

## **St Mathews, Birchills, Leamore Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 18<sup>th</sup> 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 St Mathews Birchills Leamore partnership plan

#### **2. The Initial Priorities identified**

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

- Young People
- Housing
- Environment
- Crime & Community Safety
- Access/ delivery of Services

Suggestions for grouping of themes:-

- Young People
- Housing
- Environment
- Crime & Community Safety
- Access/ delivery of Services

The remit of the plan is about the LNP and will include the town centre in terms of its impact on the LNP rather than the borough wide aspect of town centre regeneration, planning and development.

#### **3. Work to date**

- Development of Vision 2008, with 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. This included a crime workshop
  - A Crime workshops was held to help populate the partnership plan.
  - Identify Training and Development Opportunities available to the partnership, alongside strengths of the partnership
-

#### **4. Recommendations**

The partnership is recommended to:

- The partnership approve the framework process to the formation of the partnership plan and that acceptance of the plan be recommended to Council following submission to Cabinet.
- That the 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.
- Draw up a calendar of activities for submission to council.

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Narinder Singh Chumber  
Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer  
Tel: 01922 653508  
[chumbern@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:chumbern@walsall.gov.uk)

---

# **St Mathews Birchills Leamore 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.

**LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2005 -06**

## **Contents**

Walsall Council - A Vision for Walsall in 2008

About Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

**Section one - Introduction**

**Section Two – Area Profile**

**Section Three – Areas for Action**

**Section Four – Making it Happen**

**Appendix**

## **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 – Cllr Tim Oliver**

#### **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.

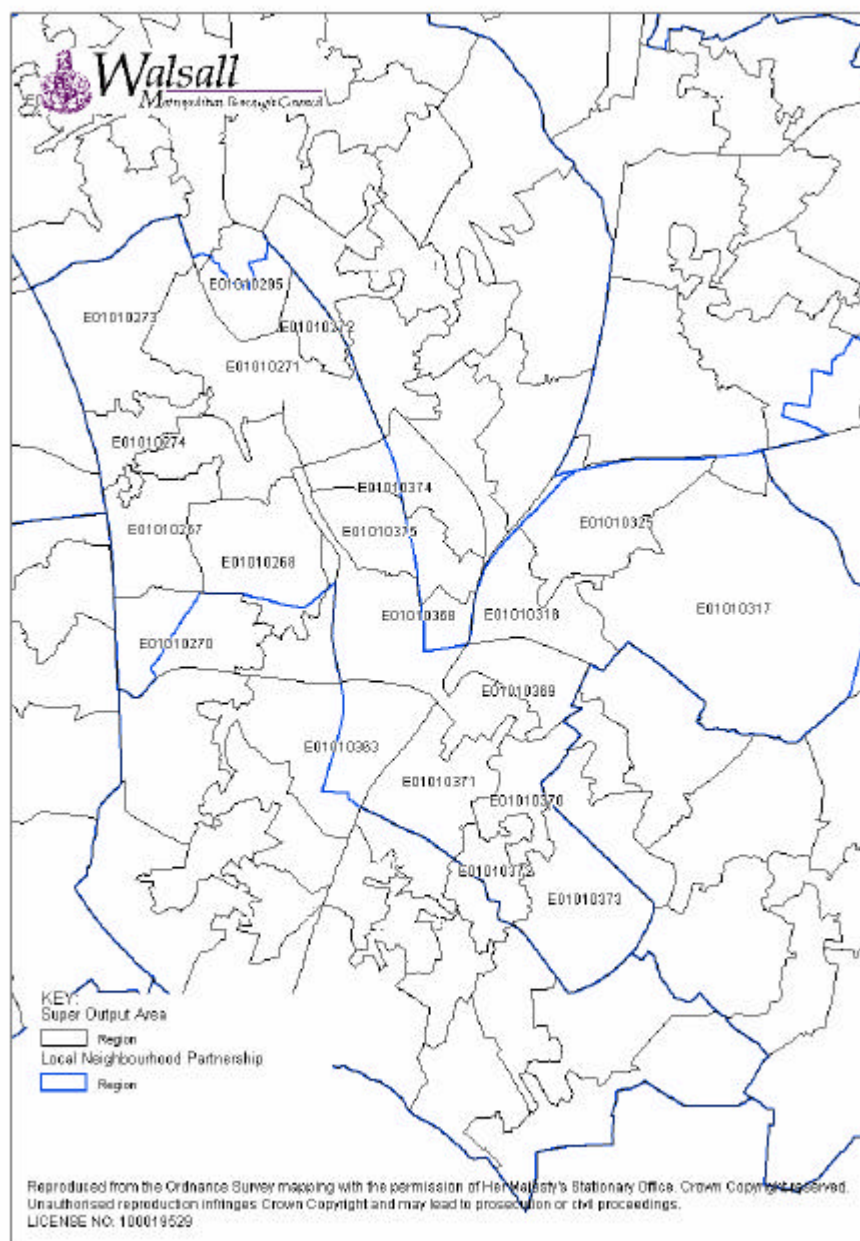
The make-up of a local neighbourhood partnership includes all ward councillors for the area, four council appointed partners including the police, Primary Care Trust and primary and secondary school representatives, and up to ten locally appointed partners from the business, voluntary and community sectors. 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? –**

