



## **Chair's Report AGM Oct 2021**

Welcome all and thanks to all those businesses who voted to renew Station to Station for another 5 years. We had a very good turnout and a sizeable increase in the yes vote, which gives us a strong mandate to work from.

The last 5 years saw £600,000 extra being spent in the area on business support, advocacy, marketing and public realm improvements. It also saw Station to Station bring in over £200,000 of external funding to the area from sources such as Lambeth, the Mayor's office, the Design Council and Thames Water.

In the next 5 years our priorities are to meet the identified needs of local businesses and implement their improvement ideas. In addition we will bring more public realm improvements to the area with clean air initiatives such as a shared electric delivery van (which will start out being petrol due to a global shortage of electric vehicles!) and more planting, including 11 de-paved areas along the west side pavement of Norwood Road which should be going in this month. We will also be working even more closely with Lambeth so that fly tipping, abandoned vehicles & graffiti no longer blight our town centre & industrial estates.

We will continue our good working relationship with the local police team, Lambeth public protection & licensing officers plus youth services to make sure that issues such as shoplifting, burglary, anti-social behaviour and street drinking do not have a negative impact on business.

There will be more marketing via traditional printed door drops as well as online promotions of both the area and its business directory.

We will continue to collaborate with local organisations and businesses to organise events that bring more footfall and recognition to the area.

We will support businesses with networking events, business surgeries and professional advice sessions to encourage collaborative working and aid the economic recovery.

West Norwood & Tulse Hill have been through a lot in the last 5 years – economic downturn, Thames Water and the Covid 19 pandemic. We survived it better than many other areas of the country and even the borough, with our traditional high street being used & valued far more by residents than ever before. We will build on this in the next 5 years to ensure that those residents and workers who wish to remain part of our unique area are assisted to find the affordable workspace they need and the good working conditions they deserve.