

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this unique, one-of-a kind document outlining a vision to improve the night time experience for Wandsworth residents, workers, and visitors. This is the beginning of the dialogue.

The significance of this study cannot be overstated. This strategy, in particular advocates for the many people who work in or are affected by the night time economy and who are frequently overlooked in important decision making.

The night time experience is determined by who you are - what you look like, your gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical health, ethnic origin, previous experiences, and if you can afford a taxi home or to work.

For many, the night time is filled with fear, and those who feel the most alienated are frequently the ones who are least heard.

This strategy places a special focus on the groups that have the most difficulty getting what they need at night, such as low-income workers, young people, and women.

We want businesses and high streets to thrive, but we also want people to feel comfortable and involved so they can enjoy what our neighbourhoods and town centres have to offer after dark. To do so, we must reconsider the night, redesign how our neighbourhoods should look and feel, and what kind of uses and services are available after 6

The council recently signed up to the Women's Night Safety Charter and is conducting ongoing conversations with particularly vulnerable groups such as those living in more deprived areas of the borough and the LGBTQI+ community. This demonstrates our commitment to improving safety.

This paper aims to kick-start a new emphasis on the night time, making it more accessible to all, and ensuring that everyone who works, studies or enjoys the night feels safe and heard.

Kemi Akinola cabinet member for culture

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1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the document

This Draft Night Time Strategy for Wandsworth sets out the Borough's strategic vision for the evening and night time which will help shape, influence and link with wider strategies and policies across the council. It provides guidance for the council, partner organisations and businesses to ensure the night time economy in the borough is encouraged to grow, whilst ensuring it is sustainable, reflects the needs of local residents, businesses and workers and is inclusive to all.

The Strategy supports wider council priorities to create a more just and fairer borough with its focus on improving the night time experience for all, taking into account the residents that often feel the negative impacts of the night time economy too. It recognises the importance of safe neighbourhoods at night as well as during the day, the foundation for a successful night time economy. Listening to the experience of night time workers and other participants has brought fresh insight into the preparation of this strategy. Providing a voice for those involved in the night time economy is an important principle for taking its recommendations forward.

The focus of the Strategy is not just on leisure, hospitality and the entertainment industries, but also night workers such as those in health care, warehouse logistics and deliveries, as well as people leaving their offices in the evening or late night. The night time economy is significant, but the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to light the fragility of our night time industries as well as the safety of Londoners, especially women, low income, disabled, young and vulnerable people, moving around the city at night.

Following the tragic death of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa in 2021, a spotlight has been cast on the borough around women's safety and the general safety of Londoners at night. Wandsworth is the safest inner London borough statistically, but with 52% of the borough's population being women (the majority falling into the 25-39 age bracket); an increasing night time workforce of which women are an increasing part; and for our high streets and town centres to recover successfully following the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is critical that we plan for an inclusive and safe environment for all our residents, visitors and workers.

The purpose of this document is to celebrate the night and draw together practical recommendations for improving the night time to meet the needs of everyone. We know the night time economy can have negative impacts on residents too, and through this Strategy hope to balance the needs of all those who use the night. The Strategy promotes cross-departmental working internally within the council, extensive consultation with businesses and the public, and engagement with external stakeholders such as the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Some of the recommendations in the Strategy will require funding, and where appropriate the council will redirect existing resources or explore options for external or partnership funding. The Strategy provides a platform for developing future projects and an evidence base for funding applications.

Our approach

The Night Time Strategy project is led by the High Streets and Local Growth Team in the Economic Development Office at Wandsworth Council. This Strategy is informed by comprehensive data collection, consultation with relevant stakeholders, inter-departmental working and recent public engagement, the Night Time, Our Time series of consultations.