#### **What will the Local Neighbourhood Plan be used for? –**

## SECTION TWO: AREA PROFILE – Strategic Intelligence Unit

### Map of the Area



### Facts About the Area

NOTE: Works to be carried out under the DDA in 2004/05: Challenge Building, Hatherton Road, Walsall, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, Croft Street Community Centre, Croft Street, Birchills, The Hollies, 10 Lichfield Road, Walsall

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 of young people aged up to 4 years of age and for the age range 16-29. Some 78% of residents are of white origin while the area has the



second highest percentage of people from Black Minority Ethnic groups. It has below the borough average of owner occupiers and is well above the borough average for one person households. It has the highest moving rate of households of all the LNP areas; this is illustrative of a transient community. This LNP area includes the town centre and thus may have high numbers of flats for rent.

**Environment:** In a study completed in 2001, residents in this LNP area when asked “Are you satisfied with this area as a place to live?” some 79.5% answered “Yes”, Additionally, when asked “Do you consider the area to have got worse?” just under 30% answered “Yes”, one of the lowest of all LNP areas.

**Economy:** The area has below the borough average for economically active people and, as a result, the highest level of unemployed people of all LNP areas. In terms of people claiming a range of benefits, such as Disability Living Allowance, Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support and Income Support Lone Parents it is above the borough average in all categories. Another indication of poverty is car ownership, this LNP area has the highest rates of people who own no cars and is below the borough average for owning one or two cars.

**Crime:** The area has the highest rates of total crime of all LNP areas; however it contains the town centre “catchment” area which obviously has a tendency to inflate figures. Total crime per 1,000 population has fallen from 302 in 2000/01 to 242 in 03/04. The rate of disorder incidences has remained constant at 187 offences per 1,000 of the population in 02/03 and 03/04. In terms of youth offenders, it is the second worst LNP area in absolute numbers of youth offending incidences whilst the percentage of young people offending has fallen slightly from 5.5% in 02/03 to 5.2% in 03/04

### **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 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 South West of the Town Centre with a rank of 448, is considered to be the most deprived neighbourhood, overall, in this LNP area and therefore in need of most help.

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 of Index of Multiple Deprivation	IMD Most Deprived Percentage
St Matthew's	E01010371	South West of Town Centre	448	5
Birchills Leamore	E01010375	East Birchills	883	5
Birchills Leamore/St Matthew's	E01010368	Birchills - Town Centre	1010	5
Birchills Leamore	E01010274	Leamore South	1789	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010271	Leamore	2145	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010273	Leamore North	2153	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010374	North East Birchills	2176	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010295	Leamore	2488	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010272	East Leamore	2752	10
St Matthew's	E01010318	East Town Centre	2911	10
Birchills Leamore	E01010275	Birchills Junction	3163	10
St Matthew's	E01010369	Town Centre	4014	15
Birchills Leamore	E01010268	Reedwood Park	4352	15
St Matthew's	E01010363	South of Birchills	4433	15

<b>St Matthew's</b>	E01010370	South East of Town Centre	5036	20
<b>St Matthew's</b>	E01010372	East of Caldmore	7685	25
<b>Birchills Leamore</b>	E01010270	South of Reedswood	8217	50
<b>St Matthew's</b>	E01010325	Rushall Hall	11875	50
<b>Birchills Leamore</b>	E01010267	Pook Hill	16383	75
<b>St Matthew's</b>	E01010373	Gorway	18331	75
<b>St Matthew's</b>	E01010317	West of Palfrey	25269	100

There are therefore 21 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.

In terms of this LNP area there are 3 neighbourhoods in the top 5% nationally, these geographic areas are South West of Town Centre, East Birchills and Birchills - Town Centre; in addition there are 8 in the top 10%, and 3 in the top 15%.

### **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)

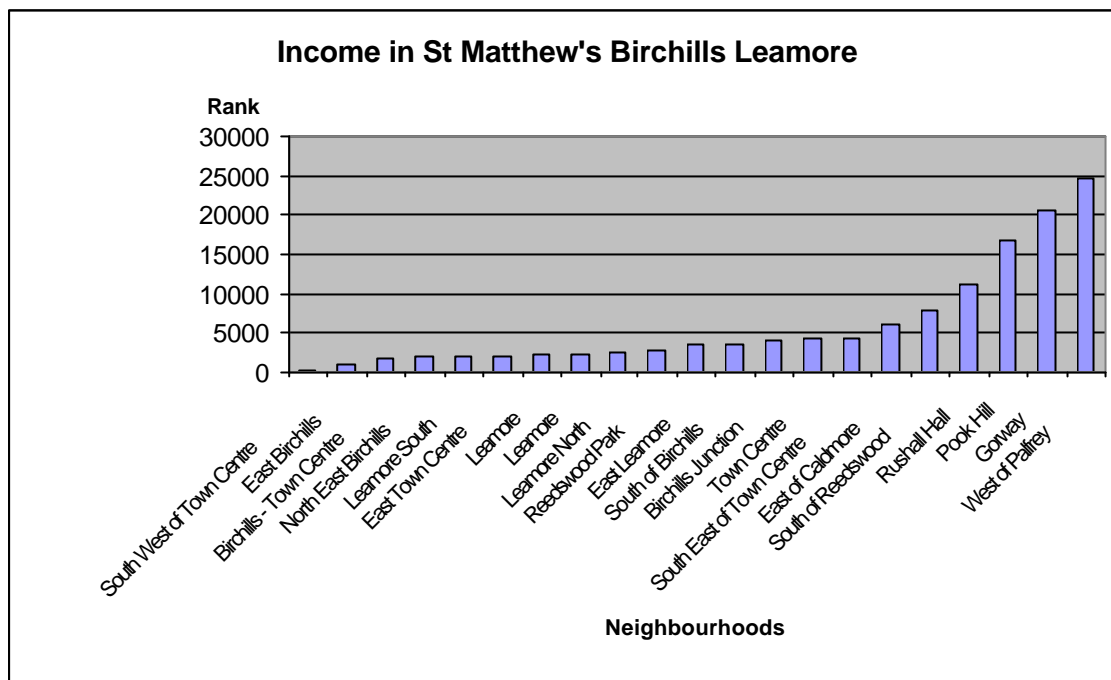
Income (average wage levels, various economic indicators)

