

Camden Together Summary

Have your say on the future of Camden

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Our Vision

We have a strong local economy that adapts well to future change and where more people, especially young people, can acquire skills and access education, training and jobs.

We work together to accommodate a growing population while protecting our environment and quality of life.

We are meeting the needs of people in Camden now and safeguarding our inheritance for future generations.

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People feel at home in Camden, take an active part in democracy and can influence the decisions that affect them. Quality of life is improving for all, particularly children, young people and older residents.

We share a thriving and safe part of London – and gateway to the rest of Europe – where all local people benefit from the excellent cultural and leisure opportunities on our doorstep, including the Olympics.

Camden Together

Summary

Have your say on the future of Camden:

This is a summary of the Camden Together consultation document, which gives you the opportunity to influence the future of Camden.

The final Camden Together will be a plan for Camden that will map out what our borough will look like in 2012. Before we decide on that plan we want the views of as many people in the community as possible on some of the ideas that we have.

This summary outlines some of the main challenges that we face in Camden and some of the ways in which we can make it a better place for everyone. It sets out some of the things we could do between now and 2012 and it asks for your views on some specific questions.

We want Camden Together to prompt an open and honest debate about difficult issues and choices. We also want to reflect how to make the best use of limited resources and think about what individuals and communities can do to make life in Camden better, as well as what public services and institutions can do.

Please read this summary and think about the questions it raises. We would be delighted to hear your views on these and any other issues that affect the future of Camden.

We also hope that you will want to look at the full document, which gives many more facts about Camden now and explains some of the options and ideas more fully. You can read or download a copy of the full document on the website camdentogether.org.uk or request a copy from the address below.

The deadline for responses is Thursday 30 November 2006. Responses should be sent to:

Email:
community.strategy@camden.gov.uk

Or to:

**Community Strategy Team
London Borough of Camden
FREEPOST LON 20084
Room 305, Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE**

Responses can also be submitted on the website at **camdentogether.org.uk**

To obtain a summary version of Camden Together in your language, in large print, audio tape or learning disability version please contact us at the address above or telephone 020 7974 3257, fax 020 7974 6057 or textlink (textphone / minicom) 020 7974 6866.

Ask yourself

Does the vision capture the things that matter to people living, working and growing up in Camden?

Is there anything missing or things that you object to?

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Our starting point

Camden today:

We need to have a clear understanding of our starting point before agreeing a future direction. Here is a snapshot of Camden facts:

- Camden residents say there is a strong and growing sense of community and nine out of ten value the borough's cultural diversity.
- Camden's population is growing, relatively youthful and diverse, with many people moving in and out of the borough every year.
- Camden has some of the wealthiest neighbourhoods in London and some of the most deprived. Overall, Camden is the 15th most deprived borough in England.
- Demand for affordable housing is five times greater than supply.
- Recorded crime is falling and confidence in the police is rising here and across the country, but Camden experiences the crime that affects many inner-city areas and fear of crime is still a problem.
- Business, the universities and specialist hospitals are growing and there is pressure on space for expansion.
- Local services such as transport, schools, youth facilities and health services are under pressure from an increasing population.
- Camden faces the global challenges of climate change and caring for the environment. Local residents already recycle more than the national average.
- Camden's election turnout in May 2006 was the highest since 1994 and bucked the national trend of falling turnout in local elections.
- People in Camden, as elsewhere, have rising expectations in relation to the quality of life, responsive services, choice and influence at a local level.
- Camden faces security risks and the potential of further terrorist attacks.

Creating a borough of opportunity

Where we want to be in 2012:

We have a strong local economy that adapts well to future change and where more people, especially young people, can acquire skills and access education, training and jobs.

The main challenges we face:

Camden has a large and successful economy. Over half of local businesses are in professional industries such as the media, finance and law. However, the number of local businesses has declined in recent years and many local people remain out of work.

