

## **MP HELEN HAYES FIGHTS TO STOP DEVESTATING POLLUTION FOR LONDON BOROUGH**

***#ScrapTheYard campaigners say Lambeth Council must put climate change, air quality and the health of thousands of schoolchildren ahead of money***

**6 July 2021**

Helen Hayes, MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, will address a Planning Applications Committee (PAC) in person on 13 July and implore its members to reject shocking plans to pollute the borough of Lambeth, putting the health of over 3,500 nearby schoolchildren at risk.

Despite overwhelming public outcry, Lambeth Council planning officers are recommending granting planning permission to a devastating proposal put forward by Southwark Metals. They want to relocate a major scrap metal yard to Windsor Grove, West Norwood - right into the heart of a family community, next door to two schools and residential homes.

At direct odds with Lambeth Council's own climate change pledges and environmental policies, Lambeth is set to give the go ahead despite over 2,500 Lambeth citizens submitting their written objection to the Southwark Metals' proposal on the Lambeth planning portal (a record number of objections) and almost 5,500 local people signing a petition opposing it.

The Lambeth Council planning officers' recommendation also flies in the face of Councillor Claire Holland's ambitions for the borough. In her recent acceptance speech as new leader of Lambeth Council, Cllr Holland declared that Lambeth is to lead London boroughs in "tackling climate change".

The PAC is taking place at Brixton Town Hall on Tuesday 13 July at 7pm. In addition to Helen Hayes MP, Gipsy Hill Ward Councillors Matthew Bennett and Pete Elliott will also be speaking to oppose the proposal. Cllr Bennett has recently been elected as Deputy Leader of Lambeth Council.

**Rob Andrew of Norwood Action Group says:** "Planning officers have recommended the application for approval. However, we know that councillors generally are far from happy and will not be 'a rubber stamp'.

"It's not just that the application strains against just about every applicable policy, but the proposed conditions are toothless or absent - not even a cap on HGV numbers. No independent monitoring to enable proper enforcement of crucial conditions.

"Helen Hayes MP and influential Lambeth Deputy Leader Cllr Matthew Bennett have committed to speak against at the PAC. This speaks volumes."

**Jemima Hartshorn, founder of Mums for Lungs, comments:** "Air pollution from transport and construction has hugely damaging health impacts on everyone, but especially children. This development by Southwark Metals in Windsor Grove, West Norwood is planned for the back of a primary school and in close proximity to other schools, nurseries and residential homes. We sincerely hope these plans will not go ahead, but we also call on the Mayor of London and

Government to ensure through legislation that children across the country are protected from irresponsible developers.”

### **#ScrapTheYard campaign**

A public protest took place at the Windsor Grove site in West Norwood on 27 May 2021. Watch the video, including MP Helen Hayes addressing the local community, here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYsKGGH\\_rjYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYsKGGH_rjYo)

#ScrapTheYard campaigners say Southwark Metals’ projected move from Lewisham to West Norwood must be stopped. The unnecessary transit of scrap metal the entire length of Lambeth would impact air quality.

If successful in its planning application for a scrap metal sorting yard at Windsor Grove, Southwark Metals would add a quarter of a million extra vehicle miles in Lambeth each year compared to its current location. This is directly at odds with Lambeth Council’s implicit commitment to its residents to tackle pollution with its Climate Change Emergency, launched in July 2019, yet Lambeth is seriously considering it.

There are two schools adjoining the site at Windsor Grove<sup>1</sup> and another five within a half-mile radius<sup>2</sup>. In all, seven schools with over 3,500 children. A further 21 schools are located in the one mile radius with 14,864 current attendees<sup>3</sup>. Windsor Grove is a small cul de sac located beside a residential area of West Norwood, SE27 with access unsuitable for a business of Southwark Metals’ type and size. The area is already frequently blocked, so the proposal would disastrously further impact local traffic and bus services, and the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and schoolchildren.