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.

## **Income**

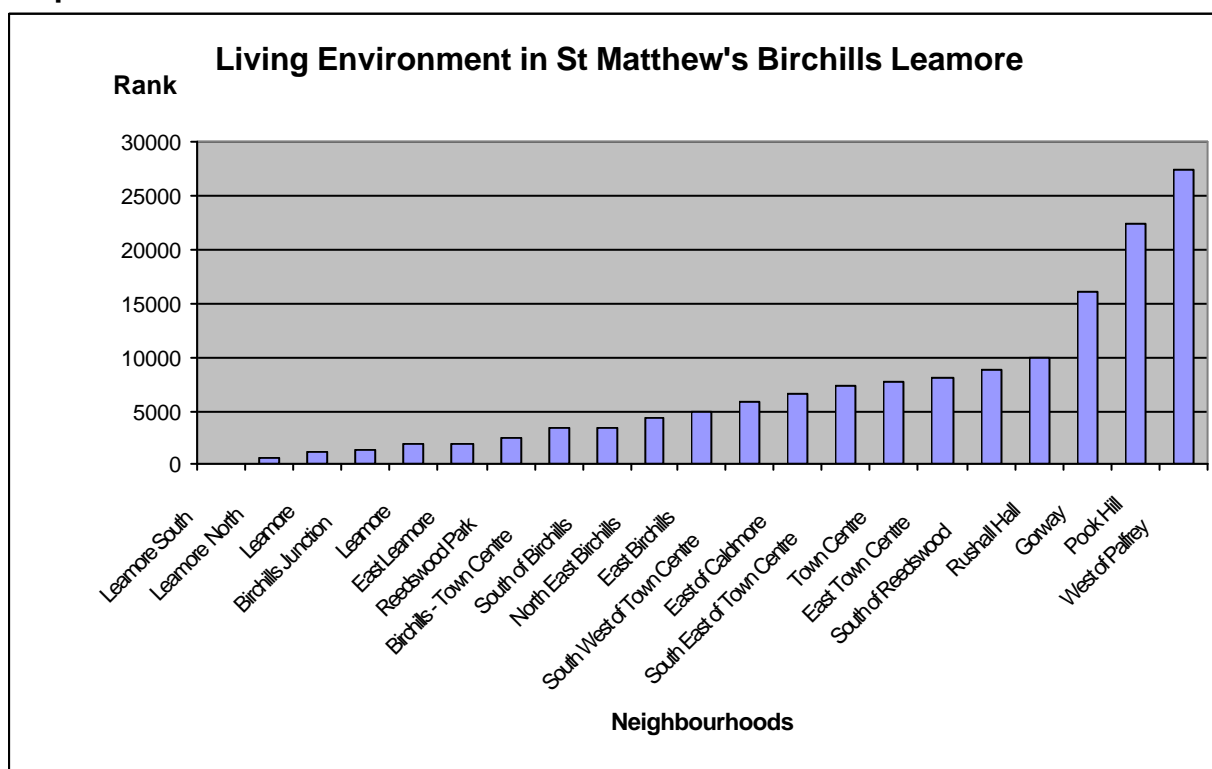
### **Graph 1**



The above graph confirms the extent of the deprivation across the LNP area, South West of the Town Centre is the most deprived small neighbourhood with a “score” of 351. However reading from left to right on the above chart, all neighbourhoods from South West of the Town Centre to South East of the Town Centre all score below 4,872, hence all are within the top 15% deprived of all neighbourhoods in England. Conversely, West of Palfrey which scores of 24,785 is amongst the “least deprived” neighbourhoods in the country.