Recent engagement that has informed this strategy:

- Night Time, Our Time interactive map consultation (September February 2023) (816 responses).
- LGBTQI+ Forum Night Time Strategy Workshop
- Deconstructed Discoball 5 day / 5 night interactive installation project (October 2022)
- Sounds of the borough sound recording project (October 2022)
- Night Time, Our Time online questionnaire (January May 2022)(438 responses)
- Night Time Stakeholder Panel (February 2022 ongoing)
- Face-to-face meetings with businesses on staff safety and recruitment (May – June 2022)
- Attendance at various events and forums
- Night walks with councillors
- Ongoing conversations with businesses and markets
- Conversations with youth clubs and youth services
- Creative workshops



2 VISION

We need to reimagine a night time that is inclusive for all, regardless of gender, age, race, disability or income. We want to reclaim and celebrate the night, with consideration to the new issues that behold us – concern around safety, economic challenges such as the rise in cost of living, and a continued wariness around crowded indoor places following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A common misconception around the Night Time Strategy is that it aims to increase late night opening hours to encourage more venues for drinking. Our vision is more holistic and inclusive, recognising the wide range of activities that constitute the Night Time economy and seeking to create a more balanced night time, that provides services that appeal to a diverse range of users – from community hubs for residents and young people, late night supermarkets for night workers, to safer transport hubs for all.

The council commits to the below four principles to guide the improvement of the night:

- **Voice** listening to those who participate in or are affected by the night time environment so their voices are heard and reflected in our work
- **Collaboration** working better across agencies, organisations and communities to create a better night time experience for all
- **Knowledge** providing guidance, training and information that informs a better understanding of the night time economy and safety
- **Investment** specific interventions to create positive impacts in particular locations or piloting new ideas





3 PEOPLE

The success of the night time economy – and therefore the borough's economy as a whole – depends on the continued and increased use of the borough at night. People are at the heart of what makes the night time vibrant and we want the experience of our town centres and the borough as a whole to feel safe, engaging, welcoming and inclusive to all so everyone is encouraged to use it.

As part of this, we need to understand who uses the night time and why, and how we can draw more people out at night. This includes night workers, young and old people, and a special focus on the safety of women and minority groups.

What you said:

Safety and activity

- Many residents do not visit Wandsworth's town and local centres often at night, and a large amount never do
- Fewer people visit any of the town centres in the late night (midnight 6am) compared to the evening (6pm midnight)
- The main reasons for not using the night time are feeling unsafe, poor lighting and a lack of activities
- Aggressive drunken behaviour and street harassment by men is an issue
- Many people with protected characteristics such as women and the LGBTQI+ community do not feel safe in the borough at night
- Women's perception of night time is still affected by the tragic death of Sarah Everard
- More activity (places open later), CCTV, more police, male education, rough sleeper support and better lighting is needed to improve safety at night
- People do not know what is happening in their town centres and require better communication

Young people

- Many young people do not feel safe travelling around the borough at night alone and they have nowhere to get help if phone batteries die
- Young people want and need more places to go to feel more connected to their communities, and where their parents can feel they are safe
- Violence amongst young people at night often starts with a disagreement in school
- The youth community feels unsupported by the police and there is distrust between young people and the police

Night workers

- Night workers are anxious about going home at night, especially down quiet, dark roads. Many have had negative experiences
- Transport is a key issue, with unreliable and expensive options in the borough at night
- There is a lack of amenities for people working in the night



Safety

- Promote later opening hours for a range of businesses in alignment with council policies, with a greater consideration of safety benefits and the consideration of the night time work force
- Improve street lighting through well-considered interventions that respond to the local area, prioritising locations that night time users tell us are problematic, ensuring they are creative and welcoming as well as practical
- Encourage, where appropriate, spill out spaces of cafés, restaurants and bars onto back streets to improve activity and contribute to a sense of safety (through table and chair use where practical)
- Work with local businesses to consider practical solutions to improve perceptions of safety at night, such as locking gates, placing bins in appropriate places and ensuring walkways are kept clear
- An enhanced 'place-based' approach to existing council and Police joint working to identify crime hotspots, consider more CCTV, tackle Violence Against Women and Girls and provide greater police presence and faster response rate in areas of need
- Police, council and businesses to work together to reduce crime through initiatives such as Ask for Angela / Wave training, Good Night Out campaign, White Ribbon and Women's Night Safety Charter, continued torch walks, with aspirations for Purple Flag status
- All new drinking establishments to require sexual harassment training provided by the council when applying for a licence, and encourage existing establishments to undertake training too
- Council to partner with external organisations to offer bystander, personal safety and self-defence training
- Enhanced communications and outreach support at night offering help to rough sleepers, people suffering mental health problems and women escaping domestic abuse



