed a number of project ideas and actions:

- Better, more effective risk assessments needed to identify issues and improve stock.
- Getting repairs done faster and avoiding properties becoming poorly maintained.
- A programme of insulation and eco-improvements for poor quality housing stock.
- Better awareness and uptake of practices on efficient home heating and energy usage.
- An improved environment on estates and residential streets to improve people's quality of life, increase personal safety and promote more outside activities, such as traffic calming in residential streets and estate/street greening.

These ideas link to other rights and goals, specifically:

- Life free from poverty
- Health
- Sustainable development
- Water

Those with responsibility for delivery include:

- LB Camden – quick and efficient repairs to its own social housing stock and buildings; liaising with housing associations and registered social landlords to improve things like lighting, greening, tidying litter.
- Housing providers – better quality housing that is properly insulated, cladded, damp-proofed and maintained.
- More/better recycling points – better advertised and managed.



# Cross-cutting themes

Together, the strategy objectives, project ideas and activities set out here contribute to each of the following:

- Seven Human Rights/Global Sustainable Development Goals
- 13 community-identified priorities for Somers Town
- Four GLA Green New Deal mission objectives
- Five Future Neighbourhood 2030 programme objectives

The scope of the strategy is broad and many objectives and projects will have both strategic and local impacts at the same time. A strong feature of the strategy is the inter-relationship between the rights/goals, community priorities and project ideas.

As part of the 6 workshops undertaken with the community it was felt imperative to ensure the words, thoughts and ideas brought to each session would be accessible to a wider audience and that this should be both in the form of this written strategy, but also as a visual account that would transcend the words and be instantly recognisable as important by the whole community of Somers Town. The following 4 pictures are a narration of the words spoken across these workshops.



# Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030

HELPING SOMERS TOWN RESIDENTS TACKLE THE CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY & CREATE A FAIRER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