## Living Environment

**Graph 2**

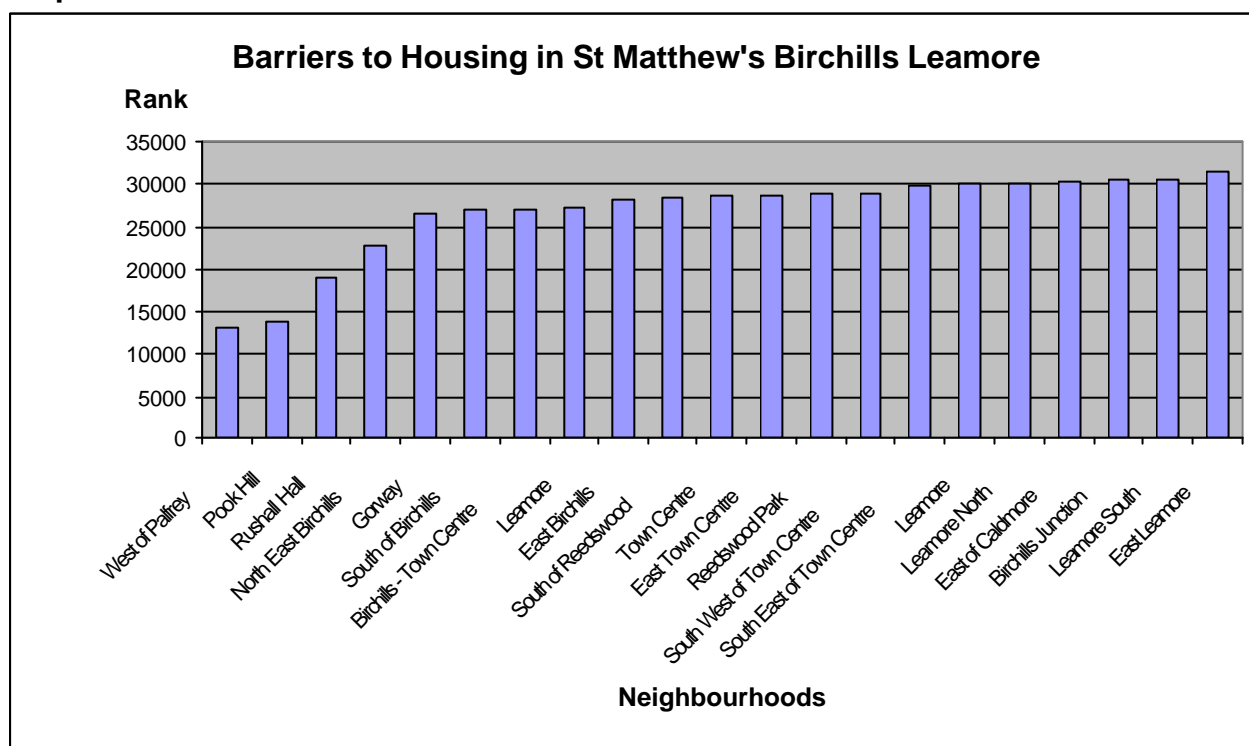


This aspect considers the indoors living environment in terms of measuring the quality of available housing and the outdoors environment. The above chart graphically illustrates the extent of the deprivation in specific neighbourhoods within the LNP area. Both Leamore South and Leamore North (to the extreme left) score 58 and 482 respectively, hence they are in the top 3% of all English neighbourhoods. There are 12 neighbourhoods in total (reading from Leamore South to South West of the Town Centre) which are within the top 20% of all English neighbourhoods regarding this aspect.

However it is useful to consider a further element of the “living environment”. The chart below titled “Barriers to Housing” is an indication of the amount of housing stock available in the area. It is to be noted that reading left to right, Gorway to East Leamore (some 17 neighbourhoods e.g. 81% of the LNP area) score above 24,362 – hence they are amongst the “least deprived” neighbourhoods in England in terms of this aspect.

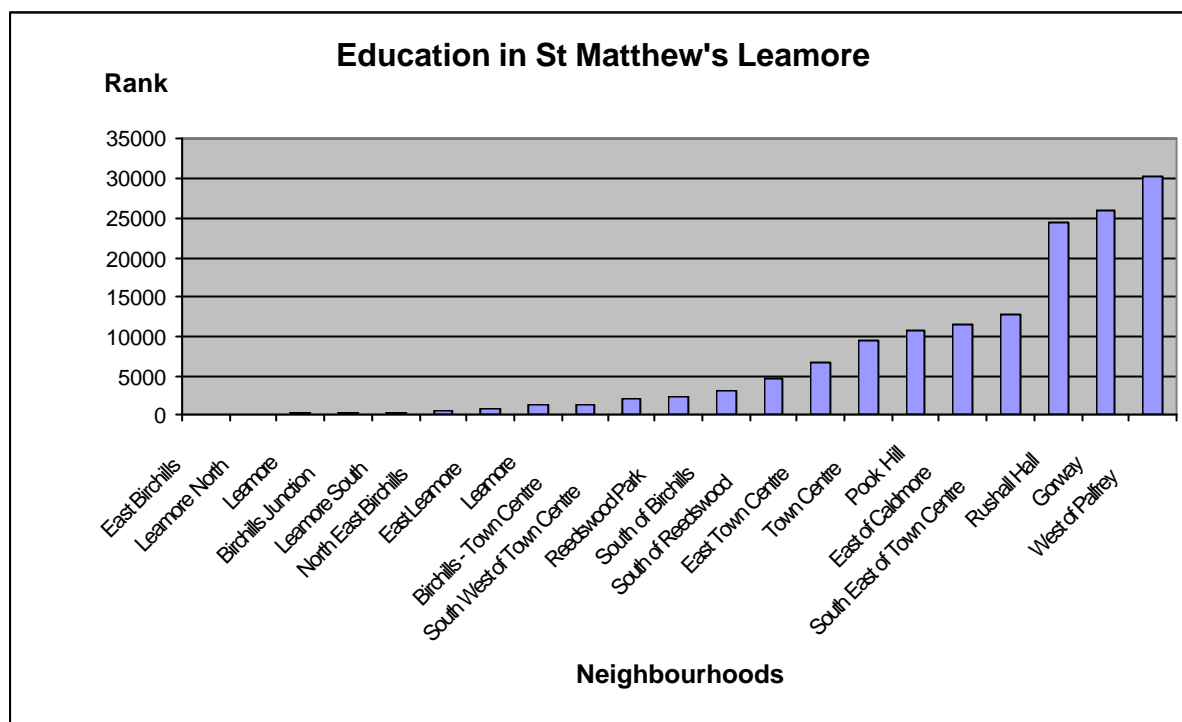
This would suggest that there is sufficient housing in the area, but the quality of the housing stock may need attention.