Young people

- Work with young people and town centre partners to create safe spaces to spend time in at night
- Better monitoring and communication with Police and partners of disputes in schools to stop escalation of incidents into the night
- Police to continue to build trust with young people by attending schools, youth clubs and community centres to provide clarity around stop-andsearch and gain a better understanding around why young people carry knives
- Youth workers to accompany police at night for shared learning
- Encourage young people to attend activities in the evenings and visit new places through buddy schemes, cycle training, travel training or youth club buses
- Provide tools for young people on ways to help them stay safe at night such as education on their rights surrounding stop-and-search as well as bystander training witnesses

Learning

- Provide workshops and resources for parents and young people on genderbased violence, social media, bullying and gang crime
- Campaign targeted at men and male-only sessions held around sexism, including boys to men mentoring, that puts the focus on men and boys to change their behaviour
- Campaigns advocating zero tolerance for sexism, racism, drunken behaviour, and attitudes towards young people

Night workers

- Build on our engagement with night workers to continue to monitor their needs to provide desired amenities and access to out-of-office hours services
- eek to improve safety for all night workers, with the council leading the way on supporting its own staff working at night such as carers and housing officers
- Provide amenity space for bus, HGV and delivery drivers to access toilets, food and rest space at night



The Women's Night Safety Charter

Wandsworth has signed up to the Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter, with the aim of making London a city where all women feel confident and welcome at night.

To support the Charter, any organisation that operates at night can sign-up and pledge to the below commitments:

- Nominate a champion in your organisation who actively promotes women's night safety
- Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign
- Remind customers and staff that London is safe, but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling
- Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign
- Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed
- Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to
- Design your public spaces and work places to make them safer for women at night



4 PLACE

A place is made up of buildings, roads, parks and spaces, but the success of a place is more than just the sum of its parts. All the different elements of a place create a feeling, a sense, a 'vibe': if they work well together, these factors can make town centres feel vibrant, fun and welcoming at night.

We want to explore what makes a place a positive experience at night, and how we can transport these learnings across the borough.

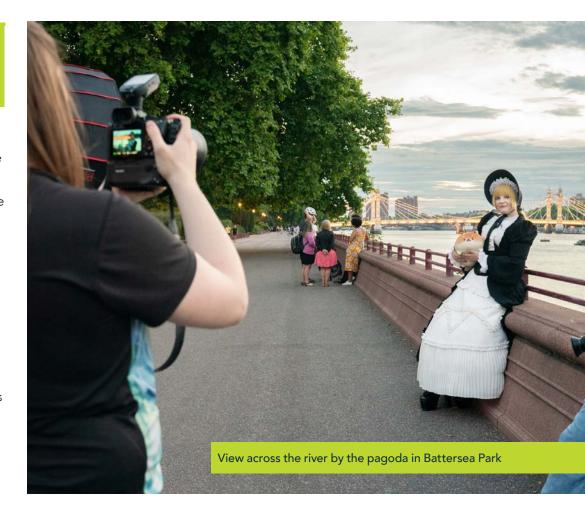
What you said:

A place for everyone

- You visit your town and local centres mostly for restaurants, pubs and shopping in the evenings (6pm midnight)
- Pubs are the main reason for visiting town and local centres in the late night (midnight 6am)
- You asked for more culture, especially music venues and outdoor performances
- Businesses at night mostly cater to the younger, more affluent section of the community
- Need to celebrate the magic of community and cultural spaces across the borough with more activities and events
- Need more youth clubs, sports facilities and safe places where young people can spend time during the evening
- Need a wider range of later opening businesses, not just surrounding alcohol, to activate streets for safety and help local economy prosper

Design our centres for the night

- A lot of shop windows are dark or have shutters down at night and create dark patches
- Disused spaces, empty units and railway arches should be used where possible
- More creative and warm street lights wanted, with better colours



