

## Summary of a 2002 survey in Canning Town

Extract from

‘Report on the State of Civil Society in Plaistow & Canning Town, East London’  
Produced For The East London Citizen’s Organisation (Telco)

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You can read the full report at <http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/staff/pdf/report2.pdf>

Local people were asked questions about their living conditions and what the local area was like. All answers are percentages unless otherwise stated.

a) Is there a strong sense of community here?

Yes	33
No	64

b) How many of your neighbours do you know by name?

< 4	44
4-9	33
10 +	19

c) What do you like about living here?

Nothing	20
Family and friends and community	17
It is a quiet area	12
The facilities	11
Convenience	10
Job nearby	7
Familiarity	6
Affordable housing	3

d) What do you dislike about living here?

Crime	32
Dirty streets	10
Lack of facilities	9
Everything	9
Noise	8
Children on the streets	6
Traffic	4
Neighbours	4
Lack of parking	2

e) If you could do one thing to improve the area, what would it be?

Cleaner streets	16
More facilities including those for children, & community schemes	30

Reduce crime/ more police	18
Traffic	3
More green areas/parks	6
Reduce noise	3
Nothing	8

f) What people say about living on Canning Town

- “Before, people used to stay and you got to know people ... the trouble is now I hardly know anybody anymore down this street”
- “There is a strong sense of community amongst the older residents ... but in cases where the properties are let and the turnover of residence is quite high, you lack that close community, which is understandable because people tend not to stay in the same place for very long.”
- “Manners. It all comes down to manners. People need to be taught and that is a cross-cultural thing. It’s got to start from young people, and how you value things.”
- “Front gardens are full of rubbish and they don’t care where it goes or anything. I mean it could easily be disposed of because you only have to ring the Council.”
- “You find that the Asian community do lots of stuff for their community, and the East Africans do lots of things for theirs. But nothing really integrates them much.”
- “Those who succeed move out and those who aren’t able to get work and don’t succeed economically stay where they are.”
- “Only 16% voted in the general election in Plaistow. There is an attitude amongst the local community that there is no point in voting.”
- “That’s where the improvements begin, when kids get good results in school and get to develop themselves and increase the prosperity of the area and increase their own fulfilment ... If I had a magic wand and could only improve one thing, I guess it would be the schools.”