**Graph 3**



## Education

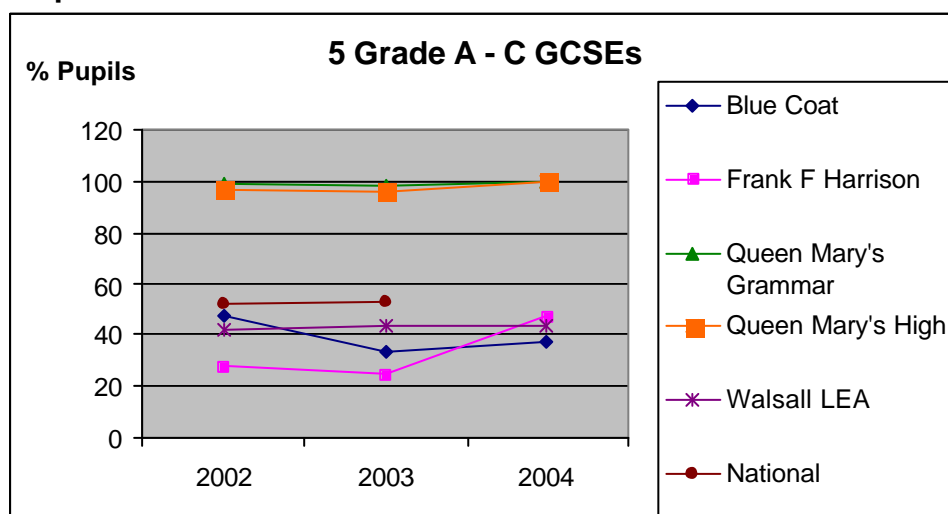
**Graph 4**



Education was noted as a concern by LNP members and the above chart illustrates the widespread deprivation across the LNP area. East Birchills scores just 98 whilst all neighbourhoods from East Birchills to South of Birchills (at 3,014) are within the top 10% nationally of all English neighbourhoods.

Achievement data shows that children in the LNP area perform below the borough average at all key stages.

