

# PECKHAM VISION NEWS

Issue 2: February 07

## Peckham Central Transformed?



Peckham Rye station frontage in late C19th (Photo by RLSAG)

Transport for London's (TfL) consultation on the tram routes came to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> January. Peckham Vision suggested the tram might loop round Heaton Rd and draw up on a re-opened piazza in front of Peckham Rye station as it used to be, linking with the emerging cultural quarter across the road behind Rye Lane, instead of a tram depot.

The proposed tram depot site houses many artists' studios, businesses and faith groups. There is great potential for an interesting local cultural quarter, offering a sample of Peckham's diversity. Explaining some of the potential and the site, Adam a local architect who has close links with the site said: *The existing special mix of industry, studio, church, warehouse, is just a tiny hint of how lively a city can be. It's only worth shouting about because its such an endangered habitat, but one that could be so vital to the 21<sup>st</sup> century city. The overlap of function brings people into contact with types they would otherwise not meet... It supports a local economy, keeps the money in local hands. It means there is something happening, people around, making the place feel safer.*

TfL and Southwark Council just have to look again at the Peckham tram depot proposal that would destroy the future of this emerging cultural quarter. There is an exciting alternative, which people would want to visit Peckham to experience. No one would come to visit a tram depot

## Get on board the tram subgroup

The joint Community Councils' (Peckham, and Nunhead & Peckham Rye) tram working group, involving the community, had its first meeting, on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The room at the town hall was packed with over 50 people.

This working group was set up as a result of pressure from Peckham Vision. After much vigorous discussion, the group agreed to discuss over the next few months the Tram route, the Tram Depot, Transport in general, Peckham Area Action Plan in relation to the tram, Consultation processes, Jobs,

& Enterprise, Conservation Area for Peckham town centre's historic buildings, and Health and Safety.

Membership of the group is open to volunteers who want to attend regularly. Anyone can join the mailing list, and the meetings will be open to the public.

A follow up meeting was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February and was attended by TfL. Look out for a report on this in our next issue. For dates of future meetings contact Peckham Vision on email [info@peckhamvision.org](mailto:info@peckhamvision.org) telephone 07783 330 316.

### What is Peckham Vision?

*Peckham Vision* is a consortium of local residents, artists faith groups and businesses, who have come together with the Peckham Society, to seek information about the development plans for Peckham Town Centre, including the tram and tram depot. We want to raise public awareness of these issues so there can be an informed discussion about the future of Peckham.

Our shared vision is integrated development of Peckham town centre,

- using the heritage of Peckham's commercial past and the best of modern urban design and architecture,
- providing diverse and quality services and facilities for the whole community,
- with the tram project enhancing and not damaging the Town Centre

The original choice of 'site 63P/71P' in Peckham for the tram depot was based on the 'misinformation' that the site was 'derelict'. But

- it is thriving with hundreds of jobs, many businesses, a community of some 60 artists and several faith communities, and the site has great potential.

**The current focus of *Peckham Vision* is to press for the public review of all depot site options and seek community participation in it. Contact us on: 07783 330 316**



Panoramic view of the Bussey Building. George Bussey was a leading 19<sup>th</sup> British manufacturer who produced sporting goods on this site. (Photo by Adam Khan)

The Councillors visited the Bussey building which is home to a wide variety of creative, business and social uses. From the top of the building they had a breathtaking view of London, and saw the extent of the 6 acre site to Consort and Brayards Rds, earmarked for the tram depot.

## Councillors misinformed?

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2007 Peckham Vision held an information day to give all Southwark's Councillors the opportunity to get to know the proposed tram depot site in Peckham, its current users and understand its future potential. One of the Councillors said they had been persuaded by the plan to build a depot on site because some years back officers told them it would regenerate Peckham by having housing and commerce on top of the depot. In fact, property experts say it would be too expensive and the current plans do not include this. The original reasons for Peckham being selected as a preferred depot location no longer stand up, and need to be looked at again.

### Peckham's Cultural Quarter

One of London's architectural success stories has been the re-use of its industrial buildings. Southwark in particular has some excellent examples, such as the re-use of warehouses and mills in Bermondsey and Shad Thames, and the re-inhabiting of factories around Southwark Street amongst others. On the proposed depot site in Peckham, in addition to the Bussey building there is the former Holdron's stores on Bournemouth Road, and attractive arcades which are still there.

Artists helped lead the regeneration of Southwark's riverside industrial buildings, finding cheap, flexible spaces suited to their diverse work. The studios and gallery at the Bussey Building have become a popular outlet for new work alongside the South London Art Gallery and Area 10 at the old canal head. This is all part of Peckham's Cultural Quarter and the wider creative economy which has been naturally evolving and emerging in Peckham for the last few decades. Many aspects of the performance arts and related parts of the leisure economy have put down roots in Peckham. The site earmarked for the tram depot is already playing a role in this, and has potential to make an even more significant contribution. The current plans for a tram depot will prevent this. For more information contact Peckham Vision on 07783 330 316, email [info@peckhamvision.org](mailto:info@peckhamvision.org)

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## Join Peckham Vision

**You can help** Peckham Vision to press for review of all depot site options on the proposed tram route and seek community participation in it by:

- raising awareness where you live, work or trade
- helping with leafleting
- taking part in the information stall at 133 Rye Lane on Saturdays (or another regular day)
- letter writing to the press, councillors, MPs, etc.
- phoning radio talk shows
- attending meetings where the Town Centre is being discussed
- offering any particular skills you have - it may be just what we need.

Contact: email [info@peckhamvision.org](mailto:info@peckhamvision.org) Tel: 07783 330 316

Website: [www.peckhamvision.org](http://www.peckhamvision.org)