A key challenge is to build on the success of Camden's economy so that it becomes even stronger. This will mean ensuring that more businesses choose to be based in Camden. We also need to ensure more local people can get into work and stay in the job market.

What we can do towards 2012:

- Provide business start up and enterprise advice to build businesses that are sustainable and to encourage entrepreneurial activity.
- Get the public sector, which is the second largest employer in Camden, to adopt creative approaches to recruiting a more diverse workforce drawn more from local communities.
- Provide more basic skills training, especially English language, but also more general 'life skills' training that get people more ready to take up work.
- Provide all our secondary schools with 21st century facilities including Information Technology (IT) as well as buildings through the Building Schools for the Future programme.
- Harness the skills of the local business community further to support schools and young people, particularly those who lack formal qualifications.
- Concentrate support on our housing estates where 'worklessness' is concentrated – providing affordable childcare, offering life skills, coaching and mentoring, and offering routes to local job and training schemes, and education.
- Maximise the employment and training opportunities offered by the 2012 Olympics.

Ask yourself

The full consultation document has many more facts, options and ideas.

What do you think about the selection of ideas raised above about creating a borough of opportunity?

Here are some more specific questions that you might like to respond to:

How should entrepreneurs be encouraged to start and develop local businesses?

What should be done to attract more investment into the local economy?

What could the public sector do differently that would help promote economic growth, for example, removing red tape or other barriers to business success?

If you're an employer in Camden, what support would you need to recruit and train more local people?

What can the voluntary and community sector do to help people get jobs?

How can people be supported to get more training in skills and language?

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Alison



“To be honest, I don’t think Camden makes it easy for people to start up new businesses. I get a lot of leaflets and there are a lot of courses. There’s lots of advice going. There are lots of seminars you can go to on running or starting a business but you need practical help.

The one thing I would say is good is the small business rates relief I got. That has made a difference because when you’re a small business the thing you need is money relief on something such as on your rent or discounts, so you can get started.

I employ local people from Camden. I find it easier to employ people locally because they don’t have so far to come, it is more practical as we work long hours here. I think you can encourage businesses to take on local people on work placements but you’ve got to make it a well worked out initiative – perhaps describe the business as a skills provider. Obviously as a small business you are taking the time out to give that person skills, but at the same time you are getting help for free.”

Balancing growth with our environment

Where we want to be in 2012:

We work together to accommodate a growing population while protecting our environment and quality of life. We are meeting the needs of people in Camden now and safeguarding our inheritance for future generations.

The main challenges we face:

Camden's population is set to increase over the coming years and we hope the economy will grow even stronger. These changes will also bring increasing pressures on our environment, on our public services and on the way we use our space.

We can expect increased traffic, energy use and demands for affordable housing. We also know that people have different priorities – some people, for example, enjoy a vibrant nightlife while others like quiet, open spaces.

Our challenge is to balance these competing pressures to improve our quality of life now at the same time as thinking about the needs of future generations. We need to find a way to support a growing population and economy while safeguarding our environment and creating communities where people can live and work now and in the future.

What we can do towards 2012:

Make Camden a 'low carbon borough':

- Ensure that new and refurbished buildings are extremely energy efficient.
- Encourage people to walk more and use public transport.
- Recycle more and in smarter ways to minimise energy use.
- Use more vehicles and energy efficient measures such as loft insulation.

Improve the quality of the built environment:

- Implement tough design standards to make sure that density comes with high quality in keeping with its surroundings.
- Use the council's planning powers and position as a social landlord to support high environmental standards, such as the use of solar panels.
- Ensure that new developments are designed to deter crime and anti-social behaviour and have decent public services and infrastructure.

Use local assets better:

- Improve access to open spaces including local walking routes.
- Find ways that spaces and facilities not well used at the moment could serve more people in future.
- Bring more empty homes, offices and commercial buildings back into use.

The full consultation document has many more facts, options and ideas.

