

St Matthews Birchills Leamore Local Neighbourhood Partnership - 12th
July 2005

Partnership plan and Task Groups

1. Brief Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the LNP of the additions made to the draft Partnership Plan and the general progress of the various task groups.

2. Work to date

The LNP has undertaken various task group meetings since the last main LNP meeting:

- **Health Task group:**

All LNP members were invited to 2 events hosted by the PCT on 17th May and 25th May.

Information that was provided included some useful information in regards to current health problems within the area. (see enclosed)

- **Funding Workshop**

In addition to normal task groups a further meeting took place on 7th July to allocate the £22,000 resource

3. Recommendations

- LNP to endorse changes and additions to partnership plan
- For LNP members to continue in attendance at the workshop meetings
- For individual LNP members to encourage wider participation from community members within the task groups

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Local Neighbourhood Partnership Health Workshop

Demographic and Health profile of St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore LNP

**Public Health Department
Walsall tPCT**

Demographic and Health Profile of St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore LNP

Health Headlines

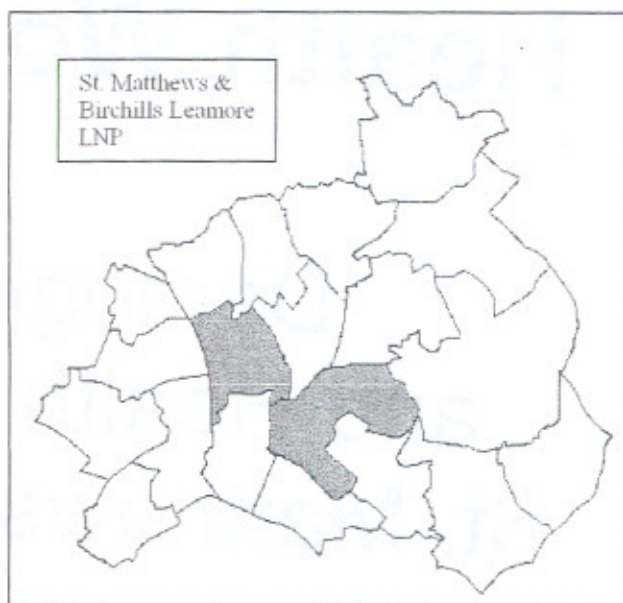
St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore LNP has smaller proportions of young people (0-15yrs) and older people (65 and over) than the whole of Walsall. The key health issues in the LNP include:

- Overall life expectancy is 2 years lower than the Walsall average for both men and women.
- Both infant and perinatal mortality rates are well above Walsall and national levels.
- Teenage conception rates are 85% higher in the LNP than national averages.
- Cervical screening and flu-uptake are below borough averages and national targets.

Background:

- The total population of the LNP is 25,984.
- About 5,900 of these residents are under 16 years of age (22.7%) and roughly 3,800 are over 64 years of age (14.8%). Walsall has more young people (24.4%) and more older people (16.2%) overall than the LNP.
- There are more than 10,700 households in the LNP area, 11.8% of which are lone parent households. This compares with 10.7% across Walsall.
- The proportion of residents in the LNP from BME groups is 21.9% being higher than the Walsall average of 13.6%. There are currently over 100 asylum seekers in the LNP living in LA accommodation (mainly in St. Matthews) making up 26% of the Walsall total.
- 43.6% of the LNP adults (aged 16-74) have left school with no qualifications, compared to 42.7% across Walsall. Nationally there are 29.1% of adults with no qualifications.
- Unemployment is notably higher than the borough average (6.4% against 4.4%), and 52.9% of the LNP's Smaller Areas are in the country's top 10% most deprived.

