

**Report to Walsall South Area Panel
STREET CLEANSING IN WALSALL SOUTH
10TH DECEMBER 2013**

Street Cleansing

Introduction:

This report is to brief the Walsall South Area Panel on the street cleaning regimes in district centres and Walsall town centre and fly tipping issues within the borough with reference to the Walsall South area.

This service relates to the council priority of 'Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities'.

Members wish to understand in more detail street cleansing in the Walsall South wards

1. What is the frequency of street cleansing?
2. What are the street cleansing rounds?
3. How are streets prioritised for cleansing?
4. What resources in terms of budget and staff are available for street cleansing?
5. How can members/residents make requests for streets to be cleansed?
6. Please can the report include information and statistics regarding fly-tipping incidents in the Walsall South area and action being taken to tackle the problem.

Report:

The summary cleaning performance schedules and planned maintenance regimes are principally a fortnightly cleansing cycle based on financial, physical and human resources available through Clean & Green Services.

We operate designated barrow routes in Caldmore, Pleck, Chuckery and Birchills due to the level of footfall and pedestrian traffic due to shops, community hubs and proximity of schools. Resources are deployed on these areas on a daily basis from Monday to Friday during a 37 hour working week.

Barrow routes are defined as areas where a designated resource is deployed, site based within a defined area who foot walk the streets within a geographical area routinely visiting the streets throughout the day on a Monday to Friday cycle.

Again resources are deployed on a demand basis, based on local area knowledge of levels of detritus, litter and deterioration rates. Each of the outlying areas has one designated barrow person with the exception of Caldmore/Palfrey which has two personnel assigned.

The work is co-ordinated from Walsall Town centre where by additional resources are available from time to time to meet changing demands.

Herbicide Treatment:

A contact herbicide is applied equitably across the borough twice per annum for the treatment of weed growth in paved areas, channels etc (May & September each year). This is currently under contract with an external provider. This service is procured on a rolling cyclical basis every three years due to the specialist nature of the works and associated qualifications/licences.

Other Clean & Green resources:

The district centres are frequented on a weekly basis over the year to tend to other functions provided by Clean & Green Services including:

Provision and maintenance of floral displays and planters

Grass maintenance

Tree maintenance

Maintenance of shrub border and flower beds

Trade/commercial refuse and recycling collections

Domestic household waste collections (brown, grey and green bin collections)

Bulky collection services (on customer requested – charged for service)

Removal of graffiti and fly tipping

1. What is the frequency of street cleansing?

Designated resources for Walsall South:

A small mechanical sweeper (precinct sweeper) is assigned to the area which operates on a fortnightly cycle. There are a total of 7 of these machines for the entire borough. This is predominantly for footways, channels etc.

A 636 sweeper (small ride on sweeper) is allocated borough wide and will operate in the area on a monthly cycle tackling more specific hard to reach areas and local parks such as Palfrey & Pleck.

Four teams of two staff operate the area on a mobile basis (zone working) visiting the locations in South Walsall on a weekly cycle. This resource predominantly undertakes litter picking duties, cleaning around street furniture, lamp columns etc. where access cannot be achieved with a mechanical sweeper.

A large mechanical sweeper concentrates on channel sweeping over a monthly cycle. The service area operates three of these machines on a borough wide basis.

Two teams of two staff operate on a mobile basis across the entire southern area of the borough including Streetly, Pheasey Darlaston, Willenhall etc. These staff tend to, high traffic areas such as local shop fronts, schools, emptying street bins, removal of fly tipping.

2. What are the street cleansing rounds?

Details of the street cleansing rounds are illustrated in the appendices to this report.

3. How are streets prioritised for cleansing?

Resources are deployed on a demand basis, based on local area knowledge of levels of detritus, litter and deterioration rates.

4. What resources in terms of budget and staff are available for street cleansing?

Staffing resources (borough wide) are:

- Operations Manager x 1 (managerial role)
- Assistant Operations Manager x 1 (managerial role)
- Operational Team Leaders x 6 (front line staff)
- Environmental Operatives x 50 (front line staff including sweeper drivers, fly tip removal, barrow routes, district & town centre staff, district teams)

Financial Resources:

The annual revenue budget for street cleansing services is £1.8m per annum

5. How can members/residents make requests for streets to be cleansed?

Contact our call centre or mail box:



Walsall Council Contact centre on 01922 653344



clean&green@walsall.gov.uk

Other communication channels providing information on services:

www www.walsall.gov.uk

People panel: The New Walsall Peoples Panel – sign up by 31st December 2013 at www.walsall.gov.uk/peoplespanel or e-mail peoplespanel@walsall.gov.uk

Facebook: Walsall bins and things

Twitter: @Cleangreentweet

How can you help your community?