What do you think about the selection of ideas raised above about the environment and balancing growth and quality of life?

Here are some more specific questions that you might like to respond to:

What do you think is the best way of reconciling different interests about the future of Camden?

What could we do to make our parking zones more popular with residents and more effective?

Are there ways in which we can give people incentives, for example, to recycle or tackle climate change? Or consider taking action against those, for example, who drop litter or do not recycle?

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Sandra



“I grew up around Swiss Cottage and have lived here for the past 20 years. I wouldn’t live anywhere else. That’s why I want to look after the area. The residential roads are very attractive, but keeping them that way is a struggle.

People are not taking care of their trees and hedges and subsidence problems are getting worse as a result. Others are turning their front gardens into car parks, creating serious flooding problems. We were flooded out of our basement flat and couldn’t move back in for 18 months. Mess encourages more mess. Everybody has to do their bit to take care of our environment.

We have twice-weekly rubbish collections and recycling boxes for newspapers, glass and cans – and that’s great. But whatever the council, the government and others do, you can’t force people to change. They have to want to do it themselves and that is the real challenge.”



Building strong, healthy and connected communities

Where we want to be in 2012:

People feel at home in Camden, take an active part in democracy and can influence the decisions that affect them. Quality of life is improving for all, particularly children, young people and older residents.

The main challenges we face:

People in Camden differ from each other in many ways – race, ethnicity, language, faith, age, gender, disability, social class and sexuality. What we all have in common is the desire to live and work in a place where we feel at home.

We need to ensure that people have the opportunities to improve their quality of life, interact with people from different backgrounds and take an active role in our community and in democracy. We also need to improve people's health and reduce inequalities in health across the borough.

Camden will continue to have a relatively youthful population. People are also living longer and our older population expect to remain independent and active for as long as possible. We have a challenge to meet the changing needs of our population including our younger and older residents.

What we can do towards 2012:

Build stronger and more active communities:

- Ensure public space is well designed and makes people feel at home.
- Involve the community in solving problems together in their neighbourhood.
- Celebrate our diversity and create a 'sense of place' through local festivals and events.
- Develop area forums across Camden, where residents can have a say about local services and decisions that affect them.

Promote better health for all:

- Target resources at those areas and groups of people that have worse health outcomes.
- Use a wider range of people to provide health information such as staff in education centres.

Improve the lives of younger and older people:

- Develop after school and breakfast clubs and children's centres.
- Explore all options to address the sufficiency and suitability of secondary schools and secondary places.
- Ensure that the views of children, young people, their parents and carers shape the services they use.
- Ensure older people are able to live at home for as long as they can and have equal access to activities and opportunities in their communities.

Ask yourself

The full consultation document has many more facts, options and ideas.

What do you think about the selection of ideas raised above on building strong, healthy and connected communities?

Here are some more specific questions that you might like to respond to:

What could help you or people you know to feel more at home in Camden?

What would get you or people you know interested in taking a more active role in your local community?

What would encourage you to be more active, live more healthily and to take better care of yourself?

How can we support parents better particularly at key points and times of need, such as family crisis and during the teenage years?

How can we improve the lives of isolated older people who live independently in local communities?

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Malik



“There is a lot we could do if we got together and exchanged ideas. We should have more clubs to go to where we can meet and socialise with people from different cultures and backgrounds – that would help understanding and reduce a lot of problems. I would like to see smiles on everybody’s faces.

My wife and I used to go to Meeting Point for the over-50s where we used to live. We made friends, chatted, exchanged ideas. There should be something like this near us. Now we go to the local library a lot. We sit and read and use the coffee shop. I am attending an IT course at the library. I didn’t know anything about computers before I started. I have learnt how to send and receive emails, use the internet, use messenger to speak to relatives abroad, use a microphone and a camera. Last night I was speaking to my grandchildren in Cairo”.