Walsall Borough Ward Map



Source: Walsall teaching PCT

Public Health Issues:

- The life expectancy (1996-2000) at birth for those living in St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore LNP was 72 years for men and 77.7 years for women. This is roughly 2 years lower than the Walsall average of 74.4 and 79.5 respectively. Life expectancy for all Walsall men is 1 ½ years less than for the whole of England & Wales.
- Infant Mortality Rates of 7.8 per 1,000 live births over the 3 years 2001-2003 is significantly above the Walsall figure (5.7) and England and Wales figure (5.4). The Perinatal mortality rate (deaths under 7 days and stillbirths) of 12.8 for the same period in the LNP, was also well above borough rates (Walsall rate is 8.8).
- The rate of deaths (all ages, all causes) per 1,000 population in the LNP is 10.9, being marginally worse than the Walsall overall rate of 10.2.
- There are approximately 20.5% of the LNP residents suffering from a long-term limiting illness. This is higher than the borough average of 20% and even higher than the England and Wales average of 18%.

Lifestyle and Choosing Health

Earlier this year the Department of Health released the White Paper "*Choosing Health*" aimed at addressing health issues across the country. Six main issues were identified as requiring special attention that have a major contribution to poor health. These are:

Obesity:

- Obesity amongst adults in St. Matthews and Birchills Leamore LNP is more prevalent than in the rest of Walsall (17.6% against 15%), but is considerably higher in Birchills Leamore.
- Across the LNP, men are more likely to be obese than women (18.6% and 16.6% respectively) following the gender trend over the borough.

Smoking:

- It is estimated that about 5,000 adults (24.7%) in the LNP are smokers. This is higher than the borough prevalence of 26%, however the lifestyle survey data is thought to understate the true prevalence.
- There were 18.4% of women smoking at time of birth of their child in the LNP. This is lower than the overall Walsall figure of 20.2%.

Exercise & Nutrition:

- At least 5.4% of adults in St. Matthews & Birchills LNP do none or very little exercise, being slightly less 'active' than the rest of Walsall (5%).
- Approximately 22.3% of the adults in the LNP eat 5 portions of fruit and vegetable a day. The national proportion for this measure of dietary intake is approximately 14% however doubts have been cast over the accuracy of local data.

Drinking:

- 82.8% of adults drink some alcohol in the LNP. It is estimated that 20.9% of men and 13.1% of women in the LNP drink to excess. This is very similar to overall Walsall levels (20% and 12% respectively).

Sexual Health:

- Teenage Conceptions rates in the LNP are well above Walsall averages (79.3 compared to 63.4 per 1,000 female population aged 15-17). Both wards in the LNP are equally as bad when it comes to teen pregnancies. The rate in England and Wales was 42.8.