- Put the right waste in the right bins
- Think carefully when parking your car – can emergency services get into your street? Can the council get into your street to provide essential services such as cleansing and bin collections?
- Don't drop litter – take litter home with you or use street bins provided
- Arrange a bulky collection (large items) – dispose of unwanted household items appropriately by using the booking service on 01922 653344 or take them to the Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Report anti-social activity – report fly tipping and graffiti issues.

6. Please can the report include information and statistics regarding fly-tipping incidents in the Walsall South area and action being taken to tackle the problem.

Data Based on borough wide fly tipping data:

Fly tipping in Walsall as with most authorities has been an ongoing and costly problem of anti-social behaviour. Through smarter working review in 2009 the service was re-designed resulting in response times for the removal of fly-tips reducing from 14 to 16 days to 48 hours. This was intended to provide a better service for the customer and reduce/discourage fly tipping due to a perceived higher presence of monitoring and response from the council.

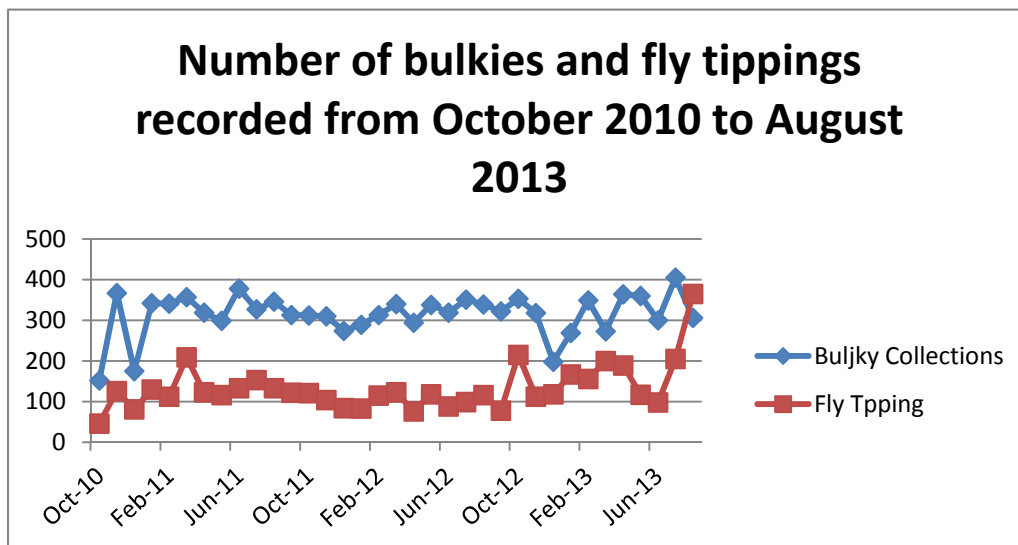
Fly tipping is an anti-social activity having a negative impact on the environment and the communities where people live and work.

Fly capture calculates the costs of dealing with fly tipping in 2012/13 as being £139.5K. This is using a national average cost based on the size of the fly tipping.

Total number of fly tipping incidents by size and estimated clearance & disposal cost:

	2012/13		
	Total No of incidents	Cost per incident	Total cost
single black bag:	0	£29.00	£0.00
other single item:	260	£29.00	£7,540.00
car boot load or less:	494	£29.00	£14,326.00
small van load:	851	£56.00	£47,656.00
transit van load:	415	£115.00	£47,725.00
tipper lorry load:	38	£350.00	£13,300.00
significant/multiple loads:	9	£1,000.00	£9,000.00
	2067	Total	£139,547.00

By comparison when reviewing 2010 to 2013 figures and trends as detailed in Figure B it highlights that in recent years the number of fly tips have averaged around the 100 per month mark.



The apparent increase in the amount of fly tipping in July /August 2013 is attributed to the following;

For several years all fridges have had to be disposed of at an authorised treatment facility as they contain Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). Other metal recyclers have continued to accept fridges at normal facilities and illegally dispose of them. A recent crackdown by the Environment Agency on this activity has resulted in a large increase in the number of fridges fly tipped.

Rogue metal recyclers are now collecting fridges, removing any valuable metal they contain and fly tipping the carcass. In 2012/13 Clean and Green Services collected a total of 5 fly tipped fridges. So far in 2013/14 the figures are:

April – 0 multi item dumping (per job)

May – 0 multi item dumping (per job)

June – 4 multi item dumping (per job)

July – 38 multi item dumping (per job)

August – 81 multi item dumping (per job)

Of which within each job the total individual number of fridges were collected, which would suggest a direct impact due to changes to fridge disposal. Fly tipped fridges as follows:

April = 0 fridges

May = 0 fridges

June = 7 fridges

July = 66 fridges

August = 176 fridges

September = 134 fridges

Allowing for the increase in the number of fridges being fly tipped there is still a rise in the number of fly tips recorded in July / August. This is a data inputting issue. Problem areas for fly tipping are monitored by cleansing crews and any items proactively removed whilst on site and recorded on a paper system. This work is then retrospectively entered onto fly tipping databases.

