

**Aldridge South and Streetly Local Neighbourhood Partnership
– 18th January 2005**

PRODUCING THE FIRST PARTNERSHIP PLAN

1. Brief Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP of the first partnership plan to open a debate on potential constructive proposals and prioritised actions for inclusion in the Aldridge South and Streetly Partnership plan

2. The Initial Priorities

The initial priorities identified within the first Partnership Plan are as follows:-

- Crime
- Environment
- Access to services – transport
- Facilities for young people
- Health

Suggestions for grouping of themes:-

- Crime
- Environment

3. Work to date

- Wider consultation with local communities identifying 10 key priorities against which specific actions will be delivered. From now until 2008 the council will tackle important issues linked to these 10 priorities to ensure that the vision for Walsall is achieved.
 - Ward Walks
 - RHCS Consultancy have facilitated a workshop immediately following the formal meeting. This entailed a summary of the key facts about the partnership area and identified themes for further discussions to take place. These included environment, crime, health and access to services.
 - Crime visioning workshop held to help populate the partnership plan.
 - Identify Training and Development Opportunities available to the partnership, alongside strengths of the partnership.
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4. Recommendations

- The partnership plan is approved and that acceptance of the plan be recommended to Council following submission to Cabinet.
- Details of the workshops held to date are used as part of the first neighbourhood plan.
- That there be the formation of task groups to progress the detail of the first neighbourhood plan.

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Aldridge South and Streetly

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

COVER PAGE

Size - A4 Booklet

- 1) To be based on 'Vision Document' Style Cover including photographs from individual local areas
- 2) Photographs to be inserted within matrix with blanked off areas in-between.
- 3) Text above matrix to clearly show: (LNP area) Local Neighbourhood Partnership
- 4) Text below matrix to clearly show: Local Neighbourhood Plan 2004 - 05
- 5) Full logo's for Walsall MBC & Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership to go underneath at bottom of page.

PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2005 -06

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Walsall Council – A Vision for Walsall in 2008

Walsall Council has agreed its vision and priorities from now until 2008. This has been achieved through local consultation about what sort of place Walsall could be in the future and what part the council should play in leading the changes ahead.

To support this vision the council has identified 10 priorities against which specific actions will be delivered. From now until 2008 the council will tackle important issues linked to these 10 priorities to ensure that the vision for Walsall is achieved.

Vision 2008: In 2008, Walsall will have an established reputation as an ambitious “can-do” place where a civic, economic and cultural renaissance has been made possible.

In 2008, Walsall people are proud of their heritage, proud of what their borough has become and excited about future opportunities.

In 2008 Walsall will be a learning borough that promotes the value of learning and achievement, in our schools and colleges in the home, in the community and at work.

In 2008 Walsall will have a reputation as a clean, green and safe borough.

By 2008, real improvement will be evident in the health of our citizens, and the needs of people who care for others will be acknowledged and their work valued.

In 2008 local people will see themselves as residents of the borough as a whole. Local districts and their centres will still have their strong sense of identity. Walsall Town Centre will be an exciting and vibrant place for culture and business – acting as the economic powerhouse of the borough.

In 2008 Walsall Council will be recognised as a listening organisation, which effectively represents, but also tackles, the concerns of local people. The council will provide strong and responsive civic leadership, supporting local communities with the resources and tools to provide local solutions to local problems. Walsall will enjoy high levels of civic involvement in neighbourhood partnerships and in a capable, vibrant voluntary sector.

By 2008 Walsall will have played a full role in transforming the Black Country into a highly successful sub-regional economy.

Priority Areas:

- Ensure a Clean and Green borough
- Make it easier to get around
- Ensure all people are safe and secure
- Make our schools great
- Make Walsall a healthy and caring place
- Encourage everyone to feel proud of Walsall MBC
- Make it easier to access local services
- Strengthen the local economy
- Listen to what people want
- Transform Walsall into an excellent local authority.

About Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

“Walsall will be a prosperous, inclusive and competitive Borough in which its diverse communities feel involved, safer, healthier, and can take pride in its future.”

Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP) is Borough-wide and brings together the major service delivery agencies (Police, Health, Local Authority), and the business, community and voluntary sectors, to tackle issues of deprivation within the Borough's most deprived areas.

The WBSP comprises six Theme Groups:

- Improving Community Safety and Crime Reduction
- Improving Health, Well-Being and Social Care
- Regenerating the Economy
- Sustaining a Better Place to Live and Work
- Raising Educational Standards through Lifelong Learning
- Community Engagement (and Equalities)

The Partnership is now commissioning against four strategic objectives:

- Supporting a thriving Economic Community, through supporting existing businesses, encouraging new business and raising the skills base of people in Walsall
- Environment and Improving the Image of Walsall, through raising aspirations, improving liveability, and regenerating the fabric of neighbourhoods
- Opportunities for Children, through a variety of formal and informal activities
- Community Safety and Reclaiming Neighbourhoods and addressing the impact of substance misuse, through education and awareness raising, particularly on young people through diversionary and health promotion activities

With four integral Themes:

- Skills Escalation
- Raising Aspirations
- Community Cohesion
- Improving the Image of Walsall

The WBSP works closely with Walsall Community Empowerment Network to ensure that communities of interest and geography are fully involved with the Partnership and the decisions it makes. This also includes the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Together these strategic priorities set the backdrop against which Local Neighbourhood Partnerships operate and set the scene for improvements identified within this neighbourhood plan.

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

Foreword by Partnership Chair - C of P

What is a Local Neighbourhood Partnership?

A Local Neighbourhood Partnership or LNP is a meeting at a more local level, between the council, partner agencies and representatives of the business, voluntary and community sectors where local issues are discussed, problems identified and solutions proposed to resolve them. A further key role of the LNP is to engage and consult with all local people to help identify these key neighbourhood issues and to seek views on how best to tackle them, and in doing so, produce a local neighbourhood plan.

The make-up of a local neighbourhood partnership includes all ward councillors for the area, four council appointed partners including the police, Primary Care Trust and primary and secondary school representatives, and up to ten locally appointed partners from the business, voluntary and community sectors. This however, does not stop members of the public becoming involved, as meetings, which are held every three months, are open, with everyone free to attend. Each meeting of the LNP does have an agenda, with key topics for discussion, but also allows time for members of the public to raise questions and to have their say on local issues.

What can the Local Neighbourhood Partnership do? – H of NP

What will the Local Neighbourhood Plan be used for? – H of NP

SECTION TWO: AREA PROFILE – Strategic Intelligence Unit

Map of the Area **LNP team to liaise with Council colleagues**

MAP

Facts About the Area

NOTE: Works to be carried out under the DDA in 2004/05: Aldridge Area Office, Aldridge Library Rookery Lane Aldridge, Baytree Resource Centre, Baytree House, Erdington Road, Aldridge, Beacon View Home, 20 Little Aston Road, Aldridge, Northgate Resource Centre, Northgate, Aldridge, Public Conveniences, Court Parade, Aldridge, Streetly Crematorium, Little Hardwick Road, Streetly, Streetly Library, Blackwood Road, Streetly.

This Section presents a range of statistics on the LNP; it places this LNP in context of the Walsall borough wherever possible.

Population structure: This LNP area has above the borough average for people aged 45 years and upwards. Some 96% of local residents are of white origin. It has the highest proportion of owner occupiers in the borough and above the borough average of pensioner and lone pensioner households. It has a very low turnover rate of households moving, well below the borough average which would suggest it has a settled and stable community.

Environment: In a study completed in 2001, residents in this LNP area were asked “Are you satisfied with this area as a place to live?” 91% answered “Yes” – the highest response rate of any LNP area. Additionally nearly 33% of people answered “yes” when asked if they thought it had got worse as a place to live, one of the lowest response rates of all LNP rates and hence indicative that residents are generally happy with the area as a place to live.