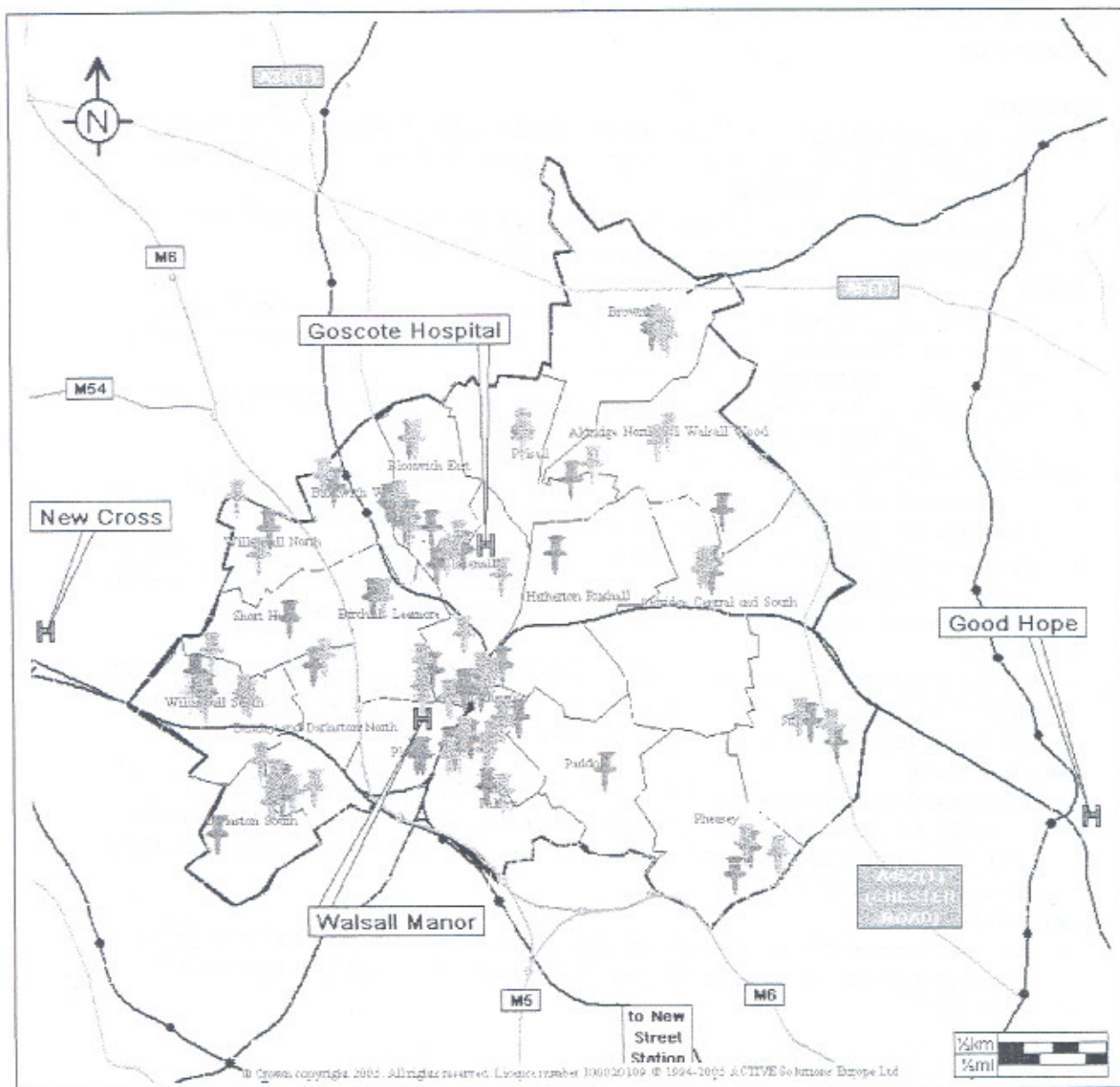
Mental Health:

- No detailed information is available at this time however; recent estimates are that 1 in 4 people across the borough suffer from some sort of mental health condition.

Other Key Public Health Issues:

- Breastfeeding levels (at transfer to Health Visitor) were 35.4%. Again, this is slightly below the current Walsall average of 39.4%.
- Crude mortality rates (per 100,000 population) from Cancer in the LNP (2000-2002) were 240. This is lower than the overall Walsall rate of 260.6.
- Mortality rates from Coronary Heart Disease in the LNP were 2.8 per 1,000 population, being slightly worse than the Walsall average of 2.6.
- Breast screening uptake from the mobile unit in St. Matthews was 74%, and 66% in Beechdale at the last screening round. This is against the target to achieve a 70%+ uptake rate.
- Cervical screening in the LNP area (from GP's based in the LNP) ranges from 74% to 83% (average 79.1%) and the target is 80%. The Walsall average is 81.8%.
- Childhood immunisation rates vary little across Walsall and average uptake (by 2 years of age) for MMR is 82% with Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hib and Meningitis C all having uptake ranging from 94% to 99% across the borough.
- Flu Vaccination in Walsall in over 65s has met the 70% target but in St. Matthews & Birchills this ranges from 33% to 78% with the average uptake being 69.1%.

Map of Walsall Services and major road and rail networks.



