

PECKHAM RYE STATION developments:

Network Rail's consultation 30 November, Old Waiting Room in Peckham Rye Station

Message from Peckham Vision: <http://www.peckhamvision.org>

Peckham Vision has been involved for many years in the community idea of re-creating the square in front of Peckham Rye Station, and led the work to restore the Old Waiting Room and the original staircase. We have welcomed the Council's success in raising the funds to bring the new station square to life. We had expected that over the last year, the Council and Network Rail would engage in discussion with local people about the nature of the square and ideas for linking it to the rear of the station before concept designs are developed. The consultation today in the Old Waiting Room is the beginning of that consultation, but lasts for just a week. To help people make good use of this, we have produced this briefing, from community discussions, to give a short checklist of points for visitors to the consultation. More details on these here: www.peckhamvision.org/wiki/Gateway_comments

LOCAL ASPIRATIONS

The new public square: This is the key feature of the project and it will replace the current arcade built in front of the station in the 1930s. This plan has wide support, but there are interlinked questions which need discussion: what size should the square be, ie if reduced by new buildings, and what functions the square should have?

The physical area around the station: making this more pleasant for pedestrians, attracting more varied kinds of shops, and providing toilets available for the public (not just station users), are also long held and widely shared aspirations. What will enable this to be achieved?

FURTHER POINTS TO THINK ABOUT

Network Rail's 'preferred option' - <http://goo.gl/mZuaOn> : This shows potentially:

- new buildings replacing the commercial buildings along Blenheim Grove and Holly Grove, with residential above them;
- new housing in the forecourts of the business arches fronting on Blenheim Grove;
- a new building with a restaurant on top between the rail lines in Dovedale Court;
- clearance and refurbishment of all the arches in Dovedale Court between the rail lines.

Questions to ask: The architects say they will review this preferred option and present their own proposals at a January event. From our community conversations, we suggest these points in the 'preferred option' seem worth asking about and commenting on:

- what maximum height might any new buildings be and what would be their impact on the adjacent streets, especially Blenheim Grove & Holly Grove, with the effect on their light and space;
- whether the site is appropriate for new additional housing along Blenheim Grove;
- if the extent of the redevelopment implied in the 'preferred option' is necessary to achieve the improvements needed;
- what effect the preferred wholesale redevelopment would have on the small creative and leisure businesses taking root in the buildings on the site, and their part in the emergence of that new strand of local economic & social activity.

Community's restoration work

To see the community's work over several years to restore and improve Peckham Rye station and surrounds, visit [www.peckhamvision.org/wiki/Peckham Rye Station stages](http://www.peckhamvision.org/wiki/Peckham_Rye_Station_stages)

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