Parks and open spaces

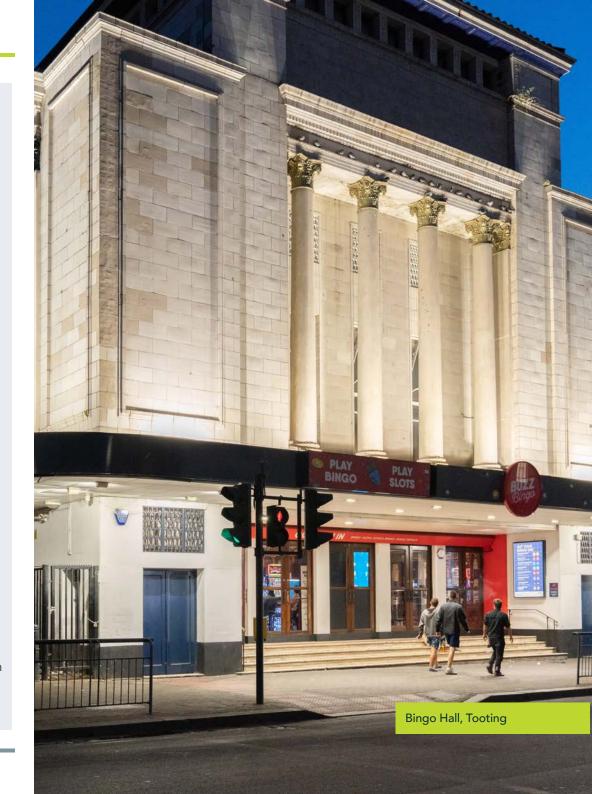
- Many people are scared of using parks at night
- More outdoor spaces wanted for the community to use in the evenings
- Businesses, residents and visitors have welcomed the pedestrianisation of streets in the borough
- Businesses outside of pedestrianised zones felt left out and would like to be included in creative solutions for attracting footfall too
- The river is underused and could connect better to the night time economy

A place for everyone - encouraging people out

- A range of evening and night time uses on high streets, beyond just eating and drinking, tying into the 15-minute neighbourhood approach
- Ensure uses on offer at night respond to the needs of the whole community, including activities for young and old people, as well as families to enjoy the night time together
- Continued engagement with residents (including young people, LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities, older people), local businesses, workers and visitors to the high streets to understand what they would like to see improved in the night time
- Engage with businesses and relevant organisations to improve provision for night workers such as healthy food options that are open later, evening childcare i.e. night nurseries, and places to rest
- Implement free USB points for charging phones across town centres in safe spaces such as street furniture, bus stops and transport interchanges
- Investigate accessible toilet provision locations and address public urination issues
- Evening and night time social hubs that are inviting to intergenerational communities

Design our centres for the night

- Consider the design and use of pedestrianised streets and spaces into the night after dark and during the winter through lighting, shelters and spill out space
- Promote active frontages at night using sustainable lighting and colourful shutters to animate high streets when shops are closed, especially in dark areas and corners where more than two consecutive units are shut
- Work with owners of vacant units to introduce temporary and permanent solutions either inside or on their frontage to help animate streets at night
- Consider creative interventions such as murals and installations, working with the community, to create more attractive, safer places and provide a sense of ownership



Parks and open spaces

- Police to direct more surveillance to parks at night
- Encourage walking and cycling routes through parks to increase activity at night and help with perception of safety
- Provide support for people with mental health difficulties and rough sleepers that spend time in parks at night
- Local and town centres should have flexible open space, such as that
 of Granary Square in Kings Cross, potentially with shelters, that can
 accommodate a range of uses for the community of all ages to meet at night

Culture and art

- Develop an affordable or free night time programme of events, both indoors and outdoors, for each town centre with local businesses, artists and community groups, delivered annually
- Pilot night markets that create a destination for the evening and night time when high street stores close
- Support night time activities or events through heritage and night trails that tell stories of the borough at night, connecting our Town and Local Centres, and utilising the river Thames as an asset
- Outdoor exhibitions, interactive artworks and murals on undesired paths and walkways or development hoardings