Key	Description
H	Hospital Site
.	Practice Location
.	Pharmacy Location
.	Breast Screening Unit

Health Services in the Area:

- At present there are 9 General Practices in St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore accommodating 25 GPs in total.
- There are 8 General Dental Practices in the LNP and also 1 Dental Walk-in centre.
- There are 7 pharmacies currently in the LNP.
- There are also 2 Breast Screening Unit in the LNP as well as 2 link workers.
- Manor hospital is in the neighbouring ward of Pleck.

Population and Public Health Snapshot Indicators: Summary Table

	St. Matthews & Birchills Leamore	Walsall	England & Wales
Demography:			
Total Population	25984	253499	52 mill
Male	12630 (48.6%)	123189 (48.6%)	49%
Female	13354 (51.4%)	130310 (51.4%)	51%
Under 16s Population	5900 (22.7%)	55009 (21.7%)	20.2%
Over 64s Population	3834 (14.8%)	41067 (16.2%)	16%
Population change (1991-2001) +/-		-3.10%	
Number Households	10783	101333	
Proportion of Lone Parent Households	11.8%	10.7%	
Population density (residents per sq km)	2538	116	
Ethnicity:			
Proportion of BME population	21.9%	13.6%	8.7%
Travellers/Asylum Seekers (in LA Accommodation as at 22.11.04)	101	388	
Education:			
No qualifications	43.6%	42.7%	29.1%
Degree or higher	13.2%	11.1%	19.8%
Deprivation and Unemployment:			
Super Output Areas (SOAs) in top 10 most deprived in UK, 2004	9	29	
Proportion of SOA within Borough/LNP in top 10% most deprived	52.9%	17%	10%
Unemployment (2001)	6.4%	4.4%	3.4%
Lifestyle and Choosing Health:			
Proportion of adults drinking alcohol (2001)	82.8%	84%	
Proportion of adults eating 5-a-day (2001)	22.3%	24%	
Proportion of adults drinking to excess (2001)			
Men	20.9%	20%	
Women	13.1%	12%	
Proportion of adults taking little or no exercise (2001)	5.4%	5.5%	
Proportion of adults who are obese (2001)	17.6%	15%	
Proportion of adults who smoke (2001)	24.7%	26%	
Teenage Conceptions (1998-2000) as rate per 1,000	79.3	63.4	
Other Key Public Health Issues:			
Life Expectancy (1996-2000)			
Men	72	74.4 years	76
Women	77.7	79.5 years	80.5
Infant Mortality	7.8	5.7	5.3
Perinatal Mortality	12.8	8.8	8
Long term conditions (2001)	20.5%	20%	18%
Smoking in Pregnancy (2002)	18.4%	20.2%	
Breastfeeding (2003)	35.4%	39.4%	
Mortality from cancer, crude rate/100,000 pop (2001-2003)	240	260.6	263.6 (1995-97)
Mortality from CHD, crude rate/ 1000 pop (2001-2003)	2.8	2.6	
Breast Screening uptake	66-74%	70%	70%
Cervical Screening uptake	74-83%	81.80%	80%
Flu Vaccination uptake (2004)	33-78%	70%	70%
Childhood Immunisation at 24 months	94-99% (MMR at 82%)		

St Matthews 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 logos for Walsall MBC & Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership to go underneath at bottom of page.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD 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 – 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?

The partnerships are there to:

- Consult and involve local residents, businesses and other service providers in agreeing a plan for their area.
- Produce a partnership plan which will help to deliver the 2008 Vision of the Council and inform the Community Strategy for the borough.
- Manage and monitor the implementation of their plan and publish their achievements each year.
- Increase the involvement of local citizens in improving the environment in which they live, work or study.

The LNPs will play a significant role in involving local individuals and groups in deciding how, when and where services are delivered in their area. They will do this by:

- Helping local people to get involved in deciding what needs to change in their area through the development of the partnership plan.
- Looking at ways of improving partnership working with other public service providers.
- Giving a view on local services provided by the Council or other public bodies.
- Using their partnership plan to inform and influence the service and business planning process of the Council and other service providers.
- Considering petitions and other collective representations relating to their area and linking these to their partnership plan.