A safe and vibrant place at the heart of a world city

Where we want to be in 2012:

We share a thriving and safe part of London – and gateway to the rest of Europe – where all local people benefit from the excellent cultural and leisure opportunities on our doorstep, including the Olympics.

The main challenges we face:

Camden is a place of contrasts. It is famous for its landmarks such as Hampstead Heath, the British Library and Camden market but it also has many residential areas and smaller high streets. The borough has plenty of green open spaces but also a vibrant cultural life, nightlife and arts facilities.

At the same time people's fear of crime remains high, even while actual levels of most crimes are falling. Many people, including young people, are worried about anti-social behaviour. A key challenge is to make Camden a safer place.

By 2012 mainland Europe will be only two hours away by Eurostar from St Pancras International. Another challenge will be to get maximum enjoyment and lasting benefits from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

What we can do towards 2012:

Get everyone to play a part in making Camden safer:

- Encourage people to take more responsibility for their own behaviour and for the behaviour of their children.
- Influence decisions about how resources to tackle crime are prioritised.

Make the most of Camden's parks and open spaces:

- Improvements such as areas for teenage activity, control of dogs, longer opening hours in summer and better signage.
- Improve lighting, design and facilities such as cafes so that parks can be used safely in the evening.

Make the most of our cultural assets:

- Make sure all Camden's communities are able to and encouraged to access more of the cultural events and activities on offer.

Make sure we get maximum enjoyment and lasting benefits from the 2012 Olympics:

- Encourage the use of existing sports and leisure facilities, particularly by disabled people, older and black and minority ethnic residents.
- Encourage volunteering both to support sports activities and to help with the Olympic Games themselves.

The full consultation document has many more facts, options and ideas.

What do you think about the selection of ideas raised above about Camden as a safe and vibrant place at the heart of a world city?

Here are some more specific questions that you might like to respond to:

How could schools, individuals, community groups, neighbours and businesses help encourage respect and so discourage crime and anti-social behaviour?

What would help reduce fear of crime and increase your peace of mind?

Should we encourage cafes and events in parks and charge for this use so that we can invest in improving the facilities they offer?