Southwark Metals’ proposal would mean the transportation of 25,000 tonnes of scrap metal per year in and out of Windsor Grove, which directly abuts the two schools and is only three metres apart from the nearest homes. It would also obliterate a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

### **Other key concerns include:**

- Approximately 150 daily vehicle movements (Southwark Metals’ figure) through local streets, five and a half days a week - a staggering 40,000 trips each year
- Initially, Southwark Metals stated 65% HGVs, but with no clear explanation, now say 34%
- It’s not just a West Norwood issue - Southwark Metals’ proposal will affect the whole of Lambeth and surrounding boroughs, particularly Southwark, as well as Lewisham and Croydon borders (see map below)
- Most of the daily site traffic will come via three main routes, all of which are already heavily congested:
  - Kennington / Brixton / Streatham (A23) - an Air Quality Focus zone!
  - Camberwell / Herne Hill / Tulse Hill or Croxted Road

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<sup>1</sup> Kingswood Primary School (Lower Site) - <https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/family-information-directory/6343-kingswood-primary-school-lower-site> and Park Campus Academy - <https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/education/park-campus-academy>

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://bit.ly/2Tdf3a5>

<sup>3</sup> Source: <https://bit.ly/2Tdf3a5>

- Peckham / East Dulwich / South Circular
- The proposed site tonnage is supposed to be capped, however tonnage and traffic numbers cannot be enforced
- It's proposed that trucks are limited to 38 tonne size, but bigger trucks cannot be prevented
- It's not just air quality, the sheer number and size of Southwark Metals' trucks pose a huge safety issue too, especially for schoolchildren and cyclists

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### Notes to editors

**#ScrapTheYard** is a grass roots community campaign group dedicated to preventing Southwark Metals moving to Windsor Grove, West Norwood, SE27. It seeks to raise awareness, give a voice to the people and encourage objectors to tell Lambeth Council that they reject Southwark Metals' planning application. The campaign is supported by [Norwood Action Group](#) and [Norwood Forum](#).

**Southwark Metals** is a 35-year-old business that in recent years has discovered land development. Sites it has previously occupied for scrap metal have become residential. #ScrapTheYard believe the real driver for a massive scrap operation off Norwood High Street, West Norwood is Southwark Metals' desire for residential on another waste site they own. Southwark Metals has a linked planning application for 217 flats at Shakespeare Wharf, SE24 (Herne Hill). This can only be granted under London and Lambeth policy if another site is found to take its tonnage.

Whilst Southwark Metals' uses West Norwood as the nominal 'replacement site', it actually states it intends to move its Lewisham business there. Southwark Metals' application is silent regarding what would happen to the 20,000+ tonnes of waste handled at Shakespeare Wharf each year. Its 233 daily vehicle movements will be dispersed to unknown more distant locations, creating yet more extra miles and pollution in London. As far as is known, Lambeth has given the matter no consideration either.

**Schools** - there are seven schools and 3,579 schoolchildren located within the half-mile radius of Windsor Grove, West Norwood. Another 21 schools are located in the one mile radius with 14,864 current attendees<sup>4</sup>. The names of the seven schools within the half-mile radius are listed below. Please see accompanying spreadsheet for full list of schools, pupil attendee figures and distances from the Southwark Metals proposed site.

- **Kingswood Primary School (Lower Site)** - 200 metres, neighbours to proposed site  
301 children at nursery and reception level aged 2-5 years old
- **Park Campus Academy** - 350 metres, neighbours to proposed site  
110 children aged 11-16 years old
- **St Luke's C of E Primary School** - 300 metres  
202 children aged 5-11 years old
- **Kingswood Primary School (Upper Site)** - 800 metres  
410 children aged 5-10 years old
- **Elmwood Primary School** - 800 metres  
429 children aged 5-11 years old
- **Dunelm Grove Pre-School** - 450 metres  
20 children aged 2-3 years old

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<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://bit.ly/2Tdf3a5>

- **St Julian's Primary School (West Norwood Site)** - 800 metres  
965 children aged 3-11 years old

Please note this does not include the raft of other schools in West Norwood, Lambeth and surrounding boroughs that will be impacted by Southwark Metals' HGV traffic and air pollution.