Map of the Area



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 <u>no</u> 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 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 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 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
St Matthew's	E01010370	South East of Town Centre	5036	20
St Matthew's	E01010372	East of Caldmore	7685	25
Birchills Leamore	E01010270	South of Reedwood	8217	50
St Matthew's	E01010325	Rushall Hall	11875	50
Birchills Leamore	E01010267	Pook Hill	16383	75

St Matthew's	E01010373	Gorway	18331	75
St Matthew's	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)

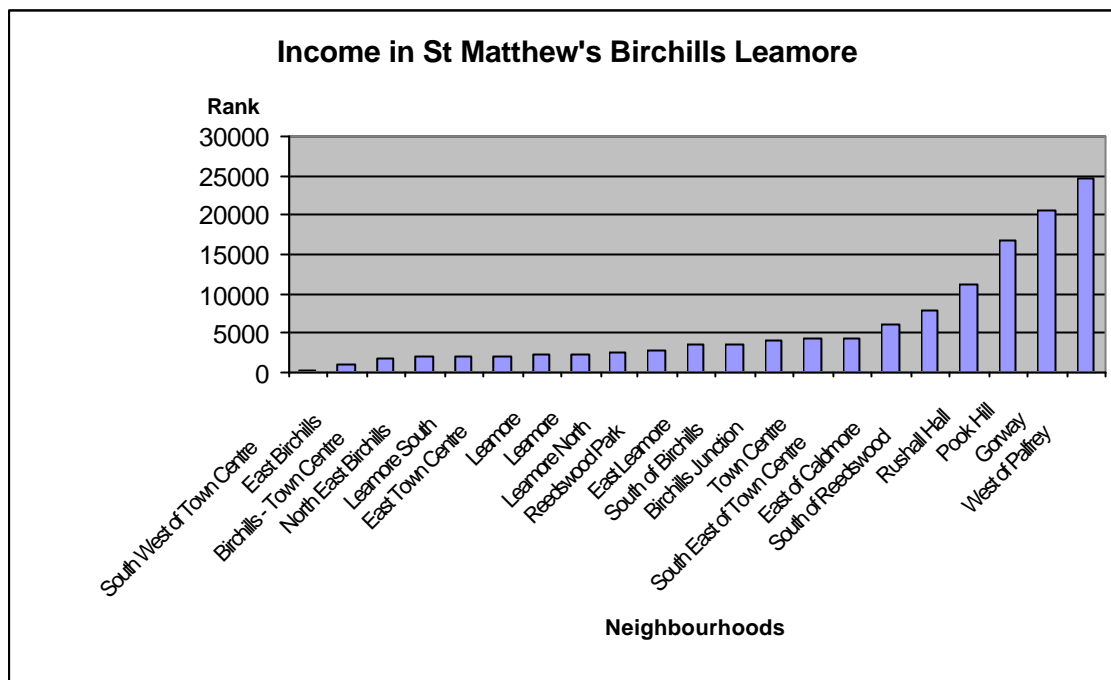
Income (average wage levels, various economic indicators)

