

Note of the second Old Kent Road Community Forum meeting

Thursday 26th March 2015,
Pembroke House.

What you said about the meeting

- “I was pleased that the focus is on the views of residents.....it was very refreshing to learn about the historical aspects of the Old Kent Road.”
- “It was really good. Edmund Bird’s presentation was excellent and the comparison photos by the community volunteer were really interesting.”
- “Very good venue and hospitality and the whole evening was very well facilitated which encouraged everyone to have the confidence in expressing their views.”
- “My only caveat is to make sure people feel (and in fact make sure they are) having an influence.”
- “There is a feeling in the community that no matter how much complaining goes on, voices are not heard.”

History

The first half of the forum was taken up with three presentations about local history. We first of all heard from Edmund Bird, one of the foremost conservation experts in London, and who is the Heritage Advisor for the Greater London Authority. Edmund talked about the different planning options for protecting historic buildings and townscapes. After that Jeremy Leach and Diana Cochrane from the Walworth Society showed the forum photos taken by residents at “community walkabouts”. We saw some examples of much loved historical buildings. At the end of this note, and handy for those of you reading this electronically, we have placed some links to more information about historical Southwark, sent to us by the Walworth Society.

Finally Gareth Buckley, who is a community forum volunteer and local resident, showed some historical photos and some photos taken at the same locations in 2015. Over page and at the top left is a photo of the **Old Kent Road library, Bricklayers Arms, 1955**. To the right is a photo of the same location in 2015. Below those, and to the left, is a photo from **1900 of John Griffith’s coffee rooms at 68 Old Kent Road**, and to the right of that a photo of Paul and Stephanie, who run Roberto’s café at 352 Old Kent Road. You make up your own mind about what we need to keep, what to change, and what hasn’t change all that much over the years.

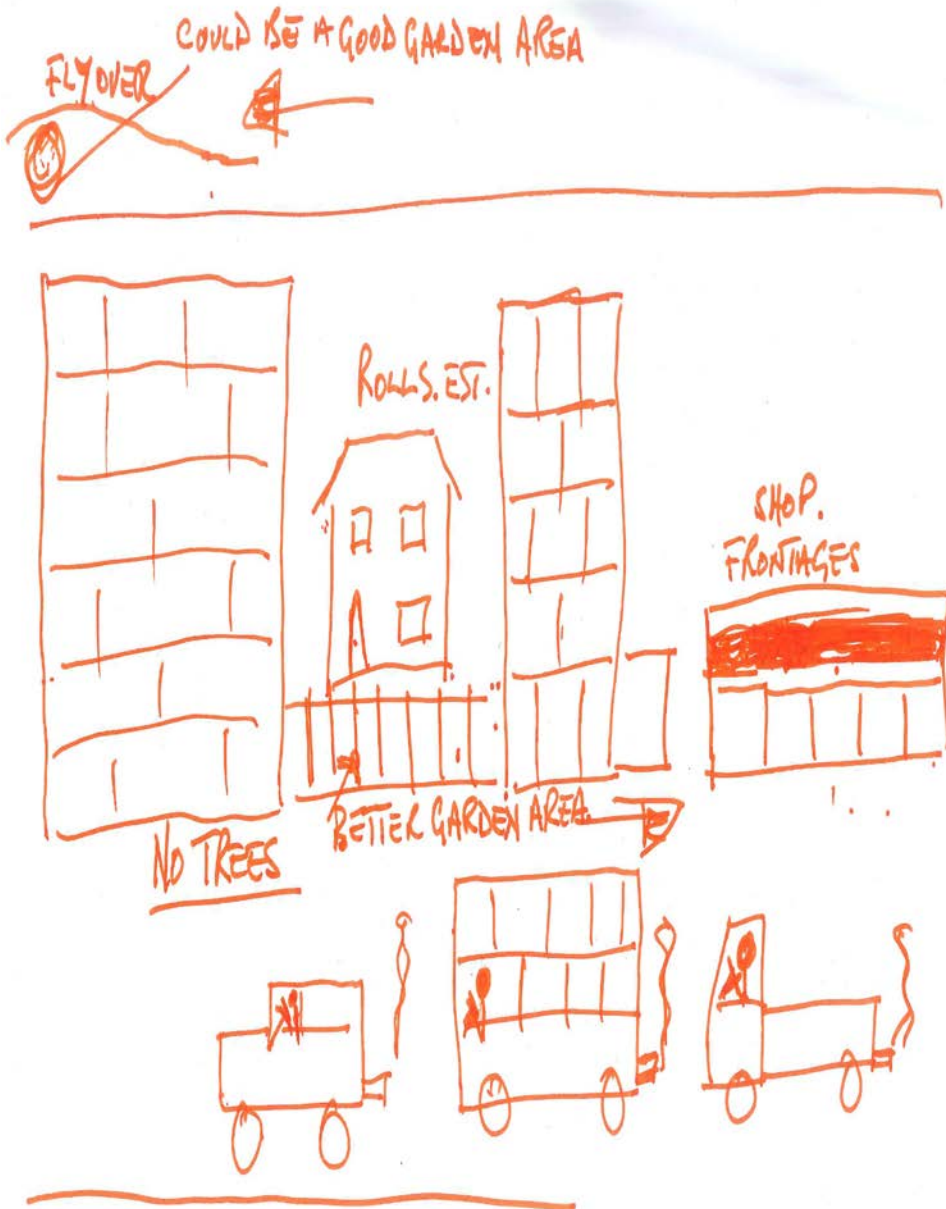


People's everyday experience

One way to explore what you see everyday in a place, but never have time to think about all that much, is to make a drawing or map of what you remember. The things that stand out most to you are the things that you will draw.

We did a memory drawing exercise at the meeting. The aim was to help us to think about what we see everyday. It was not a drawing competition, but we do think you would like to see a couple of very interesting drawings (but we do not know who drew these). The complete set will be posted on our website soon.





ROAD COULD EXPLAIN THE HISTORY FROM ROMAN TIMES

Links to historical photos; recommended by the Walworth Society

Bermondsey Boy

<http://bermondseyboy.net/>

Walworth Now and Then (covers East Walworth and parts of the OKR)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=o.69569490746&type=1>

The Peckham Society

<http://www.peckhamsociety.org.uk/>

Hopefully WS website and the amazing "Shoebox" website that Diana has created - The Walworth Peach (great for historic maps inc OKR area)

<http://walworthsociety.co.uk/>

<http://thewalworthpeach.com/>

and the Friends of Burgess Park

<http://www.friendsofburgesspark.org.uk/>

Link to the presentations shown at the meeting

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/3504/old_kent_road_consultation

The second file in the list you find when you open the link, named **"Heritage and Character – community walkabout findings"**, is from the Walworth Society.

The third file in the list named **"Historic townscapes, character and heritage assets"** is from the Greater London Authority.

The fourth file down named **"Historic and Present (Then and No) Photographs of the Old Kent Road"** is from the community forum volunteer team.