

LAMBETH'S

BIG SHIFT

Be part of the big shift to greener and healthier travel around Lambeth.

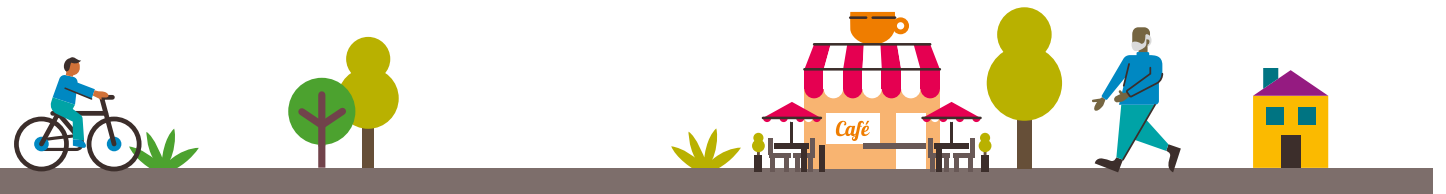
2022–25 progress report



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Introduction

The Big Shift is Lambeth’s programme to support people to choose cleaner, healthier and more affordable ways to travel. It compliments Lambeth’s existing active travel offer such as free cycle training. Through projects like cargo-bike sharing, community designed street improvements and car-free events, the programme makes it easier for residents and businesses to walk, wheel and cycle as part of everyday life.

The Big Shift sits alongside the Lambeth Transport Strategy, helping to deliver its vision for safer, greener and more people-focused streets. Many of its projects take place in the borough’s Healthy Neighbourhoods, where reduced traffic and improved public spaces make it easier for people to travel sustainably. Other initiatives run across the whole borough, ensuring that every community can benefit from better streets and more travel choices.

The programme also supports Lambeth’s Kerbside Strategy, which is transforming how street space is used by shifting space away from private car parking and towards greening, social spaces and sustainable transport. Parklets, cargo-bike schemes and car-free days all show how this change can bring life, colour and community activity back to local streets.

By helping people try new ways of getting around and by reshaping streets to support them, the Big Shift plays a key role in delivering Lambeth’s Climate Action Plan, which sets out how the borough will cut carbon emissions and improve air quality. Transport is one of the biggest contributors to emissions, so helping more people feel confident and able to travel sustainably is essential. By focusing

on inclusion and community-led change, the Big Shift ensures that the move to low-carbon travel benefits everyone.

Together, these projects are helping to create a borough where streets are cleaner, safer and more welcoming and where sustainable travel is the easy, everyday choice.



The Big Shift Progress Overview 2022–25

A summary of what we've delivered as part of The Big Shift between October 2022 and December 2025

- Launched Big Shift Car Free Days
- 167 Car Free Days
- 12 locations
- 42 weekends



- Community parklets programme launched
- 8 community parklets installed
- 3 business parklets installed



- 1 Your Streets Your Way street design competition
- 10 winners
- 10 Judges choice
- 10 Runners up
- 5 designs installed

- 2 Bike the Boroughs
- 8 Km travelled
- 259 children
- Over 143 bikes provided
- 67 cycle instructors
- 3 school crossing officers
- 1 mayor



- 10 eCargo bikes
- 6,555 hours of journeys
- 13,452 kilometres of journeys
- 702 resident members
- 36 business members



- 60 Community Influencers
- 58 standard bikes
- 1 Cargo Bike
- 1 Trike

Bike the Borough

Lambeth children take part in Bikeability cycle training throughout the school year, funded by Lambeth Council and delivered by Cycle Confident. This training helps young people build the skills and confidence they need to travel independently by bike. In the 2022/23 school year, 3,070 children received Bikeability training during school hours, rising to 3,934 children in 2023/24.



Bike the Borough builds on this training by giving Year 5 and 6 pupils the chance to put their new skills into practice. The event is a celebratory mass ride that brings pupils from primary schools across Lambeth together to cycle through their borough, enjoy being active, and experience the freedom of travelling by bike as a group.

The rides took place in July 2023 and July 2024. Working with the organisations Cycle Confident and Wheels for Wellbeing, we designed routes that combined quiet streets in our Healthy Neighbourhoods with stretches of major roads temporarily closed off, offering both a supportive environment and a fun challenge.

To ensure every child could take part, bikes and adapted cycles were made available for those who needed them, so no child was left out.