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

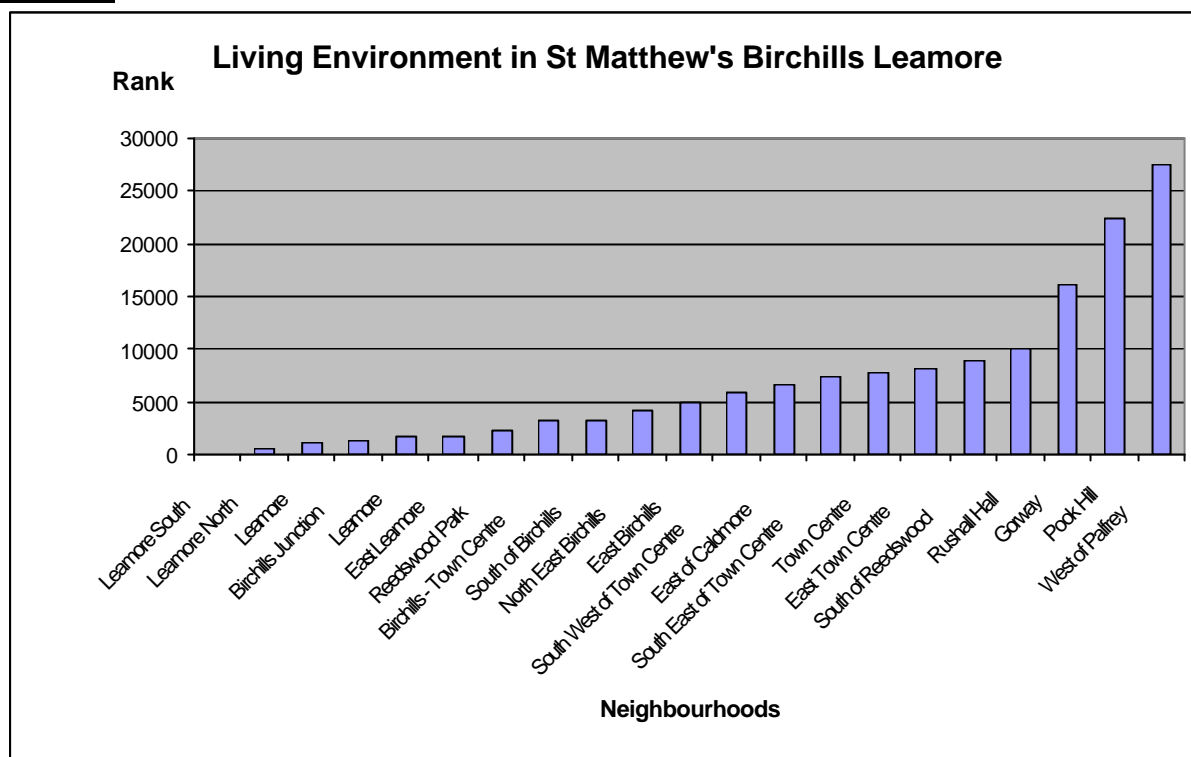
Graph 1



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

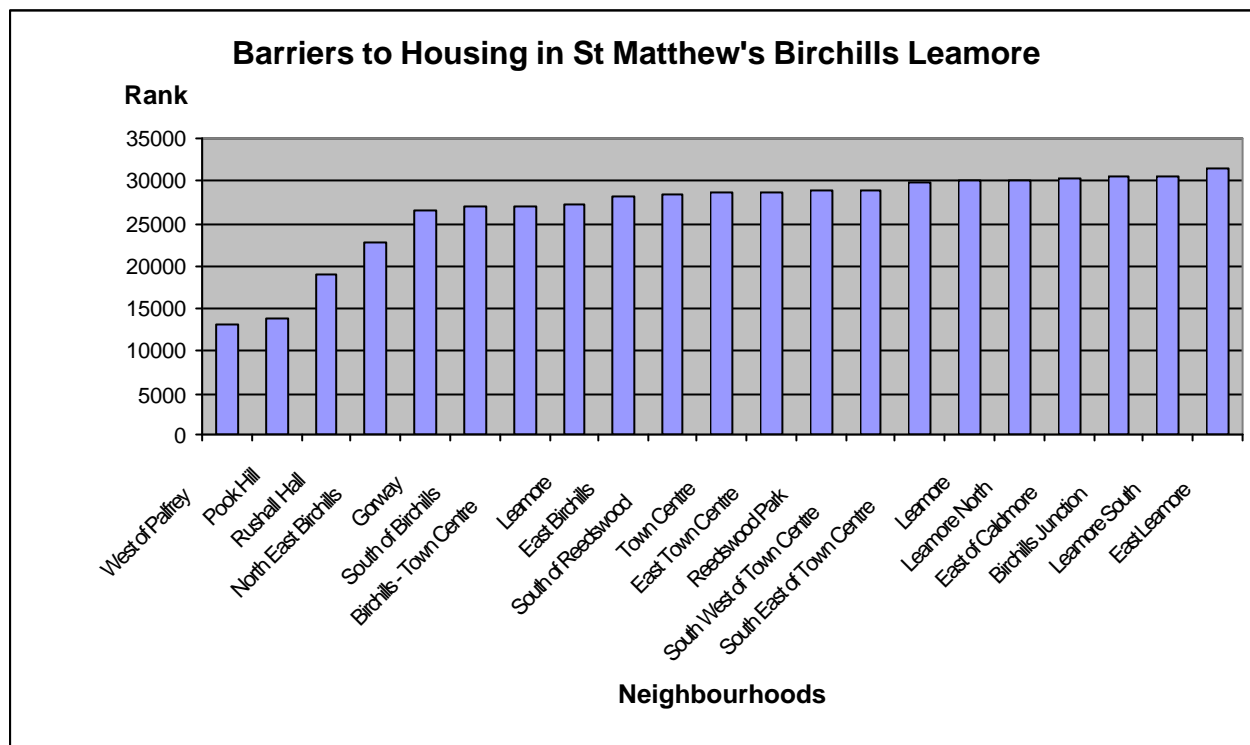


This aspect considers the indoors living environment in terms of measuring the quality of available housing and the outdoors environment. The above chart