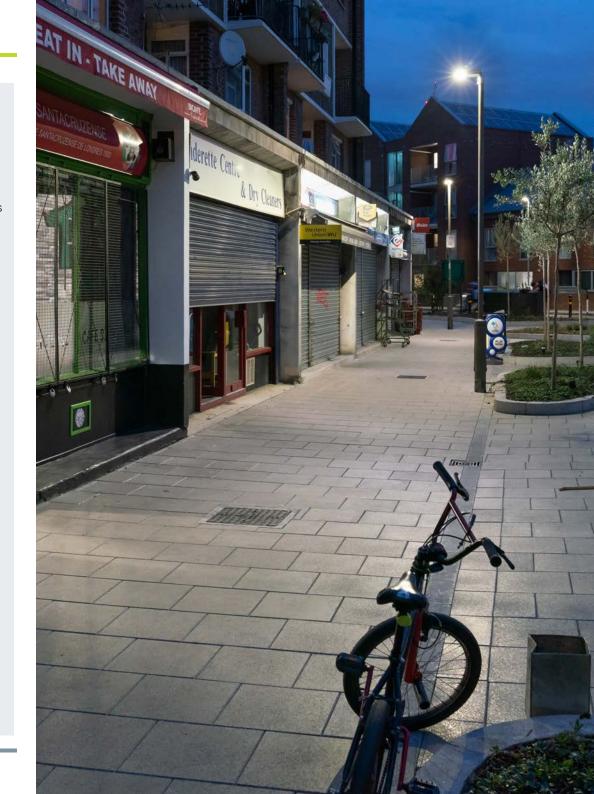
Architecture and public realm

- Consider producing Supplementary Planning Guidance to ensure ground floor architecture and public realm design is informed by, and enhances the night time experience, with facade design that transitions seamlessly into the night
- Development proposals to prepare strategies that provide flexible, well-designed and adaptable spaces for commercial and community night time uses
- Encourage weather-proof outdoor performance and gathering spaces to be designed into new developments
- Avoid dark corners and narrow pavements in consideration of safety at night
- Ensure women and other user groups are consulted on significant placemaking design proposals to encourage gender equality at night



Creative lighting

- In line with the council's Walking and Cycling Strategy, produce a Lighting Strategy that explores lighting for the public realm to support safe and inclusive places, placement of lighting across the borough, temporal wayfinding and creative use of light, informed by appropriate guidance on the impacts of lighting on biodiversity
- Ensure the lowest energy lighting is used and the Lighting Strategy complies with Wandsworth's Environment and Sustainability Strategy (2019-2030)
- Identify locations for design solutions and/or improved lighting such as underpasses, alleyways, dark spots and gateways to the centres
- Creative use of lighting in the public realm to animate streets and transform spaces with particular attention to those that feel hostile. For example through use of bead lights on trees, up-lighting of buildings, and light projections etc.
- The use of warm lighting is encouraged over harsh lighting to reduce negative perceptions of safety rather than flood lights that look like a deterrent and reinforce perception of danger
- Consider using light to create a positive presence of buildings that are closed at night such as cultural, civic, religious and educational facilities, and businesses, as well as landmarks
- Design in shields, baffles and louvres to ensure light does not shine into homes, which is already used for traffic lights to mitigate light from flooding homes





5 ECONOMY

One of the key aspects of this Strategy is to acknowledge that the night time economy is changing, and has been for some time. Research undertaken by the GLA found that 1.6 million Londoners work in the night time in a range of industries, including healthcare and deliveries (not just hospitality), which is over a third of the capital's workforce. 65% of Londoners are active at night, working, socialising, running personal errands, attending cultural activities and playing sport, requiring a range of uses and services around this. Wandsworth is estimated to have a night time workforce of 112,000.

Based on estimates for the size of London's Night Time Economy, this suggests that of the borough is worth at least £1bn per annum (around 10% of the borough's Gross Value Added). People of all ages now want a wider variety of uses, affordability, and more than just bars and clubs to attract them to the borough's high streets. As our high streets evolve post COVID-19 Pandemic, our aspiration is to offer diversity in the high street experience during the night time, whilst supporting our existing businesses that make the night time what it is.