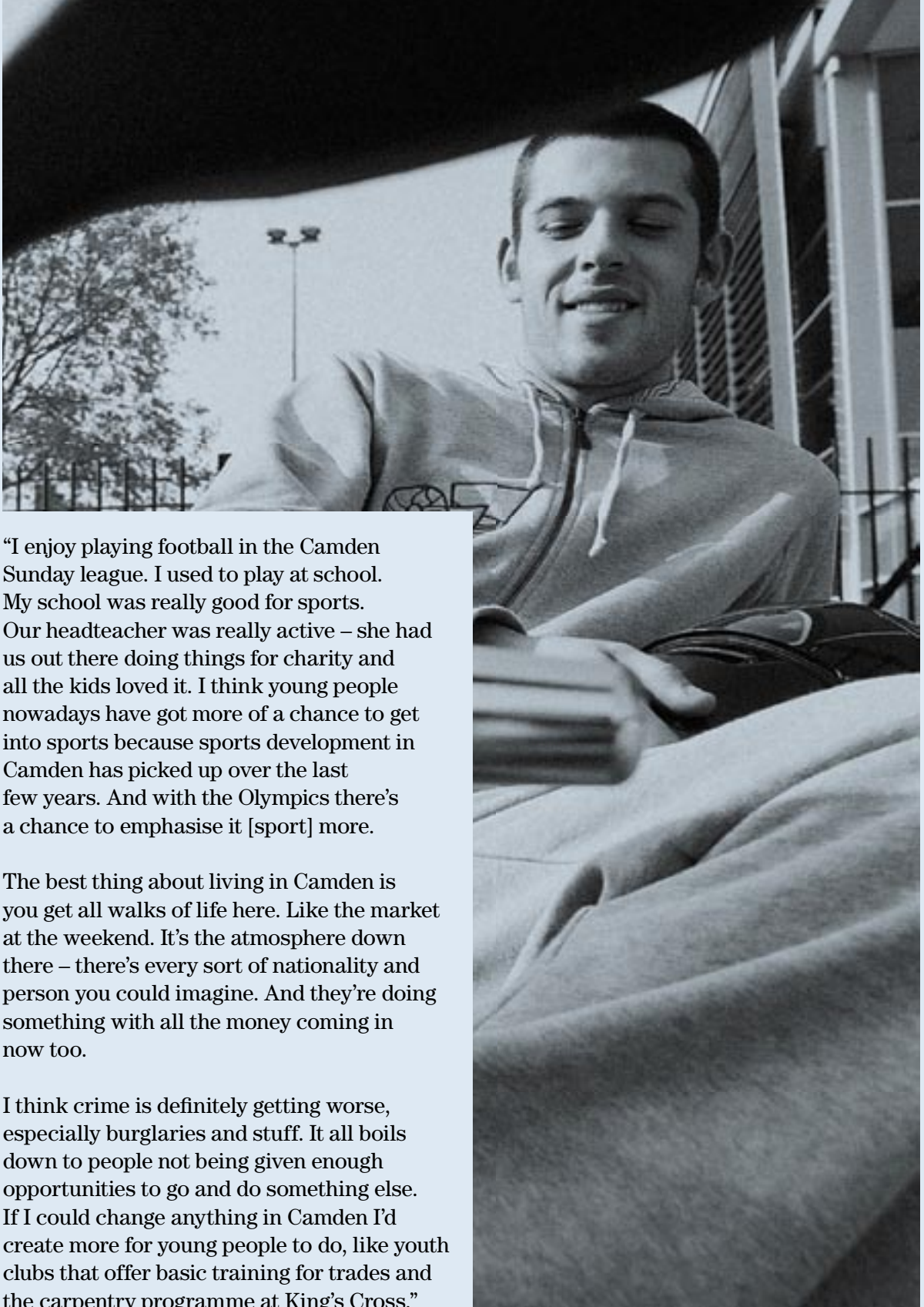
How can we make it easier for more of Camden's residents to enjoy the cultural activities the borough has to offer?

What excites you about the Olympics?
What worries you?

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Aron



“I enjoy playing football in the Camden Sunday league. I used to play at school. My school was really good for sports. Our headteacher was really active – she had us out there doing things for charity and all the kids loved it. I think young people nowadays have got more of a chance to get into sports because sports development in Camden has picked up over the last few years. And with the Olympics there’s a chance to emphasise it [sport] more.

The best thing about living in Camden is you get all walks of life here. Like the market at the weekend. It’s the atmosphere down there – there’s every sort of nationality and person you could imagine. And they’re doing something with all the money coming in now too.

I think crime is definitely getting worse, especially burglaries and stuff. It all boils down to people not being given enough opportunities to go and do something else. If I could change anything in Camden I’d create more for young people to do, like youth clubs that offer basic training for trades and the carpentry programme at King’s Cross.”

Translations

This document, Camden Together, asks local residents and organisations to tell us what they want the borough of Camden to be like in the future. We want as many people as possible in Camden to give us their views.

To obtain a summary version of Camden Together in your language, in large print, audio tape or Braille, please see the contact details below. Please remember to tell us your name, your telephone number and what format you need.

Ky dokument, Camden Together, kërkon nga banorët dhe organizatat lokale që të na tregojnë se si dëshirojnë që të jetë rrethi i Kamdenit në të ardhmën. Ne dëshirojmë që sa më shumë njerëz që të jetë e mundshme të na japin mendimet e tyre.

Për ta marrë një verzion përmbledhës të dokumentit Camden Together në gjuhën tuaj, në shtyp të madh, audiokasetë apo Braille, ju lusim shihni detalet e kontaktit më poshtë. Ju lusim të kujtoheni që të na tregoni emrin, adresën dhe numrin tuaj të telefonit dhe se cili format ju nevojitet.