graphically illustrates the extent of the deprivation in specific neighbourhoods within the LNP area. Both Leamore South and Leamore North (to the 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.

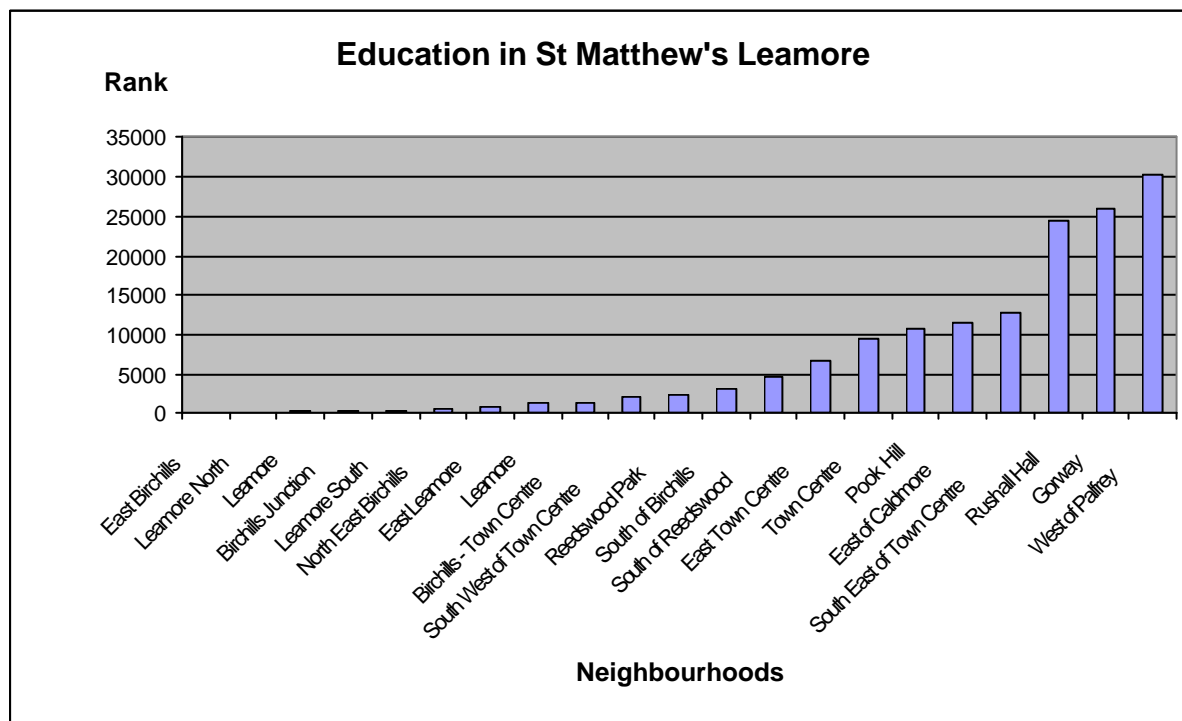
This would suggest that there is sufficient housing in the area, but the quality of the housing stock may need attention.