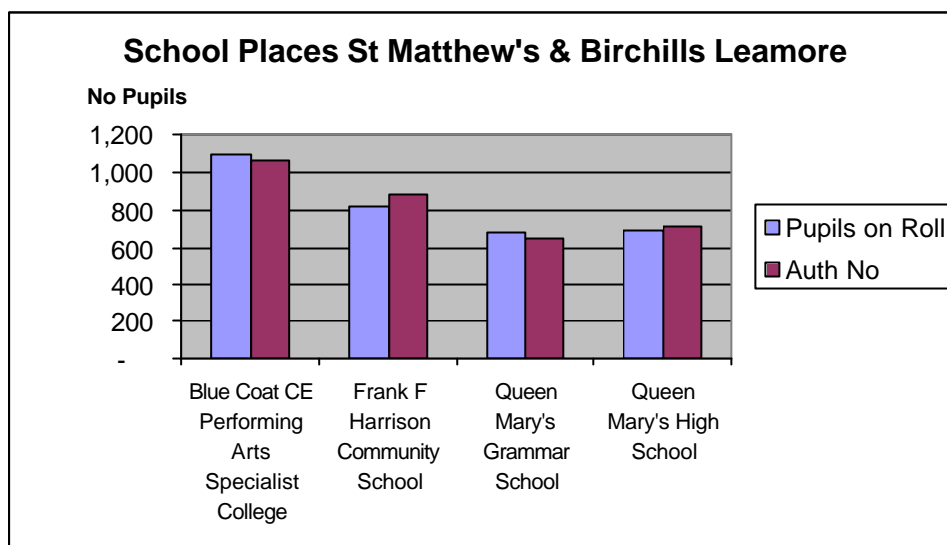
**Graph 5**



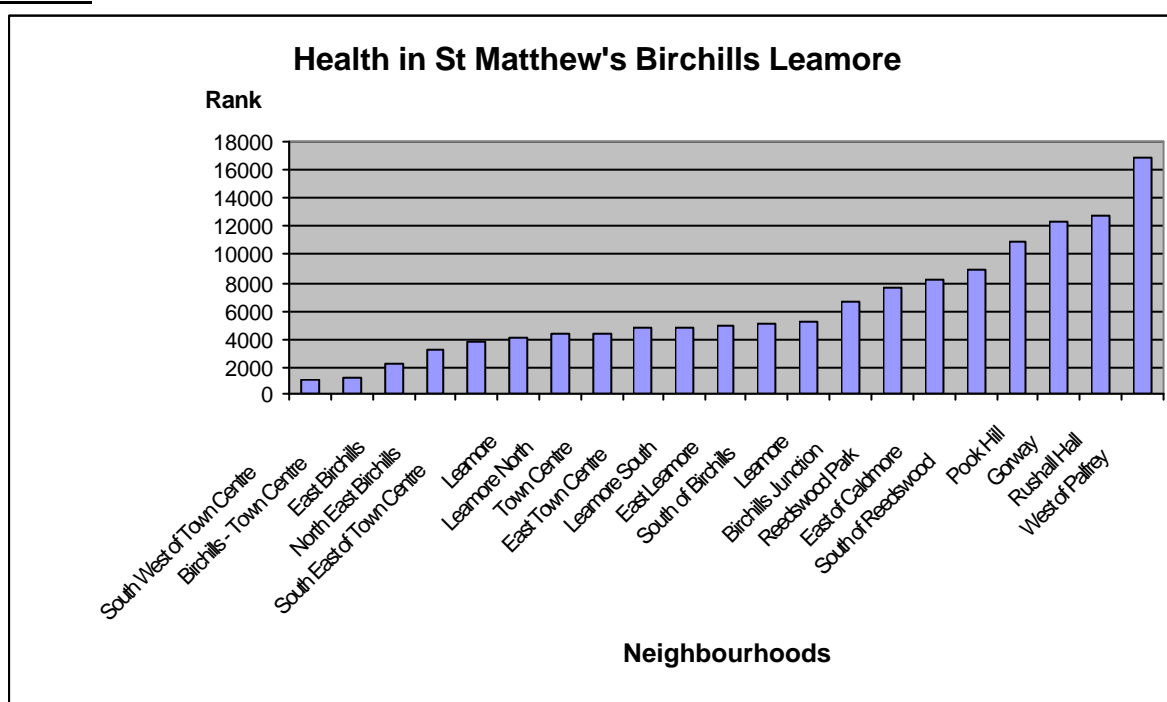
However, school achievement in the area indicates that whilst the two grammar schools are perhaps not fully reflective of the LNP area, the remaining schools are not dissimilar to the

borough average, and are potentially showing signs of improvement, particularly Frank F Harrison. This is interesting to note when one considers the take up of places as shown on the following graph.

**Graph 6**



## Health



The range of the left axis is 0 to 18,000, the chart therefore illustrates that 20 of the 21 neighbourhoods score below 13,000, thus they are in the top 40% most deprived of all English neighbourhoods. Additionally reading from left to right (South West of the Town Centre (rank score 973) to Leamore (rank score 5,205) are all within the top 20% most deprived.

Further health statistics confirm that teenage pregnancy is an issue in the area. The LNP area is well above the borough average in terms of births to teenage mothers (aged 13-17) per 1000 of the population.

### SECTION THREE: AREAS FOR ACTION

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

Objective: To improve the local environment and facilities available for local people

Housing was included in this discussion as well as the wider environment. A key issue was thought to be that of problem tenants across all tenures. It was felt that the issues seen in the area were due in part to these problem tenants. These problems include anti social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti; the general lack of pride in the locality is made worse by the fact that many of the areas' open spaces are in fact eyesores. There are empty buildings and some properties are in urgent need of repair – this includes broken lifts, which obviously makes accessibility worse. Additionally, shop owners in the area do not take responsibility for clearing up outside premises. Problems are exacerbated by the lack of enforcement which in turn has led to local people feeling intimidated and wary of reporting problems. The issues in the area affect all members of the community but less affluent people are more affected.

The rate of turnover of properties and hence the transient community itself does not lead to stability. There is a general “lack of belonging” and the resultant lack of community spirit. (Given the scale of this new partnership, in geographic terms, this aspect may pose ever greater problems to the LNP) Some members felt that certain elements of the wider community, such as people from Muslim community, had few facilities to cater for their specific needs, particularly in the Birchills and Butts area.

Specific points of action and interest from the Ward Walk are noted below:



Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
More local management of housing and a greater local control over how the resources (of statutory agencies) are deployed in the area is needed.					
A dedicated central place where local people could meet is important to build community cohesion.					
<u>Arboretum</u> Walsall Park's jewel in the crown but not as well used as in previous years – recent violence and alcohol-related problems – rubbish and vandalism are problems in some areas of the park. There are tensions between friends group and council – with the Illuminations sometimes a flashpoint.					
<u>Walsall town centre</u> Wharf development area and New Art Gallery, usual town centre issues, litter, smelly drains, violence and alcohol issues involving young					

people, no go areas at night, poor regional image, transport links, taxi compliance issues.					
<u>Caldmore</u> Opportunity to 're-brand' the area into a potentially 'balti village' - long regarded as Walsall's red-light district although CCTV is now displacing the problem increasingly to Pleck. Issues around cleanliness of streets and recycling. Car parks an issue (White Street).					
Land/buildings for development: Birchills Playing Field Gladstone House					