All residents have a role to play in waste minimisation through the re-use, recycling and reduction of unwanted materials. Therefore in the first instance consideration should be given as to whether items such as chairs, tables etc. can be re-used or suitable for donation to charitable organisations.

The doorstep collection service is available to all residents across the borough at a nominal charge of for up to five items. (Bulky Collections Service)

Those who have means of transport can take the opportunity to recycle/dispose of their bulky items at one of the two Recycling Centres based at Merchants Way (Aldridge) and Friars Road (Leamore). There is no charge made in this instance.

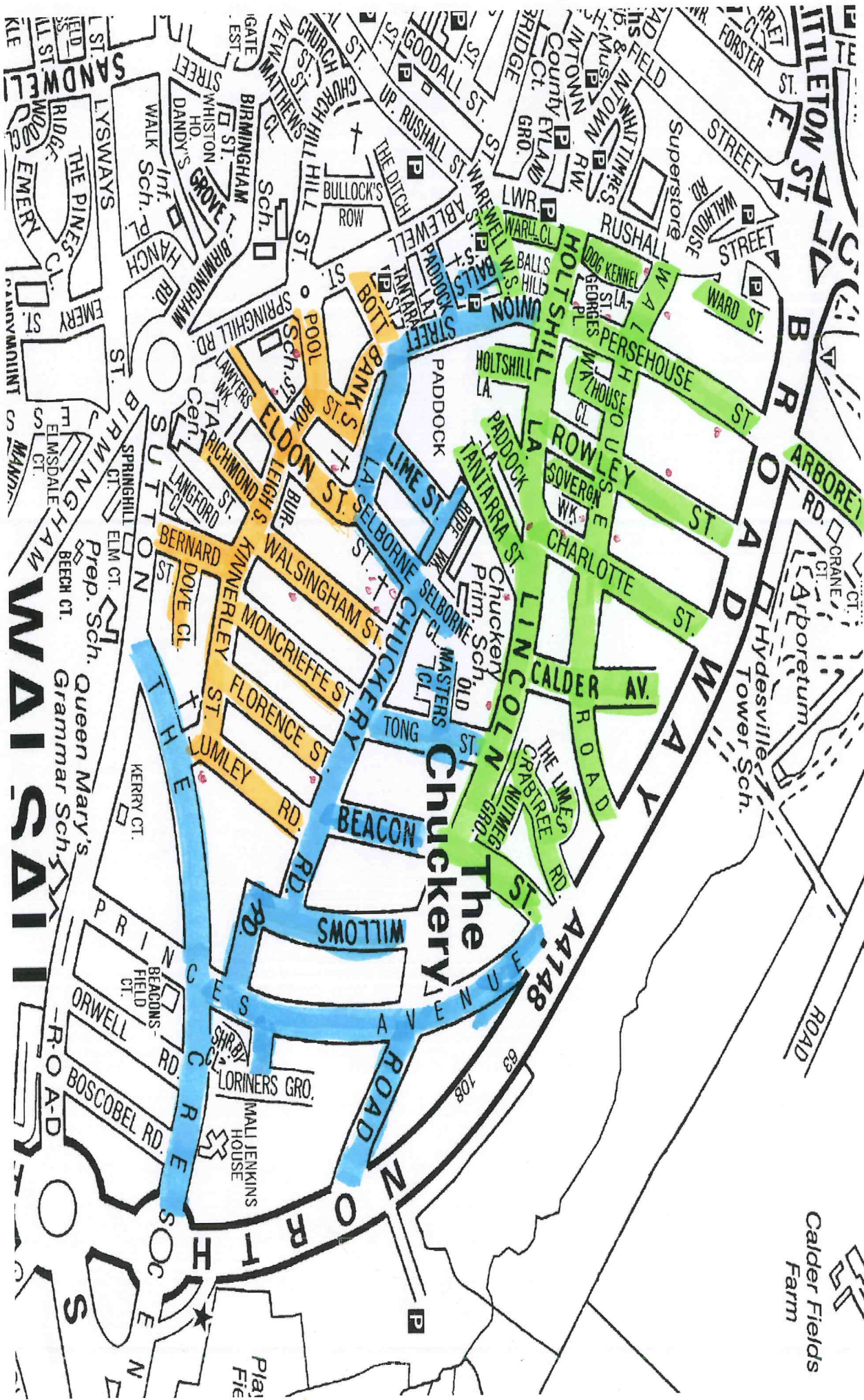
A map of borough showing areas of fly tipping will be provided to Members prior to the meeting on 10 December 2013.

