

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAMBETH: OUR ROLE IN RUSKIN PARK

Alex Penn –FORP
a.penn@surrey.ac.uk
@DrAlexPenn

Report Back from VCS Session
with Lambeth Council and
Integrate
25th November 2020



QUESTIONS:

- What do we know about the impacts of climate change in Lambeth?
- The changing role of parks
- Opportunities and challenges
- How do we go forward together?

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAMBETH

Based on Lambeth Councils
report on climate change
impacts
Slides from Lambeth Council
and Integrate
25th November 2020

Hannah Jameson
Lambeth Council

hjameson@lambeth.gov.uk
@hannahjameson1

The impacts of climate change on people in Lambeth

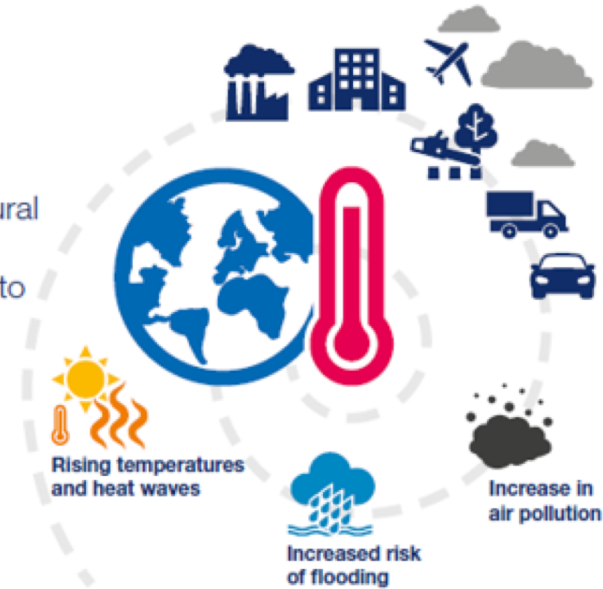
Climate change has been identified as **the greatest public health challenge** impacting mankind.

Our climate and other natural systems are changing and becoming less stable due to human activity.

The key climate change risks in Lambeth are:



Rising temperatures and heat waves



Climate change means **more frequent heat waves** are inevitable



By the 2030s,

3 in 4 flats in London are expected to experience indoor air temperatures over **28°C** in heat wave scenarios

The 'Urban Heat Island' effect

Urban areas experience temperatures up to

10°C higher

than the adjacent countryside



IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAMBETH

- Rising temperatures and heat waves
- Increased risk of flooding
- Increase in air pollution

Hannah Jameson, Lambeth Council

hjameson@lambeth.gov.uk

@hannahjameson1



Increased risk of flooding

Climate change in England is expected to cause

more frequent and intense rainfall

Almost

3,000 homes

in Lambeth are

at high risk of flooding



By 2050, there could be

+20% extreme rainfall intensity

+25-44%

winter daily average rainfall

+25-50%

peak river flows



Increase in air pollution

With increasing temperatures there is an increase in air pollution which affects our health

In 2013 in Lambeth, air pollution was thought to cause emergency admissions for

lung disease
400



heart disease
351



Children living near congested roads have been shown to have **double the risk of breathing problem**

The main sources of air pollution in Lambeth are:



Road transport
(particularly diesel vehicles)



Buildings
(mainly gas boilers)



Construction sites
(including dust and machinery emissions)

The highest exposure to air pollution occurs due to:



Reduced access to green spaces



Homes, schools and walking routes **located near congested roads**



Unhealthy housing,
such as homes with damp or poor ventilation

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN LAMBETH

- Rising temperatures and heat waves
- Increased risk of flooding
- Increase in air pollution

Hannah Jameson, Lambeth Council

hjameson@lambeth.gov.uk

@hannahjameson1

Climate change, like covid-19 and other shocks, could worsen existing vulnerabilities and inequalities

The greatest health and economic burden will be experienced by those **unable to prepare, adapt and recover** due to:



Existing health problems



Extremes of age



Social deprivation



People in deprived areas are more likely to live in **poorly ventilated homes, with limited access to green space, more air pollution** and limited options to improve housing conditions.