Economy: The area has well above the borough average for economically active people and, as a result, the lowest level of unemployed people of all LNP areas. It is well below the borough average in terms of people claiming benefits of any description, most noticeably council tax benefit. Another indication of poverty is car ownership; this LNP area has the highest proportion of 2 and 3 car families in the borough, obviously an indication of young people living with parents.

Crime: The area has had the second and third lowest level of reported crime over the past four years and the crime rate in the LNP area has fallen over the last three years from 01/02 to 03/04 from 78.5 crimes per 1,000 of the population to 63.8. When residents were asked: “How safe do you feel in this area during the day?” 95% answered “very or fairly safe” (the highest response of all LNP areas). The rate fell when asked the same question relating to safety during the night, with 50% stating they felt “very or fairly safe”. However, this was the second highest score of all LNP areas. The area has low disorder rates whilst the rate of young offenders fell from 1.7% to 1.3 from 02/03 to 03/04.

Whilst the LNP chose to discuss crime, and ways to combat crime, in some detail, it is the perhaps the perception of local people, who view the area as a safe place to live, which needs to be reaffirmed to reinforce a positive image of the area.

Statistics relating to specific neighbourhoods within the LNP area

Government departments have developed a way of mapping “poverty or deprivation indicators” across England. They use a variety of statistical sources to arrive at what is known as the “Index of Multiple Deprivation”. This is essentially a way to “rank” all the areas of the UK to identify those areas in most of need of assistance to raise income levels, improve health and education in the area etc.

A recent improvement is that the Government has now developed a way to consider smaller local neighbourhoods within wider geographic wards; they are useful to highlight distinct “pockets” of deprivation or poverty.

The Government has called these small neighbourhoods “super output areas” or SOAs for short. There are some 32,482 of these “SOAs” across the country; each has been given a numerical code. The Council has applied these codes to the appropriate LNP area.

The map above details these codes; the chart below applies the codes to local neighbourhoods. The LNP has allocated identifying names to these neighbourhoods, based on local knowledge, to more easily identify distinct areas within the LNP which may be in need of “special” help.

Understanding the Chart below

The Chart details the ward names within the LNP; it applies the SOAs (small neighbourhoods) within the Ward and gives a more local neighbourhood name to the numerical code given by the Council.

The final two columns give the “Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation”, essentially the lower the rank – the more deprived the area. Thus Aldridge West with a rank of 6,681, is considered to be the most “deprived” neighbourhood, overall, in this LNP area. However, it should be noted that this score places it outside the top 20% most deprived of all English neighbourhoods.

The final column states the “IMD Most Deprived Percentage”. There are 32,482 SOAs (small neighbourhoods) nationally; the Council has ranked neighbourhoods largely by those in the top 25%, 50% and 75% for ease of reading. So:

Rank: 1 – 8,120 those falling within the top 25% (e.g. “most deprived”)
 Rank: 8,121 – 16,241 those between 25% to 50% (mid range)
 Rank: 16,242 – 24,362 those between 50% to 75% (above mid range)
 Rank: 24,363 – 32,482 those between 75% to 100% (those “least deprived”)

To further explain the above ranking, neighbourhoods “scoring below 3248” – would be in the top 10% most deprived nationally, those “scoring below 6,496” would be in the top 20% most deprived nationally and so on; we use these smaller percentages later in this section.