Recommendation:

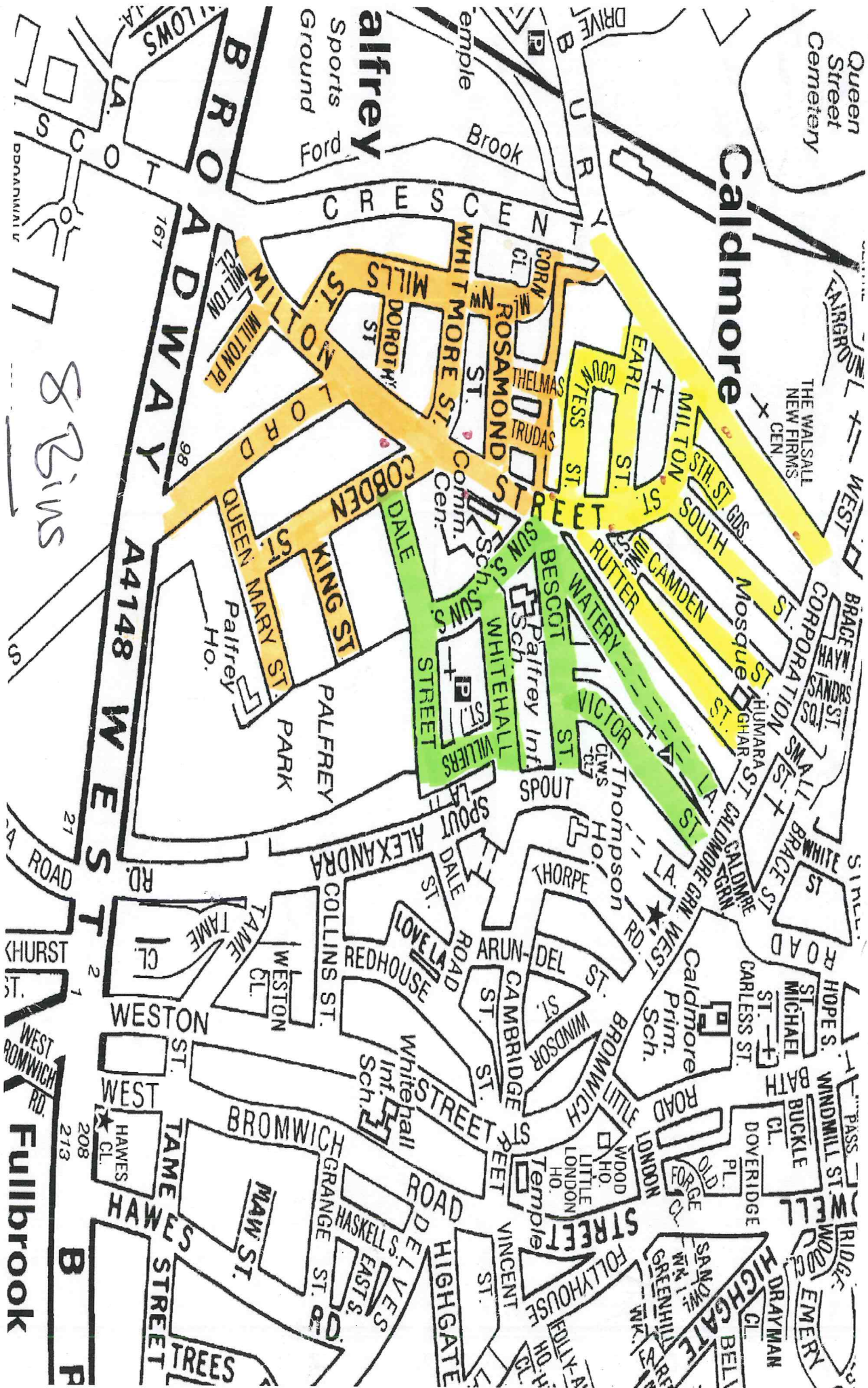
To note the contents of the report

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