

Team chosen to redesign Waterloo labyrinth



Walk on by: An artist's illustration of the proposed pedestrianisation of Waterloo, with the IMAX no longer a traffic roundabout and much tree planting.

ONE of London's biggest eyesores is set for a massive makeover.

The confusing network of streets and subways around the IMAX roundabout in Waterloo will be completely transformed. The area will be opened up with new public spaces created alongside safer, more accessible pedestrian routes.

The new Waterloo City Square design has been chosen following a competition that ended with a public consultation. Around 1,700 local people gave their views and helped design team DSDHA scoop the prestigious commission.

Deborah Saunt, co-founder of DSDHA, said: "We recognise Waterloo as one of the most important public spaces in the country, serving the busiest station in the UK with over 300,000 commuters each day, as well as being the gateway to London's South Bank and home to thousands of local residents.

"For us, this is a unique opportunity. Waterloo is a meeting place for people, journeys and identities. We hope to create seamless connections at ground level to allow dignified access for everyone, from The Cut to the South Bank, Kings College to Lower Marsh, Coin Street to Waterloo Station.

"The labyrinth of underpasses will be a thing of the past and the IMAX will finally be able to take its place as a landmark at the heart of the area."

The re-design is set to create a new gate-

way to the Southbank's cultural hub and the design is expected to be submitted for planning consent later this year.

Councillor Nigel Haselden, Lambeth Council's deputy cabinet member for sustainability, is also the borough's design champion and judging panel member. He said: "The competition was tough for everyone and we are confident that DSDHA will now deliver design for Waterloo of the highest quality."

The Waterloo City Square project follows a revamp of the area outside King's College. An access road has been removed and walkways have been improved to provide a pedestrian-friendly plaza. The South Bank Employers, a partnership of 16 major organisations including Lambeth Council, is behind the bid to improve the area.

Councillor Sally Prentice, Cabinet member for Environment at Lambeth Council, said: "I'm delighted that we have been able to create a splendid place for visitors to the South Bank area to meet and relax. This scheme builds on improvements that we have made nearby. The Cut and demonstrates our commitment to improve public spaces across Lambeth."

A spokesman for King's College, said: "The new plaza has transformed the environment, providing a flexible high quality public space with much increased bicycle parking provision, in support of the College's green agenda."

Visit www.waterloocitysquare.info



Are you a Lambeth resident

Will you be claiming Housing Benefit

Do you rent private accommodation

If you answered 'yes' to all three you will want to know about Local Housing Allowance.

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) affects private tenants who make a new claim for Housing Benefit or re-claim after a break or change of address after 7 April 2008.

LHA will use a flat rate based on the size of your household, where you live and your income and savings to work out your benefit entitlement.

In most cases Housing Benefit will be paid to you, not your landlord.

To find out more about LHA and to see this month's LHA rates visit www.lambeth.gov.uk/lha

LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE

Lambeth

Brixton's champion growers

A FOOD growing scheme on a Lambeth Estate is winning support from more than just residents.

A series of work days on the Blenheim Gardens Estate has attracted residents keen to help out and now the scheme has been named as one O2's Top 15 Champion projects for the year.

The scheme was one of the first to be set up under the Capital Growth project that is aiming to get 2012 new food growing schemes in London by the time of the Olympics.

The O2 award means the estate will get

£1,000 and Bonnie Hewson, who is behind the scheme, said it will be a big help. As well as growing food in patches of previously unused land there is also an organic children's garden on the estate.

"They think we are doing great things on the estate and are sending someone to give us a Champions award," said Bonnie. "Having this money means we can do everything we hoped to do. We also want to run some training workshops and work with the London Orchard's Project to plant a small community orchard and fruit garden."

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/d28rl3>

Give up your garden

URBAN grow-your-own group Food Up Front is calling for volunteers to help encourage more people to use their gardens for food. The organisation is holding a workshop day for anyone interested in becoming a street rep. The aim is to have a team of trained reps who can help others get to

grips with the basics of home food production

The induction event takes place from 5pm on Sunday 19 April at St Vincent Community Centre in Talma Road, Brixton. To reserve a place send your name, postcode and a phone number to fufstreetreps@gmail.com