Climate action needs to recognise this threat and mitigate the risks for our most vulnerable residents in particular.

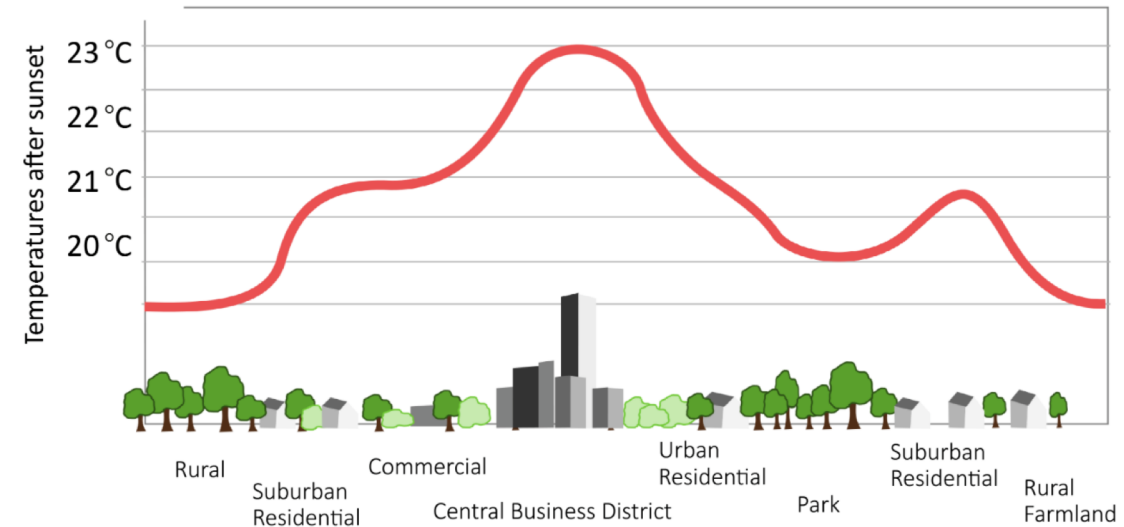
**THE ROLE OF
PARKS WILL BE
INCREASINGLY
IMPORTANT**



PARKS HAVE A KEY ROLE IN MITIGATING ALL 3 MAIN IMPACTS

- Access to parks for lower temperature and shade (cool spots (GLA)) plus role in urban cooling
- Parks to escape from and reduce air pollution
- Parks as green infrastructure –sustainable urban drainage –synergies with biodiversity
- Parks are also increasingly under pressure from climate change, imported disease and increased use
- Their importance has been highlighted by Covid-19–opportunity?

URBAN HEAT ISLAND PROFILE



WHAT DO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT

- Starting now with these issues in mind rather than being on back foot –change is happening already
- Reframing – parks are dynamic and changing, creating resilient functional ecosystems
- Thinking of parks as a crucial part of city infrastructure
- Whole systems approach -understanding interactions and creating synergies between different functions we want parks to provide –using this as positive opportunity
- Making sure everyone is welcome and everyone's' needs are met
- Increasing ownership and understanding of issues

WHAT DO WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT

- Evolving masterplan -building in resilience and adaptability to climate change and other shocks and stresses
- Working with collaboratively with Lambeth
- Investing now for the future – we have capital available
- Planting for climate resilience, unpredictable weather, for shade, pollution (including VOCs), for high use, reducing compaction – working with tree officers –tree strategy
- Water in the park landscape?
- Equity – increasing accessibility for most vulnerable whilst meeting everyone's needs
- Understanding that change is inevitable and taking it in positive directions

**LET'S GET
GOING!**

Contact:
[info@friendsofruskinpar
k.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofruskinpark.org.uk)