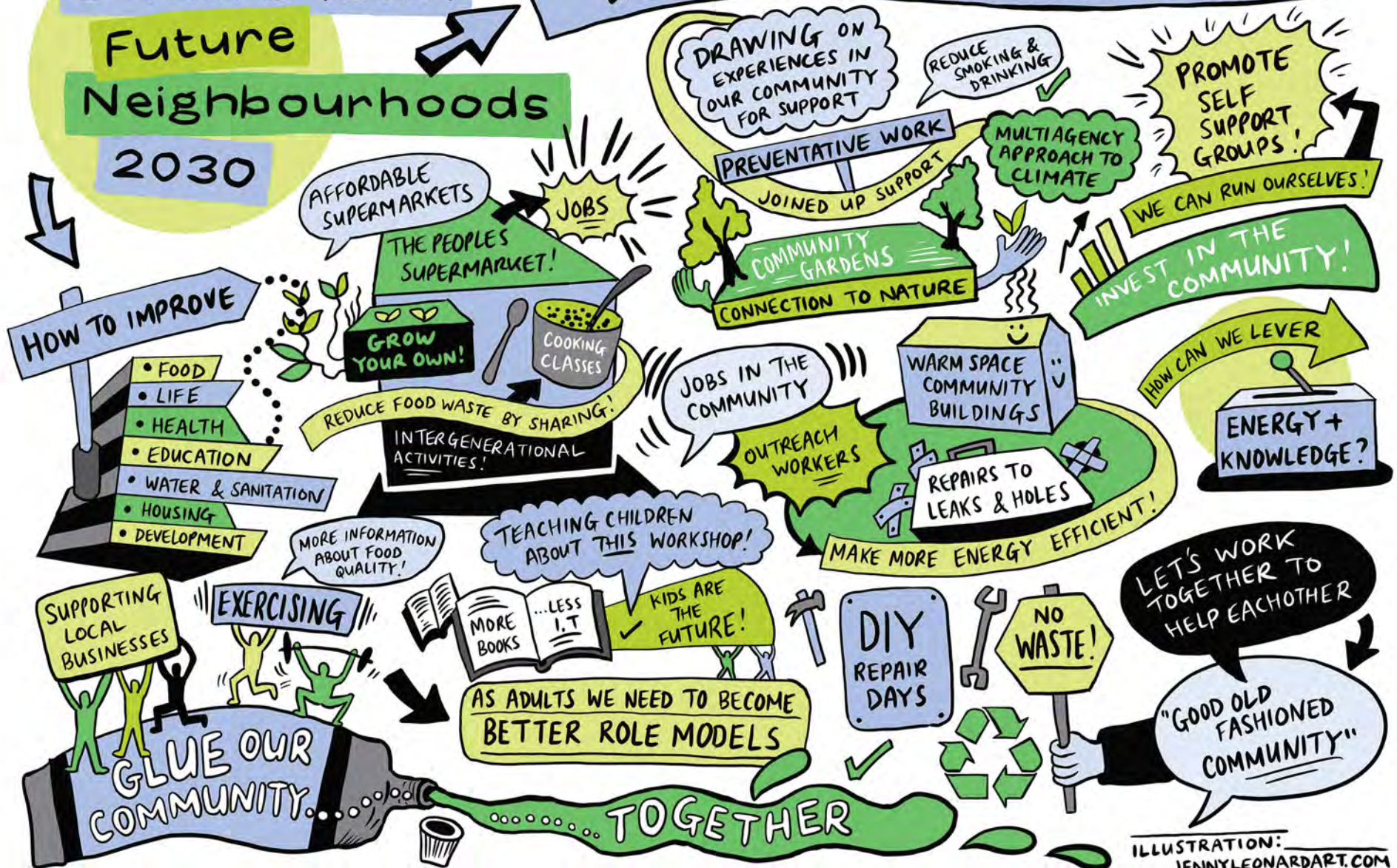


ILLUSTRATION:  
JENNYLEONARDART.COM



# Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030





# Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030

HELPING SOMERS TOWN RESIDENTS TACKLE THE CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY & CREATE A FAIRER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

IMPROVING  
THE  
ENVIRONMENT

GREENING STREETS

MAKING THE STREETS  
SAFER FROM CRIME &  
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PEOPLE WANT TO  
SOCIALISE AND USE  
PUBLIC SPACES MORE!

BETTER  
FOR HEALTH

WE NEED MORE GREEN JOBS,  
APPRENTICESHIPS AND...  
VOLUNTEERING...  
OPPORTUNITIES.....

YOUNG PEOPLE  
AS  
ECO-WARRIORS

EMPOWERED  
TO LEAD  
PROJECTS

WE CAME  
TOGETHER  
FOR COVID-19  
WHY CAN'T WE FOR A...

CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY

RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T  
SHARED EQUALLY!

BUSINESSES & DEVELOPERS  
HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLIMATE  
CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
DAMAGE IN THE AREA!

REDUCING TRAFFIC  
& ENCOURGING CYCLING

REDUCE CONGESTION  
& MAKE PEOPLE  
FEEL SAFER

↓ PEOPLE ↑  
DELIVERING PROJECTS

THE COUNCIL

SCHOOLS

BUSINESSES

THE POLICE

HOUSING PROVIDERS

RESIDENTS

PUBLIC HEALTH BODIES

COMMUNITY GROUPS

ACADEMIC BODIES

ILLUSTRATION:  
JENNYLEONARDART.COM



# Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030

HELPING SOMERS TOWN RESIDENTS TACKLE THE CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY & CREATE A FAIRER FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

THE RIGHT  
TO FOOD

BETTER INFORMATION  
SHARING ON GROWING  
INITIATIVES  
USING EXPERTISE TO  
RUN MORE PROJECTS!

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR BRINGING  
ABOUT....  
**CHANGE?**  
**EVERYONE**  
HAS A ROLE TO PLAY!

THE RIGHT TO A LIFE  
FREE FROM POVERTY!

LOCAL BUSINESSES

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- PROMOTING TRAINING
- UPSKILLING
- INVESTMENT IN  
BESPOKE CLIMATE  
CHANGE JOB  
OPPORTUNITIES

THE RIGHT  
TO HEALTH

BUILDING ON GOOD  
LOCAL INITIATIVES TO  
BRING ADDITIONAL  
HEALTH BENEFITS

PARENT GROUPS &  
FAMILIES COMING  
TOGETHER TO  
DISCUSS IDEAS

EFFECTIVE & WELL  
PROMOTED ESTATE-  
RECYCLING SCHEMES

THE RIGHT TO  
EDUCATION

LIFELONG-LEARNING  
ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE

SOLAR PANELS  
THE RIGHT TO  
HOUSING  
MORE EFFICIENT

UTILITY COMPANIES  
SHOULD PAY FOR MORE  
HELP  
ADVICE  
PRACTICAL  
SUPPORT

THE RIGHT TO WATER  
& SANITATION - BETTER  
EDUCATION & AWARENESS  
FOR WHY WATER ISSUES  
ARE A CONCERN FOR  
EVERYONE!