Chuckery

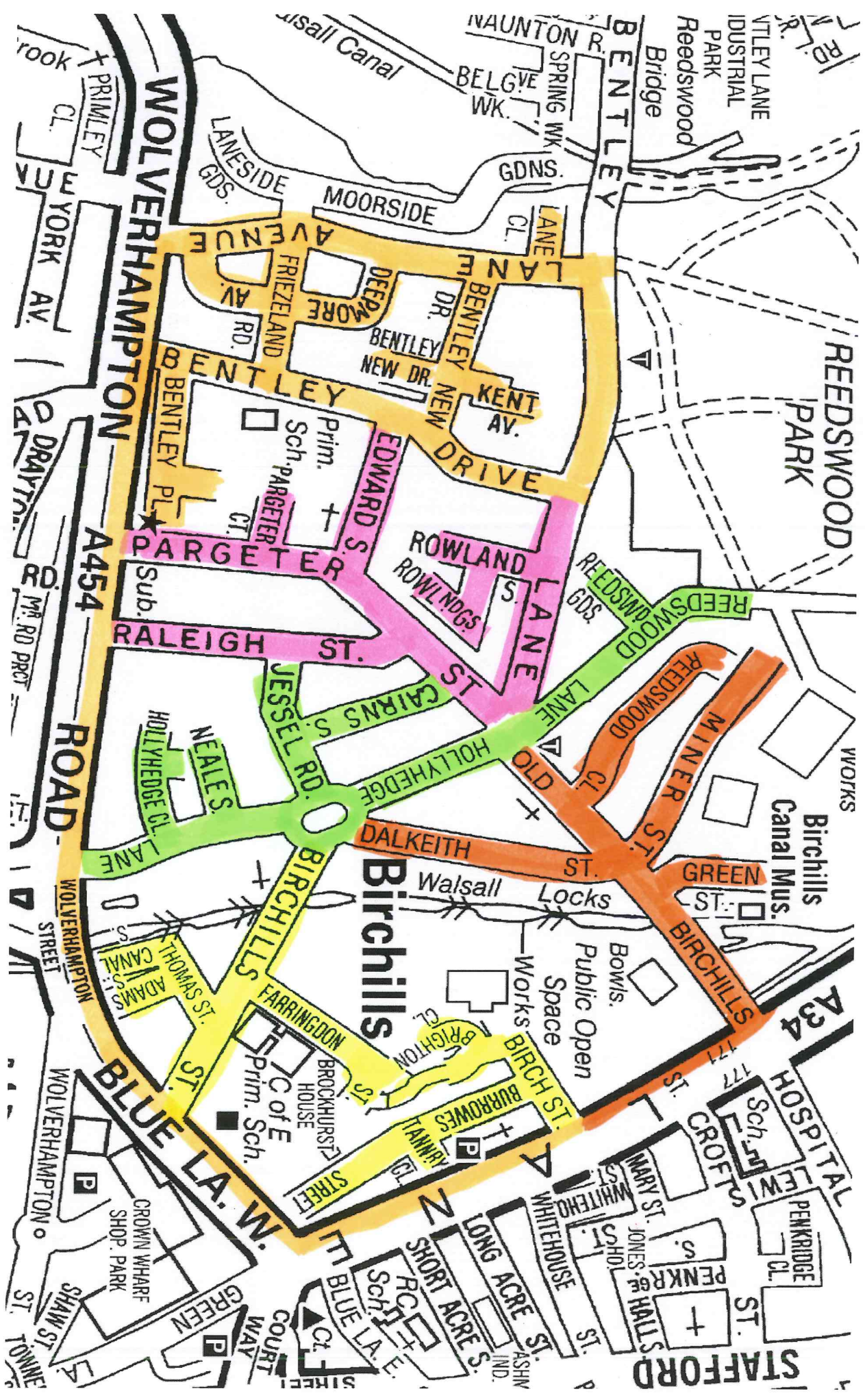


Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