2023

- 6 Primary Schools in Lambeth
- 69 students (Year 5 and 6)
- 3km cycle route
- 7 temporary road closures
- 35 bikes allocated
- 2 School Crossing Officers
- 21 Cycle instructors
- 4 mechanics
- 4 Cycle Confident Support Staff
- 8 Lambeth officers
- 5 councillors
- 4 police officers

Spotlight: Bike the Borough 2024

Building on the success of 2023, the event saw a longer ride, with more schools starting in Brockwell Park and riding to The Oval cricket ground for lunch and a chance to get on the famous grass. Each school received a certificate that was presented by Mayor of Lambeth Cllr Jean – Paul Ennis and Wheels for Wellbeing director Isabelle Clement.

Bike the Borough 2024



14 Primary Schools in Lambeth

190

students (Year 5 and 6)

5km

cycle route



9 temporary crossing closures on roads

18

traffic management operatives + 2 lead and 2 support at the front



Over 113

bikes allocated



1 School Crossing Officer

46

Cycle instructors and lead marshals



2 mechanics

4

Cycle Confident Support Staff and 2 Wheels for Wellbeing Staff

13

Lambeth officers



4 councillors

1

adapted cycle

Up to 18

support staff from schools



The Mayor

John-Paul Ennis

Community Influencers

For many people, the idea of switching to cycling as a mode of transport can feel daunting. Some feel intimidated by cycling on the roads, while others simply don't know where to begin.

This challenge can be even greater for groups who are traditionally under-represented in

cycling, including women and people from ethnic minority backgrounds, who often face additional barriers such as safety concerns or lack of representation.

We recognise that local people are often the best placed to inspire their communities to get active and consider cycling. With this in mind, we partnered with Peddle My Wheels to

deliver the Community Influencers project. The project supported residents who were new to cycling or needed a confidence boost, helping them build the skills and motivation to make cycling part of their everyday lives. Each participant received a free bike to use throughout the programme, took part in cycle lessons, and was encouraged to champion cycling within their own communities.

Influencers had monthly check-ins with Peddle My Wheels, where their progress was monitored and they received tailored advice and one-to-one support. They shared photos of themselves using their bikes, overcoming challenges, and celebrating personal milestones, helping to build a positive and encouraging community story.

The programme ran over two years, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. Learning from the first year, we strengthened the sense of community among Influencers by creating more opportunities for them to connect. This included an introduction event, a WhatsApp group, and a final graduation event to celebrate their achievements together.

Success was defined as long-term improvements in confidence, independence and wellbeing, not simply participation numbers.



Community Influencers

60 Community Influencers who lived or worked in the Lambeth borough were recruited, with a focus on involving people who are under-represented in cycling and those living in Healthy Neighbourhood areas. To meet different needs, 58 standard bikes were gifted to participants, along with a trike for a participant with additional mobility needs and a cargo bike for a participant with young children. Additional child seats were provided to participants who requested them.

The group reflected a broad mix of backgrounds: participants ranged from 18 – 64 years old, 45 participants were women; 27 identified as White British/Other, 18 as Black/Black British, 6 as mixed ethnicity, 2 as Asian/Asian British, 3 as another ethnicity, and 4 preferred not to say.

Influencers described gaining confidence on their bikes, experiencing improvements in mental wellbeing and overall health, and forming stronger connections with both new and existing communities. Many also spoke about the ripple effect of their involvement: as they became more confident cyclists, they inspired family members, friends, and others in their networks to take up cycling or at least consider it as a realistic option.

“

Cycling has given me lots of confidence in my abilities and enhanced my self esteem...it has also helped me reconnect to my body especially after having a caesarean section and helped rebuilding my core muscles.”

Mouna

“

When I cycle, I feel a lot happier and calmer, as it really clears my head. Knowing I'm also doing exercise and saving money at the same time also helps, so it's a no-brainer that I now opt for cycling most of the time where possible.”

Dan

“

When I arrived here [UK], I didn't have any money but cycling helped me by saving money and for happiness. Here you are free and I enjoy cycling every day, in the rain, in the wind, in cold weather, it doesn't matter, I love cycling.”



Our Bike

OurBike is a community electric cargo bike share scheme for residents and businesses, designed to offer practical alternatives to using a car for everyday journeys.