Ward	Super Output Area (SOA) Numerical Code	“Neighbourhood within the LNP”	Rank Index of Multiple Deprivation	IMD Most Deprived Percentage
Aldridge Central And South	E01010244	Aldridge West	6681	25
Aldridge Central And South	E01010242	Leighswood	9104	50
Aldridge Central And South	E01010241	Druid's Heath	17073	75
Aldridge Central And South	E01010247	Aldridge South	18430	75
Aldridge Central And South	E01010246	Barr Beacon	19928	75
Streetly	E01010389	South Streetly	21367	75
Streetly	E01010384	West Streetly	25631	100
Aldridge Central And South	E01010243	Aldridge North	25807	100
Streetly	E01010391	South Streetly	26127	100
Aldridge Central And South	E01010245	By Shrubbery Farm	26177	100
Streetly	E01010390	South Streetly	26860	100
Aldridge Central And South/Streetly	E01010388	Corporation Wood	27833	100
Streetly	E01010386	North Central Streetly	27928	100
Streetly	E01010387	Central Streetly	28590	100
Aldridge Central And South	E01010248	Barr Common	28667	100
Streetly	E01010392	Hardwick	29805	100
Streetly	E01010385	East Streetly	30695	100

There are therefore 17 small neighbourhoods in this LNP area. Breaking statistics into smaller neighbourhoods provides the LNP with a far better grasp of specific areas within the locality which may be in need of help.

This LNP area has 1 small neighbourhood in the top 25% of deprived areas nationally and another in the top 50% nationally. Overall, some 64% of the LNP area is considered to be affluent given 11 neighbourhoods score 100 in the above chart.

Considering specific elements of the overall “neighbourhood ranking”

The above chart brings together a series of “scores” from various aspects of living in an area to arrive at the overall rank. These aspects include:

Crime (the incidence of recorded crime for four major crime themes: burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence)

Education & Skills (the numbers of skills and qualifications held by local people both young people and adults)

Employment (numbers of unemployed people in the area)

Health (those people whose quality of life is impaired by poor health),

Housing & Services (lack of services based on geographical barriers or access to suitable housing)

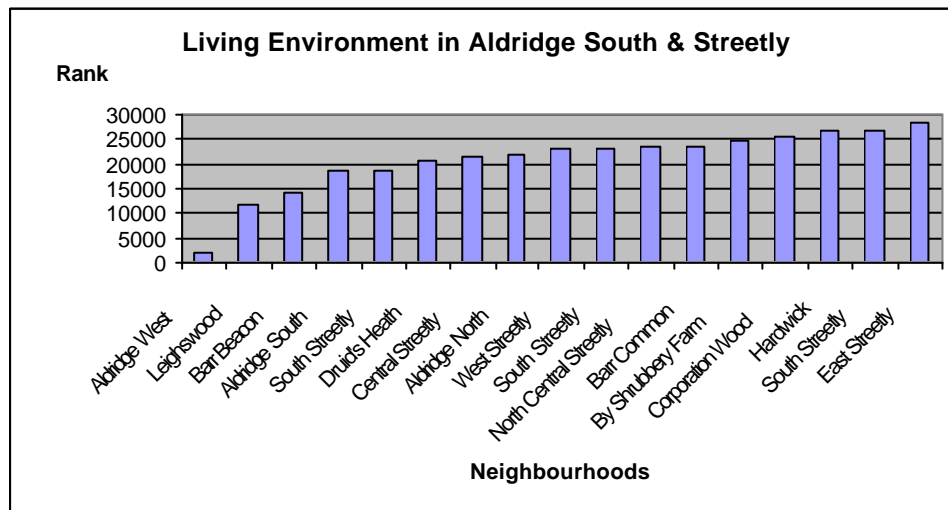
Income (average wage levels, various economic indicators)

Living Environment (considers the indoors living environment (measures the quality of available housing) and the outdoors environment)

The following charts present a variety of the above “aspects” which may be of interest to the LNP. It is apparent that two neighbourhoods, within the wider LNP, appear to “suffer” the greatest levels of deprivation – Aldridge West and Leighswood – as the following charts confirm.