ALBANIAN

Ce document, intitulé « Camden Together », consiste à demander aux organisations et aux résidents locaux ce qu'ils souhaitent que l'arrondissement de Camden devienne à l'avenir. Nous voulons que le plus de personnes possible de Camden nous fassent part de leur opinion.

Pour recevoir une version résumée de « Camden Together » dans votre langue maternelle, en gros caractères d'imprimerie, sur cassette audio ou en Braille, veuillez vous référer aux coordonnées ci-dessous. Souvenez-vous de nous dire vos nom, numéro de téléphone ainsi que le format souhaité.

FRENCH

Waraaqahan, Camden oo Wadajirta, waxay ka codsanaysaa dadka iyo hay'adaha xaafadda daggani ay noo sheegaan sida ay jecel yihiin in uu gobolka London ka tirsan ee Camden noqdo mustaqbalka. Waxaan doonaynaa in cadadka dadka ugu badani ay fikradahooda noo sheegaan.

Si aad u heshid waraaqaha Camden oo Wadajirta oo la soo koobay kuna tarjuman afkaaga hooyo, iyagoo far waaweyn ku qoran, iyagoo cod ah oo cagalad ku duuban ama iyagoo ku qoran farta dadka indhaha la' ee loo yaqaan 'Braille', fadlan eeg siyaabaha aad noola soo xiriiri karaysaan oo hoos ku qoran. Fadlan xusuusta in aad noo sheegtid magacaaga, lambarka teleefoonkaaga iyo qaabka aad u baahan tahay in laguugu soo gudbiyo.

SOMALI

Further translations

Este documento, "Camden Together" (Camden unido) solicita a los residentes y organizaciones locales que nos indiquen cómo quieren que sea el distrito de Camden en el futuro. Deseamos que el mayor número posible de personas de Camden nos aporten su punto de vista.

Para obtener una versión resumida del documento "Camden Together" en su propio idioma, en tipo grande, audio cassette o braille, véanse los datos de contacto que figuran a continuación. No olvide indicarnos su nombre, número de teléfono y el formato que necesita.

SPANISH

تطلب وثيقة كامدن معا هذه من السكان والمنظمات أن يبلغونا كيف يريدون أن يكون مجلس كامدن بالمستقبل. ونريد آراء أكبر عدد ممكن من السكان في كامدن.

للحصول على ملخص من وثيقة كامدن معا بلغتك أو بالطبعة الكبيرة أو على الشريط أو بلغة بريل الرجاء مراجعة معلومات الاتصال لئنا. الرجاء التذكر أن نقول لنا اسمك ورقم الهاتف وأي شكل من الوثيقة تحتاجه.

ARABIC

কেমডেন টুগেদার নামের এ ডকুমেন্টটিতে ভবিষ্যতে কেমডেন বারাকে স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাগণ এবং অর্গেনাইজেশন বা সংস্থাসমূহ কিভাবে দেখতে চান এ ব্যাপারে জিজ্ঞেস করা হয়েছে। আমরা চাই কেমডেনের যত বেশী সংখ্যক লোক সম্ভব এ ব্যাপারে তাদের মতামত দেন।

কেমডেন টুগেদারের সারাংশ কপির একটি সংস্করণ আপনার ভাষায়, বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, অডিও টেইপ বা বাজিয়ে শোনার কেসেটে অথবা ব্রেইল বা অঙ্কলিপিতে চাইলে, অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগের জন্য নীচের বিস্তারিত দেখুন। অনুগ্রহ করে আপনার নাম, টেলিফোন নাম্বার এবং এটি কোন ফরম্যাট বা আকারে আপনি চান, আমাদেরকে তা বলতে তুলবেন না।

BENGALI

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For information about Camden Together,
go to camdentogether.org.uk

For information about council services visit,
camden.gov.uk

Or telephone: 020 7278 4444

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