THE RIGHT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - LOCAL PEOPLE,  
RESIDENTS GROUPS, PRESSURE GROUPS SHOULD **SHOUT**  
GET VOICES HEARD TO STOP DESTRUCTION OF GREEN SPACES & UNWANTED DEVELOPMENT

ILLUSTRATION:  
JENNYLEONARDART.COM



## Delivering the strategy

- The strategy should be a driving referral document for any intervention to be taken in Somers Town from now on and should be embedded in new strategies/policies to be developed in the area.
- This is an organic, living strategy. The intention is that it will be reviewed and revised every four years.
- The commitments within the strategy will be delivered through Action Plans every two years, overseen by the Somers Town FN 2030 Development Group and with community accountability.
- Some resources from the GLA are available to part-fund projects until early 2025. Match-funding comes from a range of sources, including LB Camden.
- Between 2025 and 2030, project activity will be funded through other sources.

# Partners

| Name of organisation                            | Their role in the project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Camden Council</b>                           | Joint lead – Camden brings the support and expertise of a range of teams across the organisations, including Transport, Planning, Design, Participation, Sustainability, Green Space, Communications and Business.                                                 |
| <b>Somers Town Community Association (STCA)</b> | Joint lead – STCA is a community anchor organisation of over 35 years standing; and has established long-term relationships with the partners in this strategy.                                                                                                    |
| <b>Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum (STNF)</b>   | Joint lead – Since 2011, STNF has been working to help the community out of disadvantage, and a clear aim has been to help create a safe and attractive environment in Somers Town.                                                                                |
| <b>Central St Martins</b>                       | Supporting the circular economy projects both with process design, stall management and entrepreneurial advice and skill. They play a key role in the development of the Chalton Market project.                                                                   |
| <b>Global Generation</b>                        | A local educational charity supporting greening activities in the borough, they are based on the Story Garden. Global will be leading on the Greening Estates project and based in Somers Town.                                                                    |
| <b>Knowledge Quarter</b>                        | The KQ brings the climate expertise of the University of London and UCL and will contribute directly to strategy development. The KQ members will contribute by providing technical and organisational support to the Future Neighbourhoods strategy and projects. |
| <b>Lifefterhumus</b>                            | Key partner in the circular economy project. Operating in Somers Town and already delivering many of the project outcomes locally. They will lead on a key piece of research to support local circularity around food.                                             |
| <b>Camden Climate Change Alliance (CCCA)</b>    | This advisory service was established by the London Borough of Camden in 2008 to support local businesses, community groups and schools on sustainability. The CCCA will support local schools and will encourage collaborations between business and schools.     |
| <b>Euston Bid</b>                               | The bid is actively supporting the regeneration of Chalton Street and will be supporting the Greening and Resilient Chalton Street project both with financial and logistical resources.                                                                           |
| <b>Think and Do</b>                             | Camden based climate activist group supporting the Chalton Street project and already working on circular economy initiatives in the area, Continue delivering the successful Sharing Spaces and will work with school to support climate action.                  |
| <b>Scone Ai App</b>                             | An innovate starter linked to the Local Global, Scone, will be working closely with lead organisations in the adaptation and testing of their engagement platform which will underpin the education campaign to be delivered under this phase.                     |
| <b>Kings Cross Construction Skills Centre</b>   | A partner from phase one, they will continue to support apprenticeships linked to the delivery of this programme.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Arup</b>                                     | Arup will continue supporting the developing of the local carbon offset fund.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Google</b>                                   | Google will join the carbon offset fund on a pilot trial by sponsoring a mobility hub as a potential carbon offset scheme.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Our Little Market (OLM)</b>                  | A partner from phase one. They will support and facilitate access to the market street space.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Veolia</b>                                   | Will engage with waste reduction projects and provide waste reduction data.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Power Up North London</b>                    | A partner from phase one, they will continue to support residents saving energy through the Light fantastic initiative.                                                                                                                                            |

# Sources

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Poverty – Save the Children

Food – Wellcome Trust

Health – Wellcome Trust

Education – UN

Development – UN Habitat website

Housing – OHCHR

UN Human Rights

GLA

LB Camden Neighbourhood and ward profiles

IMD 2019

Community Consultation workshops



# Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods 2030

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SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

**SOMERS TOWN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
FORUM**

  
**Somers Town**  
Community Association

 **Camden**