Environment

Graph 1

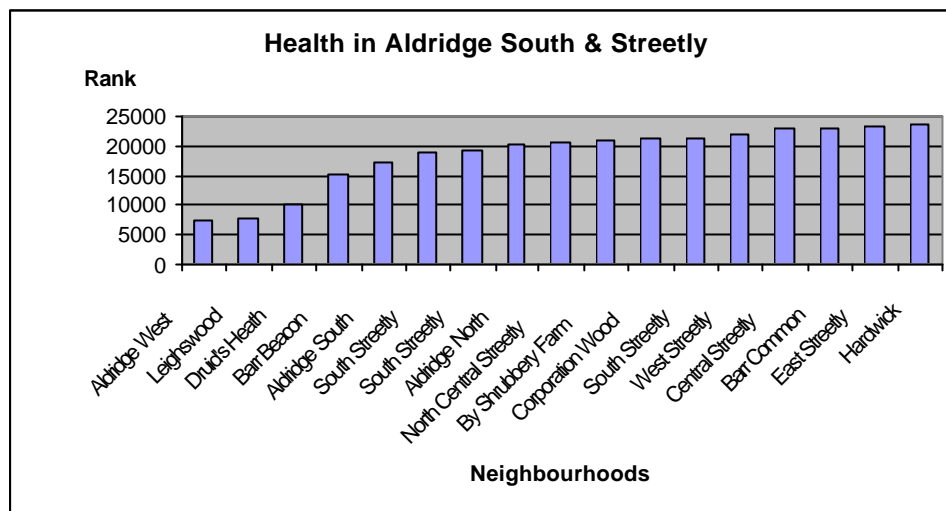


One of the main issues that arose as a result of LNP discussions and during the Ward Walk, related to the environment in the local area.

However, as can be seen from the above graph, the statistics show only Aldridge West (on the left of the above chart) as an area of deprivation in this respect, with a ranking of 1,910 hence it is in the top 10% of nationally deprived neighbourhoods. Leighswood and Barr Beacon, as the next most deprived areas, score 11,565 and 14,188 respectively and are classed as “mid range” in terms of deprivation.

Health

Graph 2

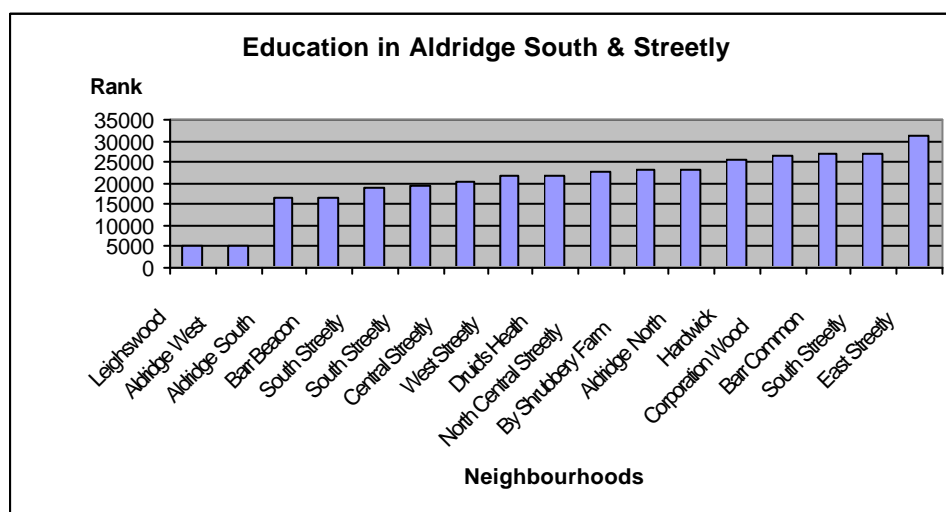


Reading the above graph from left to right confirms that neighbourhoods from Aldridge South to Hardwick all score well above 16,241, thus all fall outside the top 50% deprived neighbourhoods in the country