What you said:

More uses

- You want more culture, community facilities, music venues and restaurants in the night time
- Some people want more late night pubs in areas where this is lacking
- Live events and licensing difficult as they come with a lot of challenges but need to support London's music scene and young up-and-coming artists. Venues need to be recognised for their efforts rather than restricted.
- More creative, flexible community events / spaces are needed
- Later opening hours in quiet places could generate more evening activity and create a flood of light onto pavement at no extra cost or design
- The night should not just be about drinking alcohol

Working together, creatively

- Existing venues and bars should operate as more than just one use i.e if there is no performance in the evening their bars could still be open
- Support businesses outside of hospitality too, need a balanced approach
- There are currently no LGBTQI+ venues in Wandsworth and it is hard to gauge which venues are LGBTQI+ friendly
- icensing needs to be managed carefully to ensure late night spots are placed in the most appropriate places
- There should be exceptions for opening hours during special events, i.e during Ramadan shops stay open until 1am in Whitechapel and similar exceptions should be made in Wandsworth
- You want to know what cultural and live events are happening at night
- There needs to be a space for people, including old and young people, to continue conversations and share ideas around place

Use of outdoor spaces

- Parks could be used for more family orientated events i.e outdoor cinema.
 This would bring early evening trade into areas, benefitting surrounding businesses (Battersea Park already does this).
- Green spaces are good places to seed the arts and attract young people

Rising bills

- Cost of eating out has risen and there is a real concern for the hospitality industry. Restaurants have seen more of a reduction in customer numbers than pubs
- Could try to bring people out on cold evenings so they do not need to have heating on



Working together, creatively

- Council to investigate, in the context of the Arts and Culture Strategy, how the creative economy can tie into night time economy ambitions
- The council to work together with existing cultural institutions and festivals to understand how it can promote and assist them in continuing to thrive during the evening and late night
- The council to engage town centre BIDs and local business associations on promoting the night time economy in their local areas, for example to deliver events or offers, such as a paint shop working with a furniture shop to deliver an interior design night
- Respond to the feedback of Queer Wandsworth on a variety of issues, including a new LGBTQI+ venue in the borough, encourage venues to present rainbow flags, and celebrate the LGBTQI+ community

New, affordable and flexible spaces

- Work with anchor cultural venues and bars to promote and revitalise their night time offer. This could be through introducing or expanding live music and performance such as comedy, theatre or poetry
- Daytime businesses and institutions such as schools to experiment with 'second life' evening and night time activities
- Work with businesses and other organisations to introduce more evening and night time uses, including community hubs that are not solely based around drinking
- Rethink workspace provision now that workspace is in the same use class as retail, allowing for mixed retail and workspace units without requiring planning consent. This could activate high streets by those requiring desk / studio space at night
- Promote sustainable, ethical goods at night such as late opening repair shops, vegetable box pick-up spots and healthy takeaway establishments



Night workers

- Encourage businesses to provide good working practices, including London Living Wage, and support for staff to entice and retain workers in the hospitality and gig economy sectors
- Engage with employers to ensure they consider the needs of staff travelling during night time hours and make provision for the safety of employee journeys in out-of-office hours
- Support businesses to recruit to the night time workforce for example through job fairs at local universities, community spaces and youth clubs
- Work with night time employers to provide information on legal and mental health services for night shift workers, collaborating with initiatives such as Night Club
- Special discounts for night workers at specified businesses

Digital inclusivity

• An easy-to-use online calendar showing day and night activities for each town centre, promoted across the borough through a strong visual campaign. Though various streams do already exist such as wandsworthart. com, these should be centralised

Data collection and incentives

- Comprehensive data on town and local centres collected for businesses to understand where later opening hours could work best
- Work with local businesses to encourage later opening times trials





6 TRANSPORT

Getting around Wandsworth at night in a safe, accessible and straightforward way is essential to creating an active and welcoming night time experience for all. Though the reinstatement of the night tube has been welcomed by many, much of the borough is not served by the underground and a special focus is needed on transport at night, where more issues can arise compared to the daytime.