Lambeth's Citizen Assembly on Climate Change initiative began on 25 May 2021:

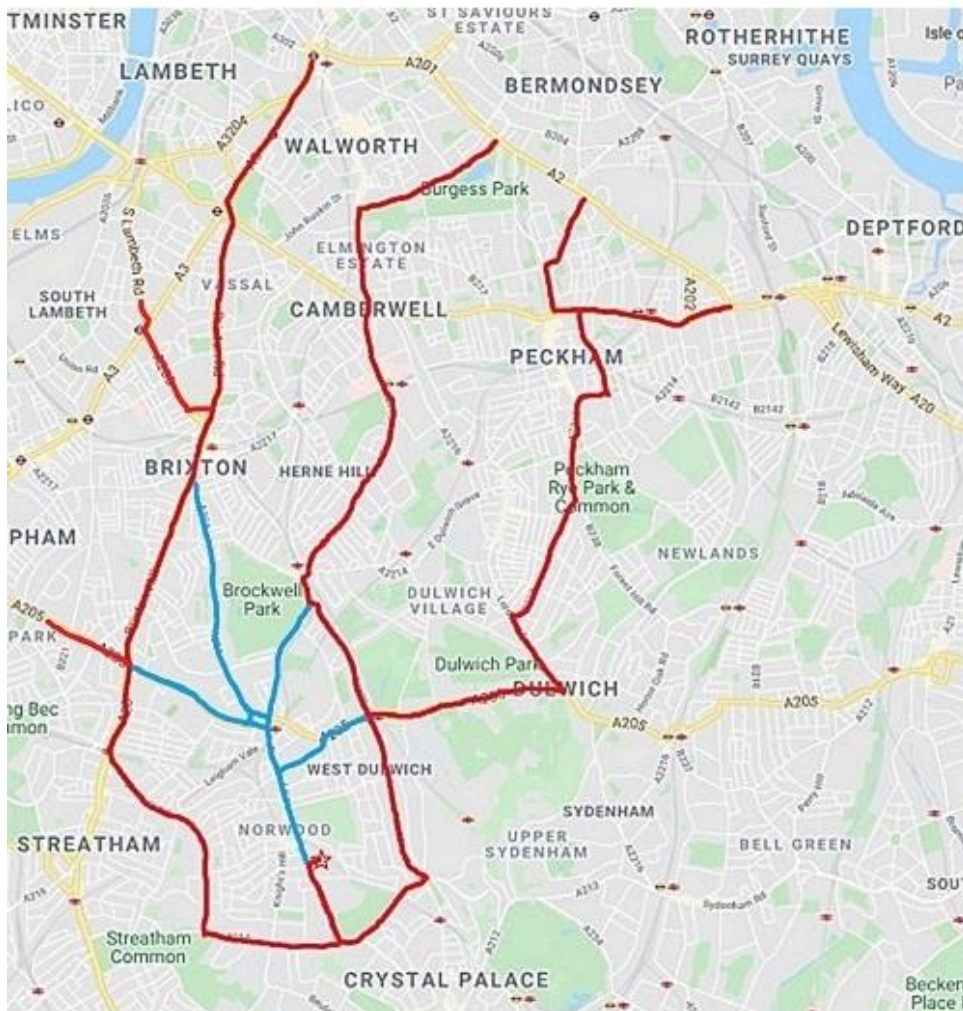
<https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/lambeths-citizens-assembly-climate-change>

**For further information about the campaign, please contact:**

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### Borough-wide impact of Southwark Metals moving from Old Kent Road area to West Norwood



The **Red Routes** represent the outcome of the HGV route south from West Norwood. The **Blue Routes** are the likely short-cuts. 250,000 extra miles a year is likely through Lambeth compared to **Southwark Metals** staying close to Old Kent Road (A2).