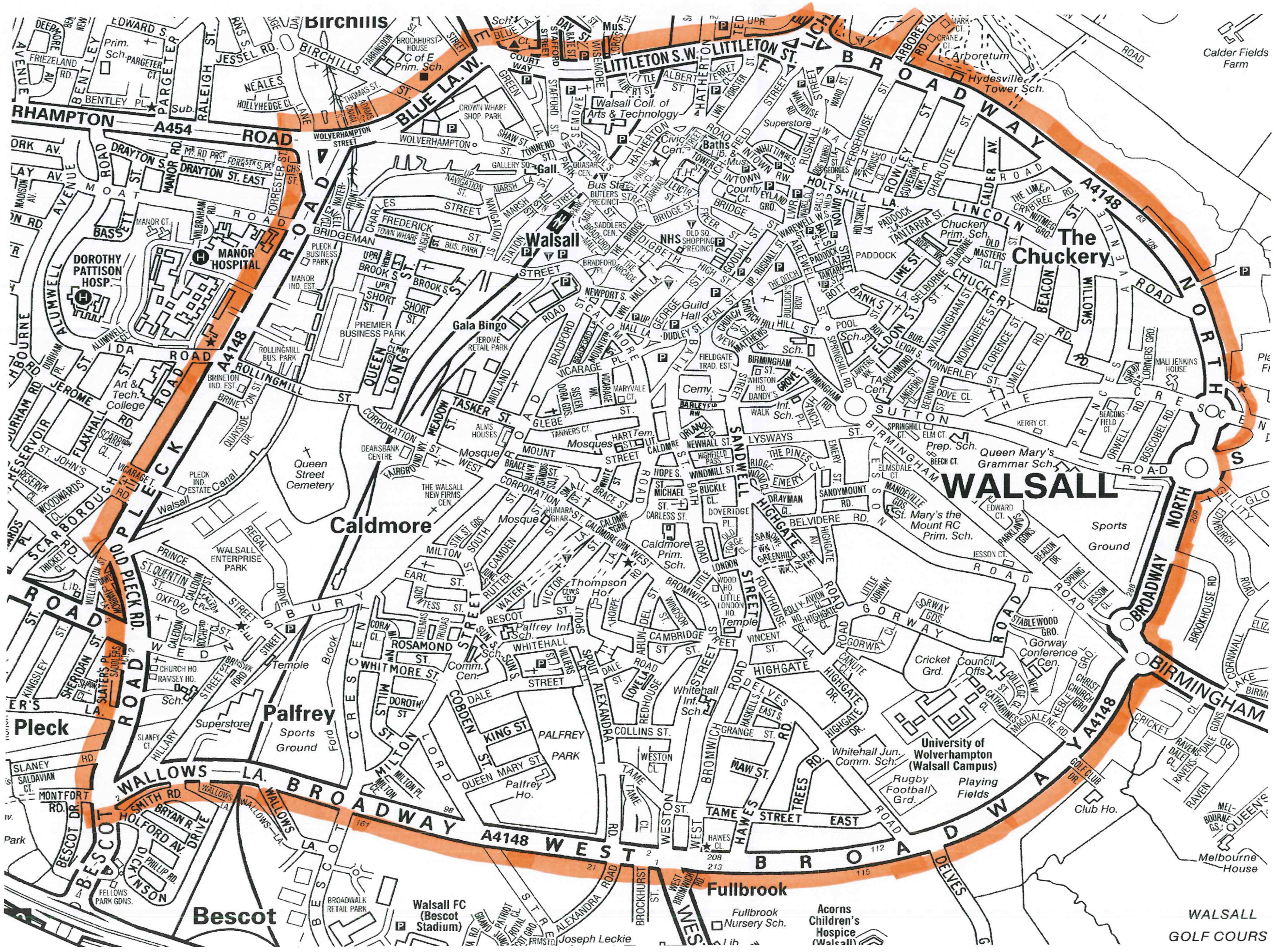


Mon - Tues - Wed - then Thurs Fri mixture of Mon -

Birchills 7

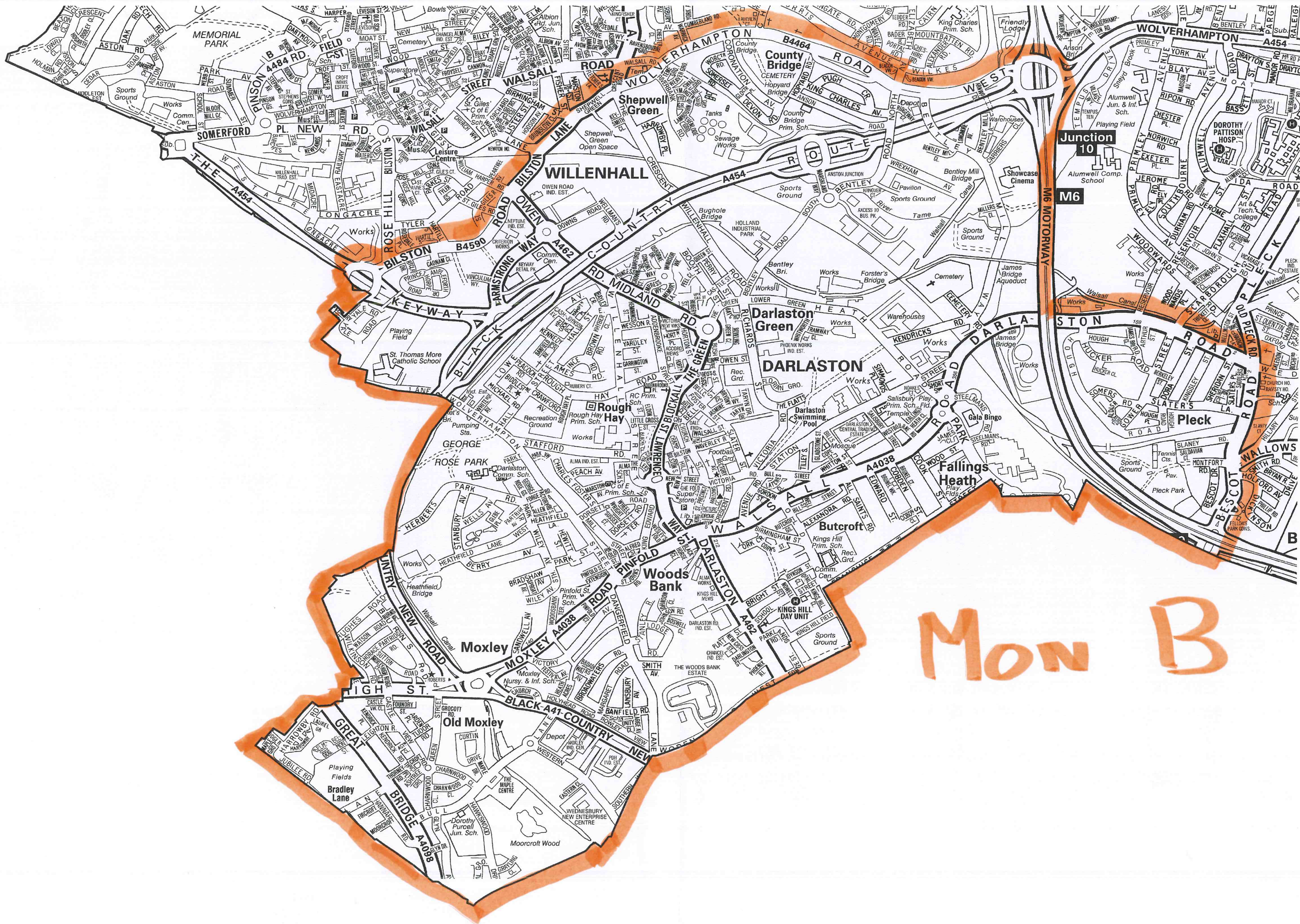