Between night workers, residents and visitors alike, the attractiveness and affordability of the different modes of transport, from walking to public transport and taxis, influence our choices of travel. Wandsworth Council is committed to improving active travel through its new Walking and Cycling Strategy (2022-2030), which strives to allow all residents, of all ages and abilities to either walk or cycle to their destinations in the borough without experiencing danger. Transport, including walking and cycling, requires ongoing review to ensure residents, workers and visitors feel they can explore the borough at night whether alone or in groups. A good quality transport system is also necessary to support businesses at night and meet climate change goals.

What you said:

Walking and safety

- Most people either walk or travel by bus at night in Wandsworth
- You want better walking facilities in the night time with more wayfinding and signage
- Underpasses, side roads and quiet areas feel unsafe
- Back alleyways are unlit and attract crime
- Better lighting is needed across Town and Local Centres
- Transport hubs and interchanges between bus stops and stations can feel unsafe at night
- Women shift workers feel unsafe at night at bus stops and walking home
- LGBTQI+ community feel unsafe after dark, especially in quiet areas
- Some businesses do not allow their younger staff to work at night
- Some youth clubs walk their young people home

Cycling

- Bike stands are often located in dark and uninviting places and there is a fear of crime when using the stands, as well as bikes being stolen
- Need more Santander cycle docks

Public transport

- Public transport needs to be safer, especially for those with protected characteristics such as young people, women and the LGBTQI+ community
- Need to improve accessibility across the borough as it is hard to reach some parts by public transport
- Concerns around the loss of some bus routes and the frequency of night busses

Taxis / private transport

- Not everyone can afford taxis, artists for example performing at venues often cannot afford taxis to go home at night
- Some businesses have budgets to pay for women and vulnerable staff to travel home at night by taxi, but not all can afford this
- Free parking may not serve sustainability interests but helps with safety at night for some people



Public Transport

- Work with TfL, National Rail and other transport providers to create safe, vibrant environments at transport hubs and bus stops at night
- Interventions to improve the experience at busy interchanges and transport hubs, such as public artwork, calming music, seating and sustainable greening
- Council to consider licencing and later opening hours decisions to support a safe environment at transport hubs
- Links between bus stops, train and tube stations should be well lit and easy to find at night, including for people with accessibility needs
- Information campaign to let passengers know how to seek help if concerning situations arise i.e notifying bus driver if something unsettling happens on their bus
- Engage with TfL and rail companies about affordability of transport and experiences of transport for night workers, especially for women and ethnic minorities

Walking and wayfinding

- TfL's Legible London signs placed in all town and local centres
- Clear wayfinding interventions, including through creative lighting, that are accessible and inclusive for all
- Implement the council's Walking and Cycling Strategy

Cycling

- Place new bike stands in well-lit areas near late opening venues and outside active frontages
- Engage with TfL, e-bike operators and other providers on existing bike stands and new placements in safe places for flexible travel options at night
- Introduce night time confidence building cycle sessions to encourage people to use active travel at night
- Encourage young people to take up cycling at night through incentives in schools and youth clubs

Private transport

- council to work with TfL, Police and taxi providers to help ensure the safety of taxi users
- More car club bays to be introduced

Deliveries

- Manage the delivery sector to have a more harmonious relationship with the wider night time economy, avoiding pavement obstruction
- Provision for delivery drivers of all types recognising them as night workers, such as designated parking spaces for HGV and delivery drivers waiting for jobs
- Incentivise businesses to use more sustainable forms of transport at night, such as e-cargo bikes, particularly for doorstep deliveries





7 NEXT STEPS

The First Draft Night Time Strategy will be consulted on between March and May 2023. The responses from stakeholders, residents, businesses, visitors and night workers will shape the final Strategy.

We are keen to hear your views! Please provide us with your comments by May 14, 2023 by visiting **ntswandsworth.commonplace.is.**

Following approval of the Strategy, the Economic Development Office will establish a night time working group with the Police, TfL and Licensing to begin conversations on how to take the recommendations forward, assign responsibilities, and monitor and review progress on an ongoing basis. An annual night time status report will be completed following the approval of this document, informed by data collection and consultation.

For further information,

visit: Wandsworth night time strategy or email NTS@Wandsworth.gov.uk

