



Walworth Neighbourhood Food Model

Southwark Food Action Alliance, May 2021

Building local food resilience in Walworth & Southwark

COVID-19 shone a light on pre-existing inequalities in our neighbourhood. Coming out of the pandemic there was a need to build on the best of the emergency food response delivered by local organisations, and work together towards longer term change

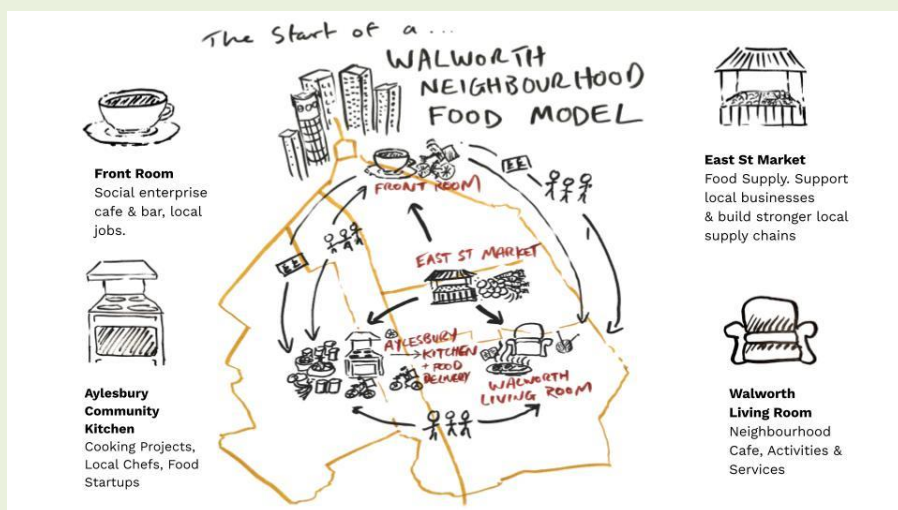
With the Food Power funding we began work to build partnerships, scope and plan test sites to create the Walworth Neighbourhood Food Model. This is an expanded vision, beyond a Neighbourhood Food Hub that takes a whole system approach to food, where activity (production, distribution, preparation, consumption) and outcomes relating to food are inextricably related to activity and outcomes in other areas of social welfare (employment, housing, health, etc.) Through neighbourhood alliance building, we focus on tackling root causes with a community wealth building approach.

Challenges and learning

We have learnt we need to articulate our values to underpin our partnerships, and that we will need buy-in at the highest level within organisations to change ways of working. We know it will be an ongoing challenge to work equitably with organisations of different sizes and levels of resource.

Next steps

We will develop key test sites where we can trial and learn, with practical actions tied to the overarching vision. We know it will be important to continue to work across the different tiers of local, neighbourhood, borough, and regional/national, connecting local intelligence and practical learning with wider policy and practice.



“...it will be so important to continue to develop the effective partnership working that we saw during the pandemic, in order to have a long-term impact on inequalities in our neighbourhoods” Mike Wilson, Executive Director of Pembroke House

Outcomes

- Evolved our approach based on input from over 30 partner organisations.
- Presented the Walworth Neighbourhood Food model at 9 local, borough & national fora.
- Secured further development opportunities including successful application to GLA's Food Roots Incubator Programme.