Cargo bikes can carry children, shopping, tools, or deliveries, making them a low-carbon option for moving both people and goods around the borough. Because cargo bikes can be expensive to purchase, the scheme also gives people the chance to try one out before committing to buying their own, helping to remove a key barrier to adoption.

The scheme launched in June 2022 through a partnership between Lambeth Council and Peddle My Wheels. It began with a fleet of

seven e-cargo bikes in Healthy Neighbourhoods, hosted by local small businesses, who volunteer to charge the batteries and keep an eye on the bikes as part of their contribution to the community.



Pricing has evolved over time to keep the scheme accessible. As of 2026, the scheme charges just £5 per hour, with the first hour free for residents and the first three hours free for businesses. This keeps the scheme



When I heard about the possibility of hosting a community cargo-bike, I was keen. It has been a great way for us to try using a cargo-bike before buying our own!"

Gavin Koala Ice Cream OurBike host

significantly cheaper and greener than hiring a van or using a taxi for local trips.

In 2025, the fleet expanded with three additional bikes, bringing the total to ten. Some bike locations were also updated to support higher usage and ensure the bikes are placed where they can have the greatest impact.

The OurBikes have been in 14 locations across the borough. As of 2026, the hosts and their location are:

- Perks and White - Railton Road
- Koala Coffee and Ice Cream - Railton Road
- F Mondays - Tulse Hill
- Lилоo Café - Oval
- Hive - Streatham Hill
- The Railway – Streatham
- Vauxhall Gardens Community Centre - Vauxhall
- Bon Velo - West Dulwich
- Oasis College - Waterloo
- Stockwell Park Community Centre - Slade Gardens

Spotlight: Perks & White OurBike

Perks & White, an independent coffee business with three sites in South East London, host and regularly use the OurBike e-cargo bike as part of their daily operations. The bike helps them move goods sustainably while strengthening their connection to the local community.

Twice a week, they use it to deliver used coffee grounds to Rosendale Allotments, where they are quickly collected for compost, and they also rely on it to transfer stock between their cafés, reducing the need for car or van trips.

Before joining the scheme, they used a push bike and trailer, which made local hills hard work. The electric cargo bike has made these journeys far easier, more energy-efficient, and faster for their courier. The team describe the impact as “massive,” noting smoother stock movement, stronger community ties through their recycling partnership, and reliable support from the OurBike team.

Riders particularly value the electric assist, especially on hills, and find the bike easy and enjoyable to use. Onboarding was simple and well supported, and as hosts, Perks & White receive free daily hours of use, which they group into two days to keep the bike available for others. Switching from a manual bike has saved significant time on the road, allowing their courier to work more efficiently.

They strongly recommend the scheme to other small businesses for its practicality, low maintenance, and responsive support.



Parklets: Community

The Big Shift launched the Community Parklets scheme in 2023, supporting more people to walk and wheel for everyday journeys.

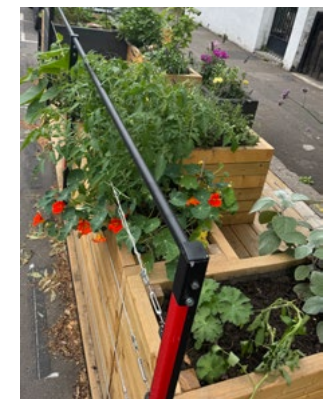


Parklets are parking space-sized parks placed in the kerbside. They are a space for community growing, a place to get to know your neighbours, an opportunity to use parking spaces differently.

The programme aims to fund 25 parklets, one in each borough ward, created and maintained by residents and community groups in partnership with the council.

We are working with Meristem Design Ltd to offer a catalogue of modular items that residents can choose from to personalise their space, all designed with safety, sustainability and durability in mind. The designs also reflect Lambeth's Child-Friendly and Age-Friendly principles, offering opportunities for play, socialising and comfortable seating. Every parklet is built on a raised base so it sits level with the kerb, making it accessible for everyone.

Between 2023 and 2025, we completed installation of Phase 1 of the Community Parklets programme, installing six parklets across the borough. Phase 2 added two more in May 2025 and applications for Phase 3 and 4 have now been completed.



Parklets: Business

Lambeth’s Business Parklet Scheme gives local businesses a simple, practical way to be part of positive environmental change.

