

Presenting a model vision for town...

COMMUNITY HOLDS LAUNCH EVENT FOR ITS OWN IDEAS ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

By **JAMES CRACKNELL**

PECKHAM is becoming a model example for town planners, in more ways than one.

A 1:100 scale model of the area around Peckham Rye railway station has been built by a team of volunteers as the community prepares to help “co-design” a new redevelopment scheme.

It was during a recent confrontation with Southwark council – over contentious plans that would have seen many businesses evicted – that locals decided to take matters into their own hands.

“We were told a model would be too expensive,” said Eileen Conn, of community group Peckham Vision.

“So we wondered if we could get enough volunteers to make one. We got more than 30 people to take part.”

In April, the council backed down from its joint £25million “station gateway” scheme with National Rail and agreed that the community should help design new plans that could prove more popular. This summer sees a series of workshops and discussions taking place with a council-hired design team, and the first of these was held last week. But locals felt the complexity of the town centre, with commercial buildings nestled among railway buildings, viaducts and arches, would be best tackled with an accurate scale model.

Ms Conn said: “We have been meeting once a week and people have been making bits of the model at home. “Everything is to scale – it has been incredible.

“Only four or five of us had any



SCALE VIEW: From left, Grace Sheppard, 10, dad John Wilson and Sylvia Sheppard, eight; inset, the Peckham model

modelling experience, but over about seven weeks we have built it.

“And it has cost less than £1,000.”

The modelling team was helped by architects Benedict O’Looney and Clyde Watson, and local firms that provided materials and support include wood suppliers Whitten Timber, design specialists Complete Fabrication and “variety shop” Khan’s Bargain Ltd.

A launch event for the model was held at the Bussey Building in Rye

Lane on Wednesday.

Ms Conn said: “We now hope the model will find a permanent home while this design process is going on, and we can use it to inspire the public.”

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● **What do you think of the model for the town? Write to *South London Press*, 23 Streatham High Road, SW16 1DS or email letters@slp.co.uk**

News IN BRIEF

Pedestrian, 61, dies in motorbike collision

CAMBERWELL: Police are appealing for witnesses after a 61-year-old man died in a collision with a motorbike in Peckham Road on Wednesday.

Police say the man was using a zebra crossing at the junction with Southampton Way when the accident happened at around 10.20pm.

He was pronounced dead at hospital soon afterwards.

Officers believe they know the victim’s identity, but his next of kin had not been informed before we went to press yesterday.

The 26-year-old biker was taken to hospital and was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Witnesses should call police on 020 8285 1574.

Investigation after flats rooftop blaze

BERMONDSEY: Thirty firefighters battled a blaze on top of a block of flats.

Six fire engines were at the scene of a fire on a roof terrace and decking, at the six-storey block in Tower Bridge Road.

The emergency call was made just before 5.30pm on Wednesday, and the fire was under control in just over 40 minutes.

No one was injured or evacuated. The cause is under investigation.

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