Education

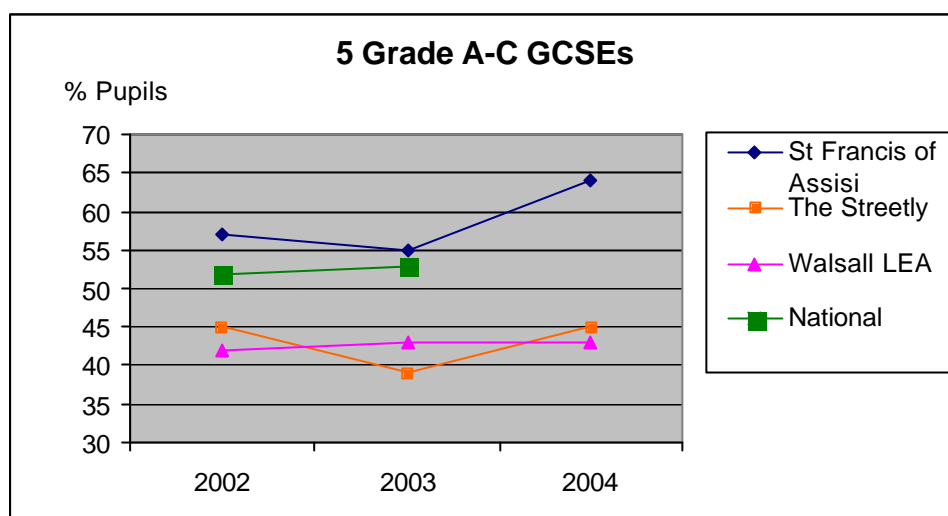
Graph 3

A final area of interest is the issue of education. Whilst generally the area is not classed as deprived, the two neighbourhoods that reappear, are again Aldridge West and Leighswood, both in the top 20% of deprived areas within England:

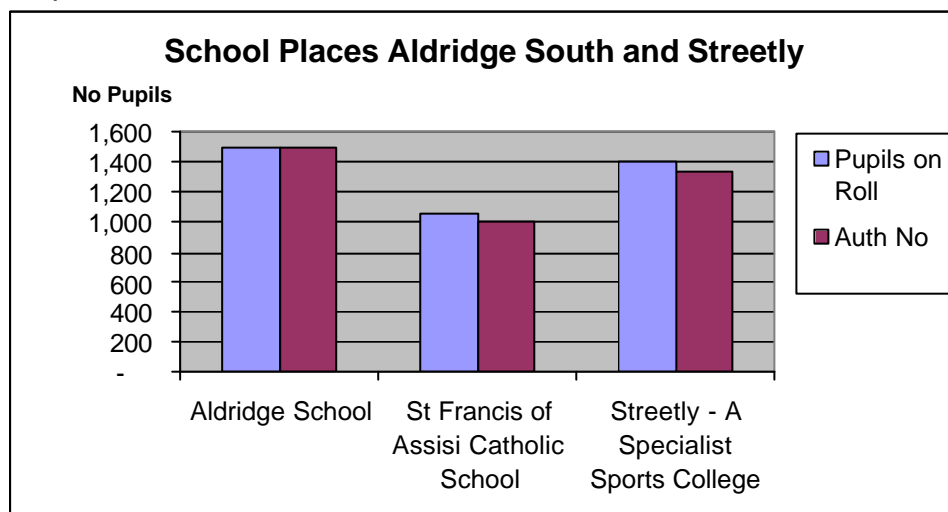


If we then overlay this with the achievement of the secondary schools in the LNP area, it can be seen that two of the three schools have improved recently, whilst one (Aldridge School) has fallen in terms of its achievements.

Graph 4



Graph 5



The above confirms a concern of the LNP, that of pressure on services in the area due to new development. This is already an issue for the secondary schools in the area with schools being full or over subscribed.

SECTION THREE: AREAS FOR ACTION

THEME: **Ensure all people are safe and secure**

Objective:

This area is characterised by an elderly population as evidenced above. There is a fear of crime which is not supported by the relevant statistics. It is felt that recent licensing of night clubs has led to increasing incidences of anti social behaviour. It is felt that the Redhouse Estate in particular is in need of attention. The perceived “changes” in the area, with more young people gathering on street corners, has meant that the elderly population are less likely to go out at night. The fear factor is fuelled, in part, by press articles which focus on negative aspects of “unsafe” parts of the area. There has been an increasing tendency for a separation of older and younger people – with the resultant need to develop a better understanding of positive role models on both sides of the age divide. There is a need to look at different ways of providing a visible “police” presence/reassurance in the area.

