

# "I Wish" Thornton Heath...

If you could make a wish about Thornton Heath, what would it be? Follow these **four steps to create your own poem** designed by local Croydon Poet Laureate Shaniqua Benjamin

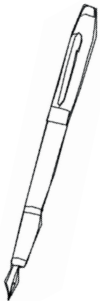
"Thornton Heath is vibrant, constantly moving and often changing, but have you felt that it's been changing without you? Here's your chance to have your say about what you wish had been different and what you wish will change – but there's a twist! You'll be having your say through poetry and spoken word, which isn't as hard as it sounds. Don't worry, I'll walk you through it." Shaniqua



## STEP 1

First, get yourself a paper and pen, because you can't write any poetry without that. Make sure you've got your phone or a timer with you too.

Set the timer on your phone for 2 minutes and do a free write\* on what you think and how you feel about Thornton Heath.



### What is a Free write?

Free writing is when you write whatever comes into your head (it doesn't have to make sense), not taking your pen off the page unless you are putting a space between words.

## STEP 2

Set the timer on your phone for 1 minute and do a free write on either outdoor or indoor spaces you wished were in Thornton Heath growing up. This can be in the form of a list – just try to get as many things down as possible.

Set the timer on your phone for 1 minute (I know, again) now. It could be indoor spaces, outdoor spaces or events – let your mind run free. This can also be in the form of a list – just try to get as many things down as possible.



## STEP 3

Read through your 1-minute free writes and choose what stands out to you. Underline or highlight them if you like.

For the final time, I promise, set the timer on your phone for 2 minutes. Whatever you've chosen that stands out to you, write what it is that they look like (colours, shapes, images). Be as vivid as possible.

## STEP 4

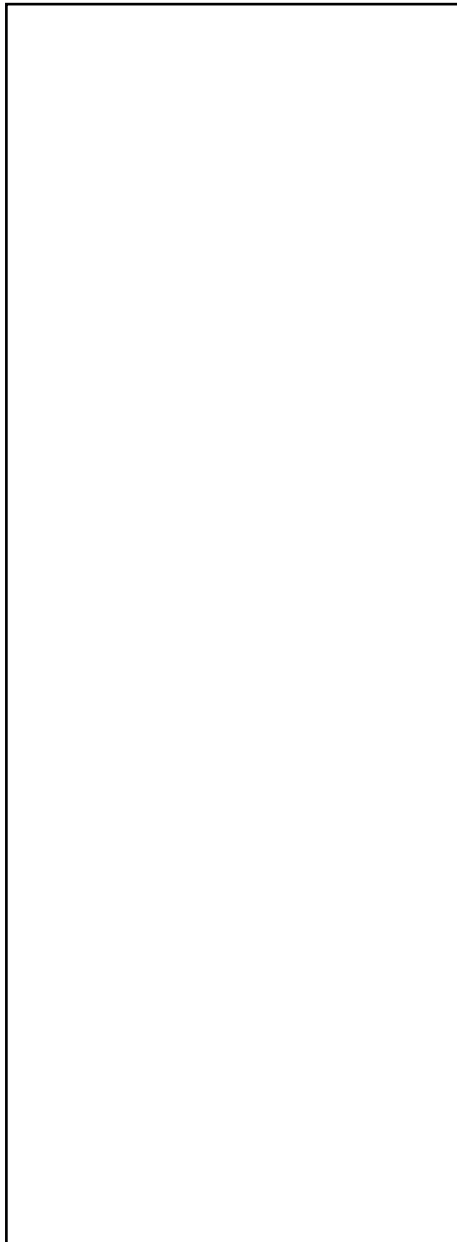
Using your wishes and imagery, write a short poem about what you'd wish to see in Thornton Heath. Once you've written your poem, email [jhinuk@turf-projects.com](mailto:jhinuk@turf-projects.com) with either:

- Your poem in written form
- 2-3 lines of your poem in written form
- A voice recording of a poem

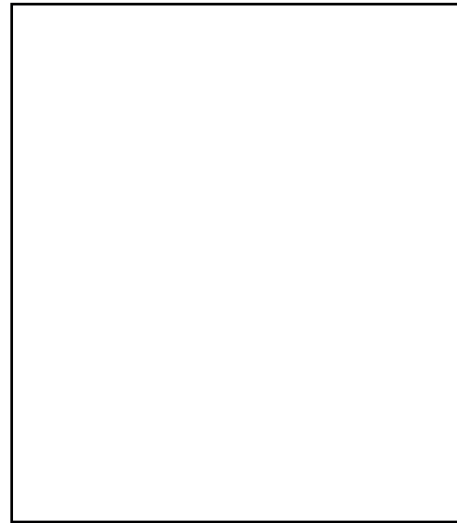
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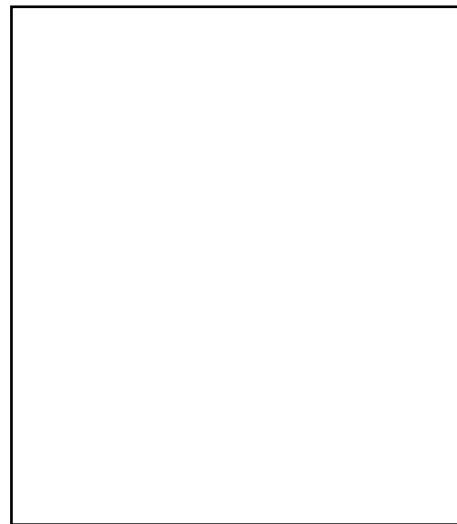
**STEP 1** - Your 2 minute free write on what you think and feel about Thornton Heath



**STEP 2** - Your 1 minute free write on your Thornton Heath wishes of the past



**STEP 2** - Your 1 minute free write on your Thornton Heath wishes of the future



**STEP 3** - Your 2 minute free write on Thornton Heath wishes as visuals / images



**STEP 4** - Your Thornton Heath wishes as a poem!