Map
Tues
Wed
Thurs
Fri

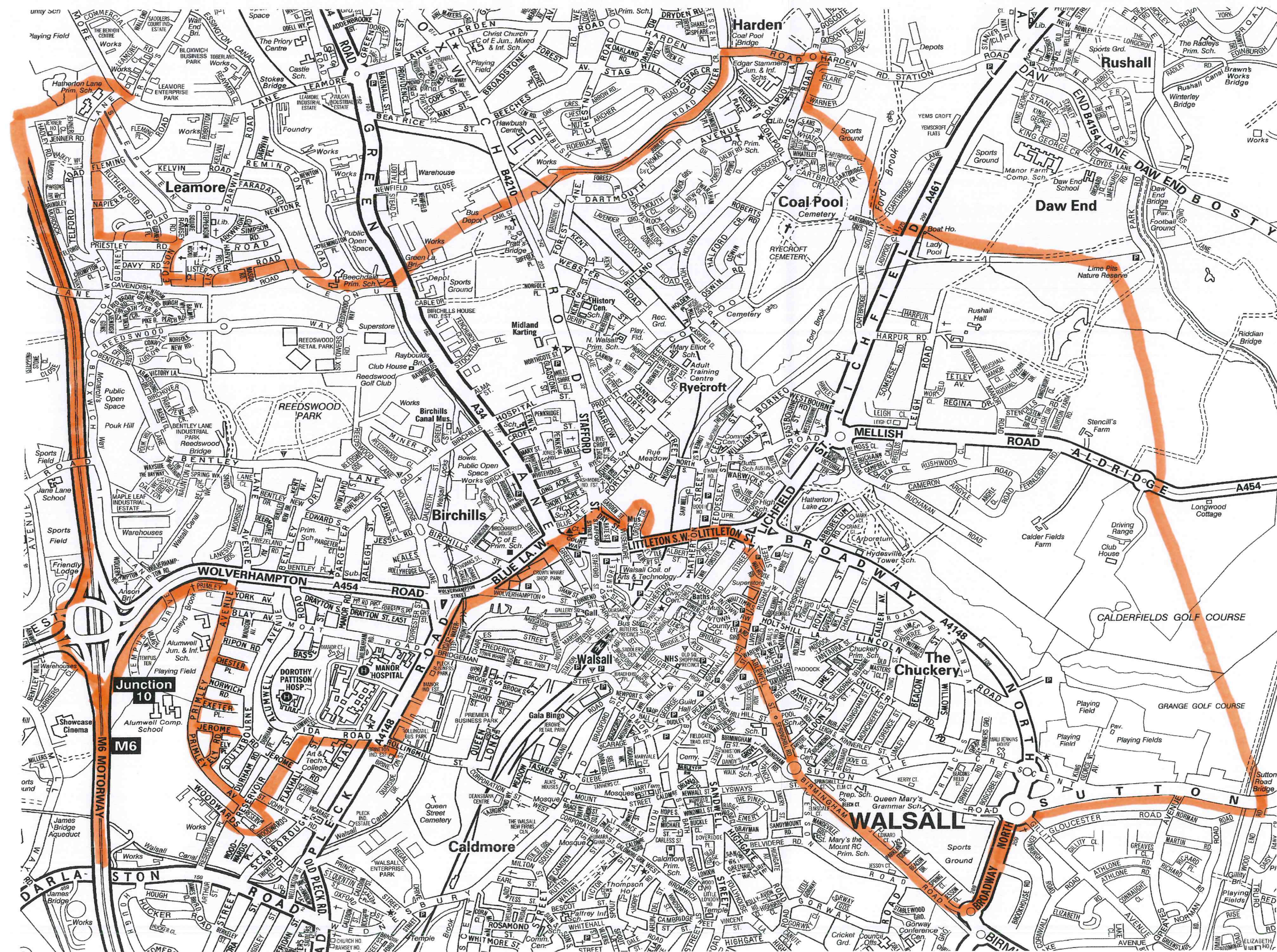


Town
Center

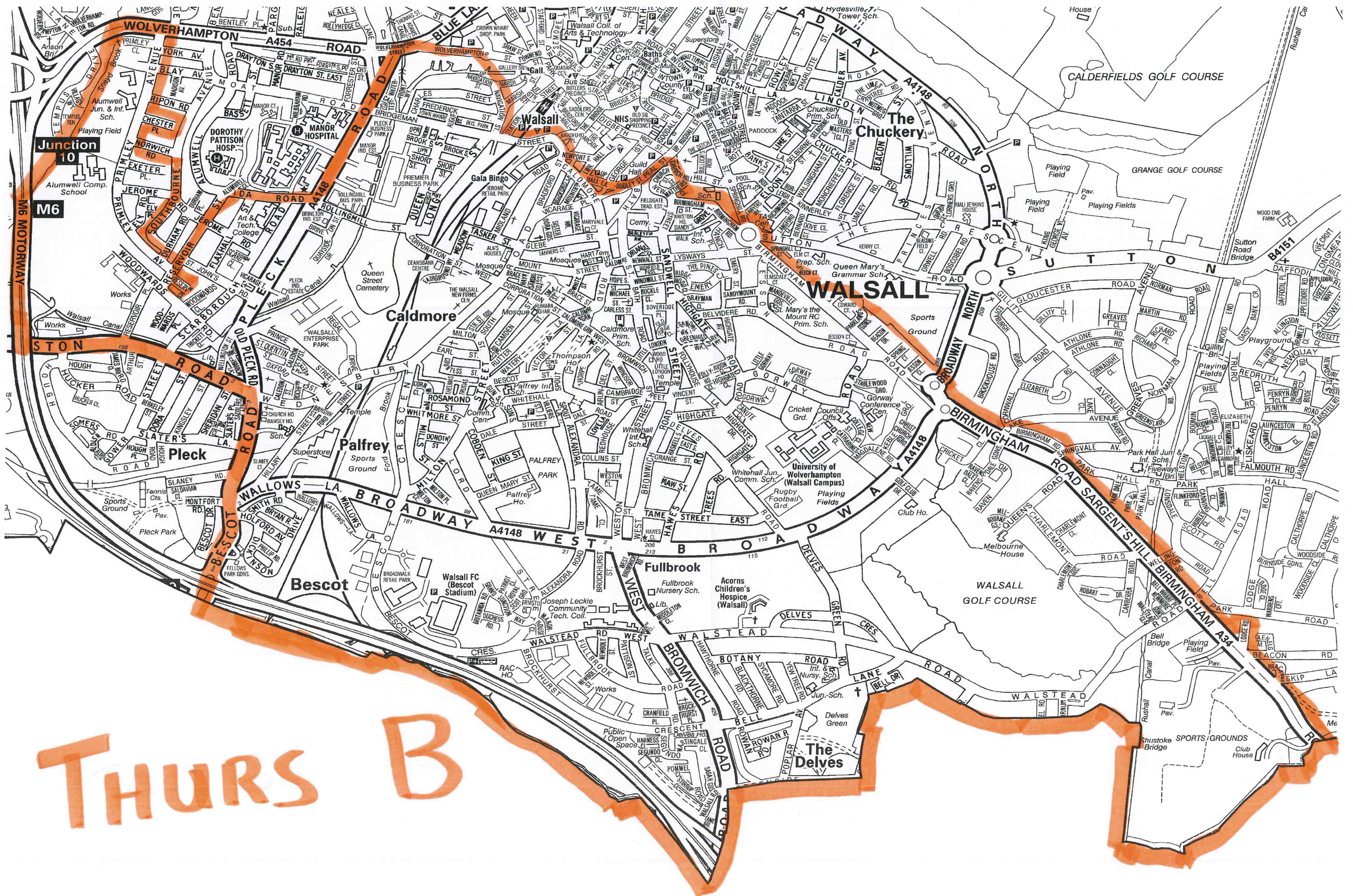
WALSALL
GOLF COURSE



Mon B



THURS A



THURS B

Compact Sweeper Route

- DAILY
- MONDAY
- TUESDAY
- WEDNESDAY
- THURSDAY
- FRIDAY