Specific “crime hot spots” are noted below:

THEME continued: **Ensure all people are safe and secure**

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
LNP to consider ways to develop a community wardens scheme in areas such as Aldridge Town Centre and the Redhouse Estate		LNP			
<u>Redhouse Estate:</u> House burglaries and vandalism around shops (Also noted on Ward Walk)					
Hardwick Wood: Underage drinking, drugs issues, access issues (Improvements noted as part of Ward Walk)					
Rookery Lane & car park Car crime related to poor lighting (noted as a concern in the Ward Walk)					
Streetly: The number of house burglaries is a concern; there is a need for a drinking ban to be enforced					

THEME continued: **Ensure all people are safe and secure**

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Anti social behaviour which needs to be addressed: Aldridge Community Centre Blackwood Park Champagne Harry's night club Foley Road Community Centre Lazy Hill Shops Leighswood Park					
Areas in which "fear of crime" is a particular concern: Bridle Lane (noted as a concern in the Ward Walk) Longwood Road area					

THEME: **Ensure a clean and green borough**

Objective: **To improve the environment and local facilities for the community**

One cause of the increasing incidences of anti social behaviour may be the lack of diversionary activities for young people. This is compounded by the “poor” public transport in the local area which effectively prevents young people travelling to nearby town centres. There is a lack of bus services after 7-00 p.m. which effectively stops young people going into Walsall at night. There are also no direct bus routes between Streetly and Aldridge; this leads to young people “hanging around” as there is a lack of facilities/services for them – there are no swimming baths, no “decent” parks or youth club.

It was felt that parks and open spaces were in urgent need of upgrading. LNP members were keen to see existing facilities being improved rather than more new developments being introduced in the area. It was felt that planned new developments will continue to place strain on currently stretched local services (including the schools which are over subscribed).

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Aldridge Town Centre noted as in need of “gold standard” clean up (Ward Walk)					
Local shops in need of attention: Anchor Road Boundary Road (Ward Walk)					
Streetly Community Association – improvements needed to roof and changing rooms (Ward Walk)					

THEME Continued: Ensure a clean and green borough

Sub Action Plan relating to Transforming your Space projects

A report was presented to the LNP, by officers of the Council, at its meeting of 20th September. The following “Transforming your Space” schemes were recommended to be noted in the Local Plan for the LNP area. TYS schemes will play a part in improving the local environment and facilities as indicated below.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<u>Walsall Airport</u> New equipment and safety surfacing around the equipment will be installed.	Work to begin by December 2005	TYS			
<u>Anchor Meadow</u> A youth shelter will be installed adjacent to the existing multisports pitch and the pitch will be marked out.	Work to begin by December 2005	TYS			
<u>Blackwood Park Play Improvements</u> The scheme will replace the worn out multi-unit and bark surfacing on the play area. (noted as a concern in Ward Walk)	Work to begin by December 2005				

THEME Continued: Ensure a clean and green borough

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<u>Blackwood Park Youth Improvements</u> The scheme will refurbish and improve the existing football facilities: it will improve the existing grass surface, provide new line markings, install a 'dug out' area and improve the existing fence around the facility. (noted as a concern in Ward Walk)	Work to begin by December 2005	TYS			
<u>Goodwood Drive Open Space</u> The scheme will improve the existing play area. The proposals include replacing the existing play facilities safety surfacing and the addition of painted shapes and games on the existing tarmac surface. (noted as a concern in Ward Walk)	Work to begin by December 2005				

THEME Continued: Ensure a clean and green borough

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<u>Redhouse Play Area</u> The scheme will improve the existing play area. Plans include provision of new and additional play equipment and safety surfacing.	Work to begin by December 2005				