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004. 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 as indicated below

<b>Action</b>	<b>Target &amp; Timescale</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Progress so far</b>	<b>Themed Strategic Link</b>
<u>Caldmore Junior School Multi Sports Provision</u> A new high quality sporting facility for football, hockey and netball on the existing tarmac playground within the school will be created. The facility will be used by both the school, during school hours, and the local community at other set times.	Due to commence October 2004, completed December 2004	TYS			
<u>Beechdale Park</u> A new multi-use games area with goal/basket posts will be installed.	Due to commence October 2004, completed December 2004	TYS			
<u>Reedswood Park</u> Initially the former tennis court area will be changed into a new	Due to commence October 2004, completed December 2004	TYS			

multi-sports facility with ball-stop fencing. New tarmac paving and a youth shelter will be built - to be located next to the multi-sports facility. (Noted as part of Ward Walk)					
<u>WS2 Skate Park</u> As the skate park in Walsall Town Centre is a well used facility, mobile ramp equipment will be installed inside the building to further improve the provision.	Due to commence October 2004, completed December 2004				
<u>Beechdale Park Environmental Improvement Project</u> Environmental improvements to be undertaken at Beechdale Park are: the culverting (covering and redirecting) of a section of Sneyd Brook, the reinstatement of the path between Bloxwich Lane and Frank F Harrison School (a	The project is due on site in approximately May 2005 and complete in July 2005				

new safe route to school) and improvements to the access points to the park off Bloxwich Lane and Hadley Road.					
--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Objective: To reduce incidences of crime in the local area by investigating the underlying causes of crime

There are several areas of immediate concern, many of which have also been noted as part of the Ward Walk (details below). These short-term issues include: vehicle crime, burglary and shop theft, criminal damage and disorder. More serious concerns relate to racially motivated crime, violent crime and prostitution (Glebe Street, Mount Street, Vicarage Place, Vicarage Walk); fear of crime is perhaps, unsurprisingly, high.

Youth nuisance crimes have been noted as being a concern at Birchills Street, Burrowes Estate, Cavendish Road Open Space, Croft Street, Green Lane, Pouk Hill, Reedswood Park and Stephenson Avenue

The causes of the issues in the area are many. Most notably these include a general lack of engagement in the area by its young people and the prevalence of drugs and alcohol. The perception is that the area offers little in the way of opportunity and the increasing numbers of asylum seekers, many living in hostels in the area, adds to the lack of community stability.

It was felt that to effectively deal with the issues noted above, the “crime hotspots” need to be identified, prioritised and targeted intervention implemented. Strategies need to be put in place to engage young people to make a “stake” in their area. Overall it was felt that the local economy is in need of improvement (via investment) to increase the prospects for advancement by the local community.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Establish a sub group to discuss crime issues	January 2005				
<u>Birchills</u> Crime and fear of crime is a key issue . There have been six murders in three years. Drug related crime with discarded needles plus ethnic tensions. A general concern is that the area has lost its 'crime hot spot' status – lobbying for CCTV is a must. Dalkeith Street is a concern. (Ward Walk)					
<u>Beechdale</u> Crime levels have fallen recently but are still an issue. There are rows of council owned shops in centre of Estate and maisonettes are empty above shops, the area is used for drug dens; there has been recent arson. (Ward Walk) (Stephenson Square noted at Crime Workshop Nov. 04)					

<b>Anti Social Behaviour/ Youth Nuisance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stephenson Ave</li> <li>- Stephenson Square (8PM -10PM)</li> <li>- Bloxwich Lane</li> <li>- Caldmore Green</li> <li>- Little London flats</li> <li>- Town Centre</li> <li>- Burrowes Estate</li> <li>- Green Lane Shops</li> <li>- Green Lane</li> <li>- Cavendish Road</li> <li>- Open Space</li> <li>- University campus</li> <li>- Pouk Hill</li> <li>- Birchills Street</li> <li>- Croft Street</li> <li>- Reedswood Park</li> </ul>					
<b>Prostitution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Glebe St</li> <li>- Mount St</li> <li>- Vicarage Place</li> <li>- Vicarage Walk</li> <li>- Wednesbury Road</li> <li>- Tasker St</li> <li>- Midland Rd</li> <li>- West Bromwich</li> <li>- Dog Kennel Lane</li> </ul>					
<b>Lighting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alleyway to Comwall Close</li> </ul>					
<b>Speeding/ Vehicle</b>					



<b>Nuisance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stephenson Ave</li> <li>- Bloxwich Lane</li> </ul>					
<b>Drinking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town Centre</li> <li>- Guvirons Beechdale social Club and Centre</li> <li>- Pouk Hill</li> </ul>					
<b>Fear of Crime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watery Lane</li> <li>- Orlando estate</li> <li>- Sandwell Street</li> </ul>					
<b>Drugs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alleyway to rear of Lewis St/Mary St</li> <li>- Birchills Street Canal Bridge</li> <li>- Birchills Street</li> <li>- Glebe Street</li> <li>- Moat Street</li> <li>- Little London</li> </ul>					
<b>Asylum Seekers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fear in other residents</li> </ul>					

