



A friendly squirrel enjoys an apple core in Archbishop's Park, July 2020. Send us your local photos!

## South Bank & Waterloo Neighbours Moving Forward

**How we support each other as a community has never been more important.** South Bank & Waterloo Neighbours (SoWN) is a group of residents, businesses and others who together produced the Neighbourhood Plan. Now this has been approved by Lambeth and Southwark, we aim to keep working - making sure the Plan's policies are followed, and finding new ways to support and bring together the different parts that make our community such a great one.

To do this we need your ideas, suggestions and help! SoWN is simply a volunteer group of people working to help build community, so what it does depends on everyone. Over the last few months we have moved forward slowly, despite Covid-19:

**Charity set up.** SoWN is now a registered charity, like other neighbourhood forums around the country. Initially it has a small group of 6 interim appointed trustees broadly representative of different parts of the community. In the autumn we will organise an AGM and have trustee elections. For more on the trustees, [click here...](#)

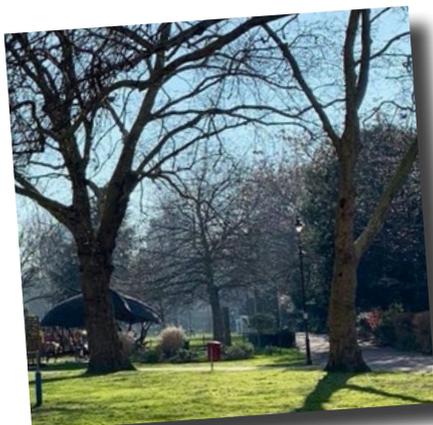
Three important topics in the Neighbourhood Plan are environment, planning, and use of funds from big developments. SoWN now has sub-groups looking at each of these issues. Anyone who is interested can join these groups – just [let us know](#).

We also have a redesigned website, making it easier to learn about SoWN's activities, and get in touch and get involved. It has a Community Resources section with information about a range of community services. Please let us know of any that should be added. Our web address is [www.sowneighbours.org](http://www.sowneighbours.org). We are also looking for someone with website skills to give a bit of advice on a few things. Please get in touch if interested!



**Broadening Membership.** We want to be as representative of the community as possible. That means gender-balanced, BAME representative, and with a spread of ages. We don't meet that profile as much as we'd like, so we hugely welcome anyone who can help achieve a good balance! If what we do interests you, or you feel there are other issues we should address, please let us know. And encourage friends and neighbours to become members. It's FREE for all who live or work in the area. [Click here...](#)

**Changes to South Bank Forum.** The old South Bank Forum has been renamed South Bank & Waterloo Forum. The aim is to hold it in different places around the area, so more people can attend. It will continue to be chaired by our local MPs, Florence Eshalomi and Neil Coyle. SoWN will be helping organise it, and we want to find ways to make it more accessible and friendly as well as informative. To see the report of the Forum on 16 July 2020, [click here...](#)



**Environment Group.** SoWN's Environment Group had its first meeting in July. The main areas we are concentrating on are:

- Air quality & pollution - how do we ensure cleaner air for all residents and businesses?
- Green spaces & trees - how can we celebrate and improve them?
- How can we maximise the environmental credentials of new developments?
- The climate emergency - working to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

We were pleased to see Lambeth's new [Climate Action website](#). They are asking for suggestions on what we can all do to improve the environment for local people.

If you would like to be involved in the group please contact Giles Goddard: [giles@stjohnswaterloo.org](mailto:giles@stjohnswaterloo.org)

# Planning News

The following planning issues have come up recently. SoWN's Planning Group is active in reviewing them and framing responses (final decisions remain the Council's):

**Waterloo's Last Bank Likely to Close.** Plans are well advanced by Marlin Hotels, who own the building on Westminster Bridge Road housing the Nat West Bank, to redevelop it as a wine bar with hotel above and some housing behind. SoWN has expressed concern about the loss of what is Waterloo's last bank branch.



NatWest Bank

**Vacant Site Opposite Lambeth North Tube.** The site on the corner of Westminster Bridge Rd and Hercules Rd, empty for 80 years, has been bought by PPHE hotel group. They are now consulting on plans for a hotel and rentable workspace. Some visual impressions of the façade have been shown, though the overall height has not been announced. SoWN's planning group is seeking more information.



Wootton St Housing Proposal

**New Wootton St Housing Proposed.** Homes for Lambeth (the property development arm of the council) is consulting on plans to build a 36-home, 10-storey block between Windmill House and Tait & Benson House, in Wootton St. This might affect light levels and overlooking for neighbours.

**Developments on Upper Ground.** Stanhope Properties, who own the IBM Building, say they plan to move ahead with major adaptations, starting 2021, despite its recent listing by Heritage England. Mitsubishi, who own the ITV building, are preparing a new office scheme. Meanwhile Coin Street Community Builders hope to progress the approved Doon St development. The impact of Covid on these plans remains unclear, but their impact on local residents from construction could be substantial. SoWN has urged close consultation with everyone likely to be affected and is monitoring the proposals carefully.



Upper Ground Developments

**Lower Marsh Changes.** A planning application has been submitted to turn three retail units beside La Barca into a pizza restaurant. SoWN's planning group opposed this as it meant losing shop units. The Neighbourhood Plan says Lower Marsh needs a good mix of shops, cafes and restaurants, as its character comes from the high number of small independent shops. Now, however, the Government has announced changes to what are called 'use classes', which may prevent Councils differentiating between shops and cafes or restaurants.

We also unsuccessfully opposed an application to turn the former William Hill betting shop into an adult gaming centre. The planning group felt this was not appropriate to the character of the street and will be too close to Johanna School. Sadly Lambeth Planning did not feel there were grounds to reject it.

## Other Community News

**Area Recovery Plan.** An area Covid-19 Recovery Plan has been developed by the South Bank & Waterloo Partnership, including councils, major organisations and others including SoWN. It really gives a sense of the scale of the challenge and the detailed planning required as the area seeks to find either an interim or a new normal. To read it, [click here...](#)

**Waterloo Action Centre Online Dancing!** Shake it all about (at home)! Waterloo Action Centre is organising online dancing sessions for older residents and people with disabilities who want to continue to enjoy dance from home. The dances will include a lot of hand movements for those who are not steady on their feet. For full details [click here](#)

**Please Share Other Group News!** If you think news from a community group or local business or organisation would be of wider interest, please do let us know. We are happy to include brief items in this newsletter. Please send an email to [News@sowneighbours.org](mailto:News@sowneighbours.org).

**And Finally - Photos Wanted!** If you have a photo taken around South Bank and Waterloo, that you think others would enjoy, please send it to us. A local scene - in Lower Marsh, along the South Bank, or a favourite corner you visit regularly - anything that captures what it's like to live in our area. We will include the best in future newsletters or the website. If it includes close-ups of people, just be sure they are happy to have it shown! Please send to [News@sowneighbours.org](mailto:News@sowneighbours.org).



Roses in St John's Churchyard