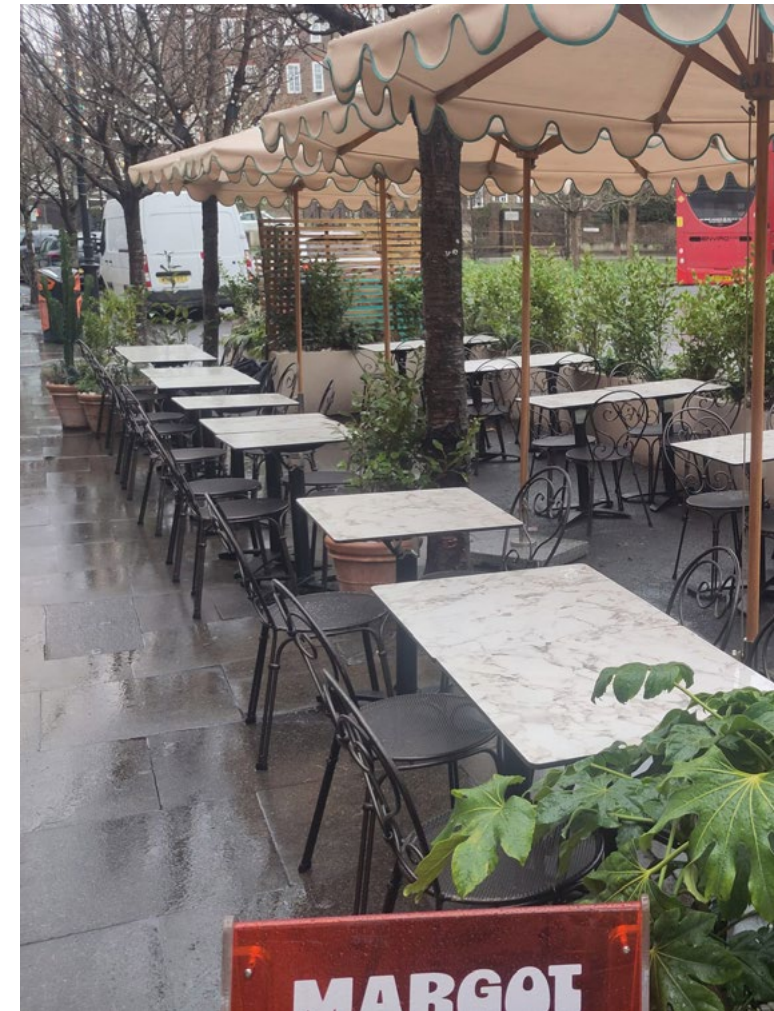
Many small businesses want to operate more sustainably but often feel left out of wider climate initiatives, or face barriers such as limited outdoor space, high delivery costs, or streets that don’t feel inviting for customers.

Business parklets help bridge that gap by turning a single parking space into a small, welcoming extension of the high street.

We have installed 3 business parklets outside independent businesses, 2 in Clapham and 1 in Brixton, including an ice cream shop, an espresso bar and a restaurant.

Business parklets provide extra space for customers, providing additional economic opportunity for Lambeth businesses, whilst also contributing to greening and placemaking in the local area.

Each parklet has developed its own character and purpose: one has become a place of remembrance for a neighbour, another is used for children’s play with a chalkboard, and another is dedicated entirely to planting.



Your Streets Your Way

The Your Streets, Your Way 2023 competition invited people who live, work, or play in Lambeth to submit their designs for street improvements at 10 sites in the borough. The second year of the competition built on the success of the first round in 2021.

This initiative opened street design to residents of all ages, challenging the idea that only professionals can shape public space and inspiring people to re-imagine their streets as places to spend more time, connect and explore by walking or wheeling.

The competition was managed by We Made That, an architecture firm. Winning submissions were received from a genuinely diverse range of participants - aged 6 to 70, with prizes of £750 for the winner, £500 for judges' choice and £200 runner up prize and under-18s receive £100 in vouchers. Working with the designers and mural artists, the designs have been installed in locations across the borough.

We worked with Lambeth's Accessibility Working Group, a collective of disabled residents, to produce best practice guidelines for creating murals and way finding in the borough



Stockwell Passage Road

The winning designer, a local resident, wanted to highlight the priority for women to feel good walking on the streets at any time of the day but also encourage them to participate in activities. The mural presents a joyful depiction of strong women figures in various sport activities. The mural was painted by Simon Hills.



Chestnut Road

The winning designer celebrates the legacy of the Great North Wood in West Norwood. The mural, painted by Simon Hills, seeks to raise awareness of the largely forgotten woodland, encouraging people to explore, enjoy and value the natural habitat on their doorsteps.

