

# Protection of Idyllic English Signage

## Southend Village Lewisham, Greater London

One might be forgiven in thinking that with 34 signs to look after, Southend Village, Lewisham has a lot to be going on with. However, it is important to not be go down this route of thinking. As Southend Village, Lewisham is a part of the nation's capital, the council have much more money than most to spend on preserving and looking after this fantastic village's signs. Of course, with such a large amount of signs, it would be naïve not to expect that a greater number of them would not be up to standard. After visiting the settlement in December 2008, it has come to the attention of PIES that a number of the signs have fallen into disorder, which we of course hastened to rectify (see fig. 1).



**Figure One:** *A sign that was leaning over, possibly due to a car accident. Our team try to pull it straight.*

However, after much pushing and pulling, our 'Specialist Executive Technicians Trained in Lustrating, Enhancing and Repairing Signs' team were unable to straighten the sign. Furthermore, after viewing other signs in the Settlement (see fig. 2) it was clear to the team that a return visit was needed, with tools to restore the signs to their former glory.



**Figure Two:** *Sign one appears to be a regular, fully functioning Southend sign. However, underneath the 'London A-Z', the 'U' of the Southend is missing. Sign two shows minor damage to the border of the sign. Sign three shows that some screws have come loose, leaving the sign lopsided. Sign four cannot hide its graffiti. Reports that it was done by rival 'Northenders' are not confirmed.*

-Chinquary