

PECKHAM TOWN CENTRE

NEW PIAZZA FOR PECKHAM RYE STATION



A new vision for Peckham Rye station: the plan would involve removing the buildings in front of the station and replacing them with a public square and improved facilities for local businesses.

Southwark Council has recently agreed to press ahead with working out how to create the piazza in front of Peckham Rye station. They are now developing a feasibility study with Network Rail who owns the property and Southern Rail who manage the station. Cross River Partnership and other London bodies are supporting. All the elected representatives are on board - Val Shawcross London Assembly Member for Southwark & Lambeth, local Lane ward councilors, Nunhead & Peckham Rye Community Council, and the Council's Executive. The feasibility study will look at how it can be done technically and financially.

The image above shows just what this vision could look like, with an open piazza surrounded by shops to replace the shabby buildings, which currently occupy the site. Central to this work would be the restoration of the outstanding 1880's station building to its former glory, as well as transforming the first floor old billiard room in to a restaurant. The proposal would also help reduce crime and serve to boost local usage of the area, and transform the first impression of Peckham for the thousands of visitors who arrive by train. It would be restored to its proper place as a striking gateway to Peckham.

While the removal of the existing buildings in front of the station would affect local businesses in the short term the proposal also allows for retail space in the nearby railway arches and a number of market stall facilities in the new square. The recent agreement on a feasibility study is the fruit of years of campaigning by the Peckham Society, the Rye Lane & Station Action Group (RLSAG) and Peckham Vision. The pursuit of this exciting new project through Council processes is greatly welcome, and will be an important 'flagship' development for the new strategic vision for our town centre.