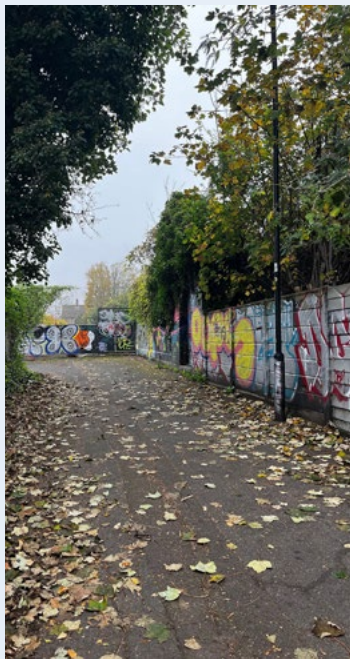
Spotlight: Leithcote Path

Leithcote Path sits in an area of Lambeth once known for its natural springs, which gave Streatham Wells its name.

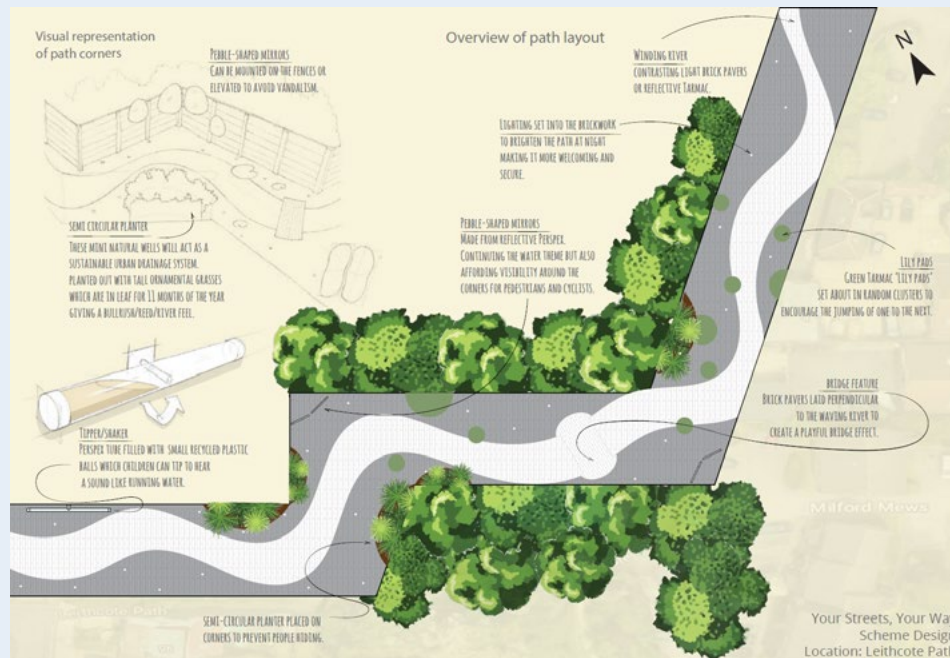
These wells were a local attraction in their time, and the winning designer drew on this history by using water as the inspiration for the path's redesign.

The path is a well used route used by people walking, wheeling and cycling including children

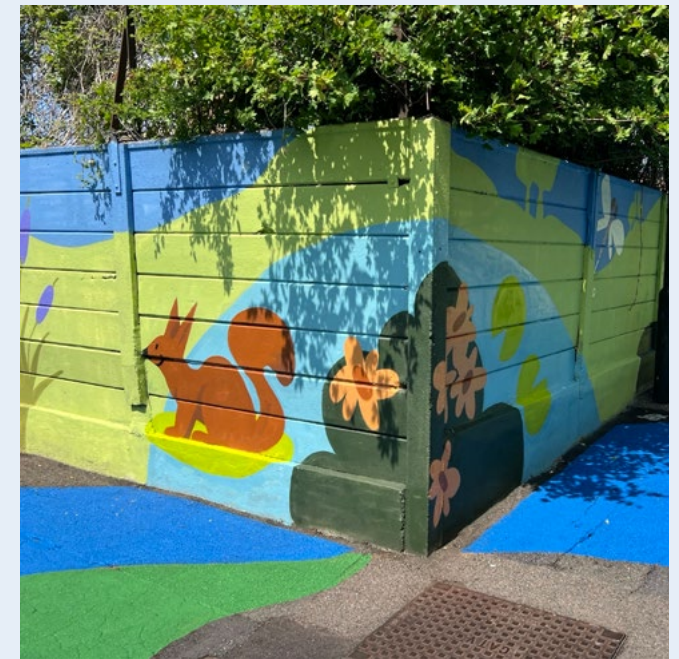
and young people travelling to and from the schools in the area. The final mural was adapted with contributions from the winning designer, and painted by Abstract Mural Co. The design brings to life the theme of water and reconnects the space with its heritage.