**THEME:** Young people as a sub group which underpins most of the LNP's work

**Objective:** To improve the quality of life for young people locally

The area “suffers” from low levels of attainment, with particular underperformance of certain groups within the BME community – e.g. Bangladeshi/Pakistani. LNP members felt there was a danger that schools particularly would begin to be known as “white” or “black” – examples were given of Frank F Harrison which has a 10% Asian community but remains white dominated, Asian young people tend to go to Alumwell whilst pupils of Sikh origin go to Willenhall. It was felt that there was a definite need to be careful that a “ghetto effect” is not being created. Also stated that there is a great deal of work needed in schools to “break” children out of remaining with friends of just their own colour. There is also a lack of school governors which reflect the make up of the area in which the school is based. It was said that levels of attainment are improving. It was also mentioned that, particularly in the Black Minority Ethnic community, women are the power base of the family; it is therefore important to involve women, especially in school life, because in that way men may more naturally become involved.

It was thought vital to engage young people in the work of the LNP but this would need a really targeted approach – e.g. invite them to join but recognise that they may not want to participate in the whole meeting so concentrate on their issues first.

There are very few facilities for young people in the immediate area; it was stated that there has been a loss of facilities over the years. TYS schemes, noted above, would be welcome in the area

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
The “Forum” was mentioned as a means to give young people a voice on LNPs; here young people are elected from schools aged between 11-25 they can speak their mind and pass on opinions.					
Consider specific actions/projects aimed at breaking down barriers between ethnic groups.					

## **SECTION FOUR: MAKING IT HAPPEN**

### **Summary of Planned Consultation Events**

#### **How local people will be involved**

#### **Review of the Plan**

Each plan upon completion will be presented to Walsall council, it's partners and local communities to outline what actions have been agreed, and what the plan contains. In this first instance, the neighbourhood plan will be in effect until the end of March 2006, but thereafter will be reviewed on an annual basis. In this way, the partnership will ensure that any actions that have been suggested or identified as part of the neighbourhood plan will indeed be acted upon, making it accountable to the whole of the local community. Action on developing and reviewing the plan will not stop once the initial plan is completed, but will in effect be an on-going process as issues are resolved and new ones are identified.

#### **Partnership Meeting Dates – Constitutional Services**

## **APPENDIX**

### **List of Partners - Constitutional Services**

#### **Useful Contacts – (To be added)**

## Appendix 1

St Mathews, Birchills, Leamore LNP Crime Workshop

Venue: Committee Room; 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2004

Attendance:

Name	Organisation
Cllr M. Arif	Walsall MBC
Hilson Carter MBE	Caldmore Local Committee and CAF
Terry Edis	Burrowes Street TMO
Sgt Morris-Platt	Walsall Police Station
Christopher Jones	Birchills Reedswood Neighbourhood Agenda 21
Cllr H Khan	Walsall MBC
Tariq Khan	LAP
Aftab Nawaz	Pakistan Muslim Welfare Association
Cllr Tim Oliver	Walsall MBC
Joy Blakeman	West Midlands Fire Service
Chris Hawkins	West Midlands Fire Service
Carol Brown	Walsall MBC

Facilitators

Narinder Singh Chumber	Walsall MBC
Keith Newell	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit

The group were asked to identify areas of concern or hotspots. The following were highlighted.

Issue
Stephenson Ave/ Bloxwich Lane, Caldmore Green/ Little London flats - Anti Social Behaviour
Stephenson Ave / Bloxwich Lane - Speeding
Green Lane/ Green Lane - Sporadic Youth nuisance
Green Lane/ Green Lane - Leamore Shopping precinct
Alleyway to Comwall Close - replace removed lighting
Stephenson Square - Youth Nuisance (post 8PM to 10PM)
Guvirons Beechdale social Club and Centre - groups drinking- entrance to club
Prostitution - Glebe St, Mount St, Vicarage Place, Vicarage Walk, Wednesbury Road, Tasker St, Midland Rd, West Bromwich, Dog Kennel Lane
Birchills Playing Field - Land going to waste, need to use

Fear of crime - Watery Lane, Orlando estate, Sandwell Street
Drugs - Glebe Street, Moat Street, Little London
Pouk Hill - Youth, Anti Social Behaviour, Cars/Motorbikes, Alcohol and congregation
Birchills Street - anti Social Behaviour, Drugs, Speeding
Town Centre - Alcohol Abuse, Anti Social Behaviour
Teddesley Street - Asylum Seekers (fear in other residents)
Birchills Street Canal Bridge- Drug Users/ Dealers at bottom of bridge
Burrowes Estate - Green Lane Shops - Anti Social Behaviour
Reedswood Park - Youths
Cavendish Road Open Space - Youth Anti Social Behaviour
Gladstone House - Going Derelict, need for demolition and development
Croft Street - Youth nuisance, street cameras
Alleyway to rear of Lewis St/Mary St - Clearance required and Alley gating, drug abuse
Anti social behaviour/ Drunken students - University campus

The group were asked whether they wanted to setup a crime themed working group. The following persons agreed to lead, however it was decided that the whole partnership should be invited to each working group.

Chris Jones
Chris Hawkins
Stuart Masters (nominated by attendees)