Leithcote Path: Before



Winning design



Final mural

Big Shift Car Free Days

Car Free Days transform streets into people-centred public spaces, creating safer, cleaner and more sociable environments that reflect the ambitions set out in Lambeth’s Kerbside Strategy, Transport Strategy and the Big Shift programme.

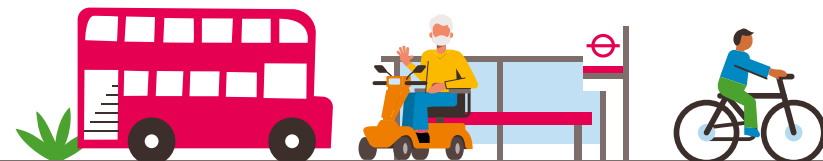
By temporarily restricting motor traffic for one-off, weekly or monthly events, these days give residents, businesses and community groups the freedom to use their streets in new ways, from outdoor dining and markets to film screenings, play streets and cultural celebrations. They demonstrate, in a tangible way, how reallocating kerbside space can support healthier, more inclusive neighbourhoods and reduce car dependency.

In areas where we have delivered events over several years, Car Free Days have helped shift how people perceive and use their streets. On Voltaire Road, for example, three consecutive years of car-free weekends created a welcoming space where local businesses could expand seating, and community could flourish. Building on this success, the Voltaire Road Re-imagined project is trialling a pedestrian and cycle zone, showing how a traffic-free street can function not just as a temporary event space but as a long-term asset for local economic vitality, active travel and community life.

These repeated interventions have demonstrated that when streets are designed around people rather than vehicles, they can quickly become places where communities thrive.



We have delivered 167 Car Free Days in 12 locations across the borough

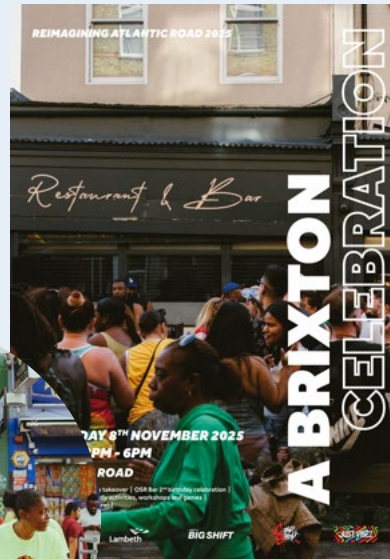


Spotlight: Atlantic Road

Atlantic Car Free Days brought the ambitions of Atlantic Road Re-imagined into focus, turning the street into a lively, people-centred space for celebration, trading, play and creativity.

By removing traffic one Saturday each month from June to December 2025, the programme created a safe, welcoming environment for all ages to enjoy cultural activities, support local businesses and experience the street as a shared community space. This reflects Lambeth's wider commitment, through the Kerbside Strategy, Transport Strategy and Big Shift, to reallocate street space in ways that strengthen local economies, improve air quality and create more inclusive public places.

Delivered with Brixton Business Improvement District, the programme showed how regular, predictable car-free moments can build confidence among traders, residents and community groups. Across seven Car Free Days, Atlantic Road hosted a rich mix of activity that demonstrated its potential as a vibrant civic space:



- 25 hours of live music
- 10 hours of dance performances
- 8 hours of free dance classes
- Weekly creative workshops and games for children and families
- 128 free bike checks
- Market stalls for local businesses and community organisations
- Support for 26 local businesses
- 65 additional dining spaces, providing 520 extra seats
- Alfresco dining supported by the GLA Summer programme

Together, these interventions helped shift how people experience Atlantic Road — from a traffic corridor to a place where culture, community and local enterprise can thrive.

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To find out more information about any of the schemes, visit our website:

www.lambeth.gov.uk/bigshift