Graph 3



Education

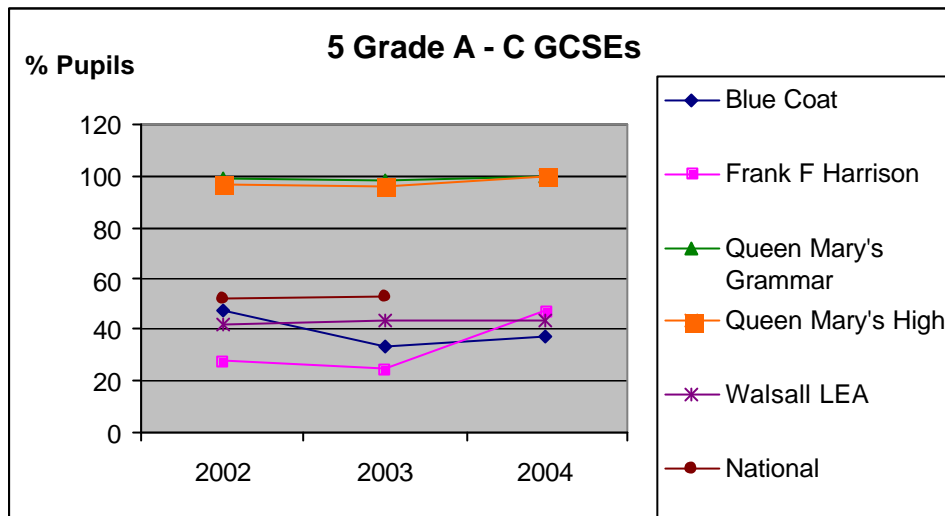
Graph 4



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.

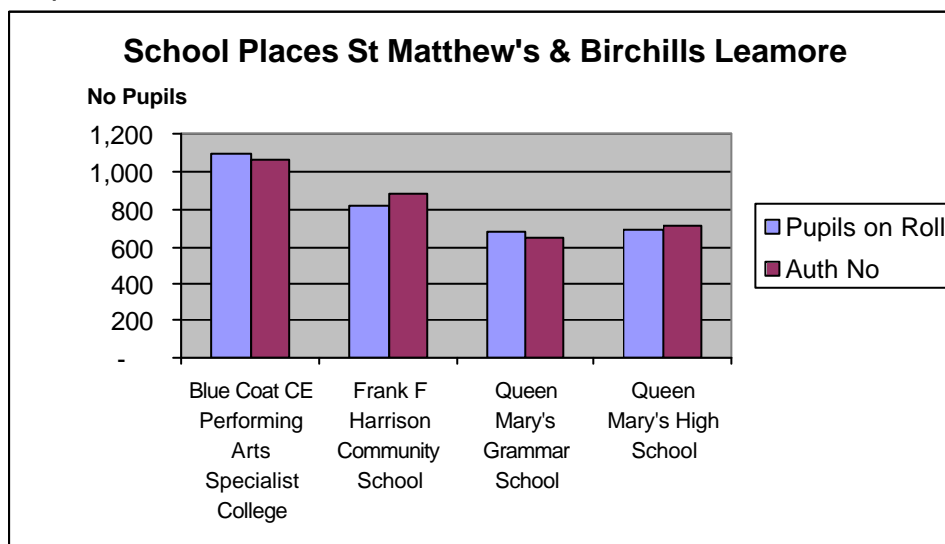
Achievement data shows that children in the LNP area perform below the borough average at all key stages.

Graph 5

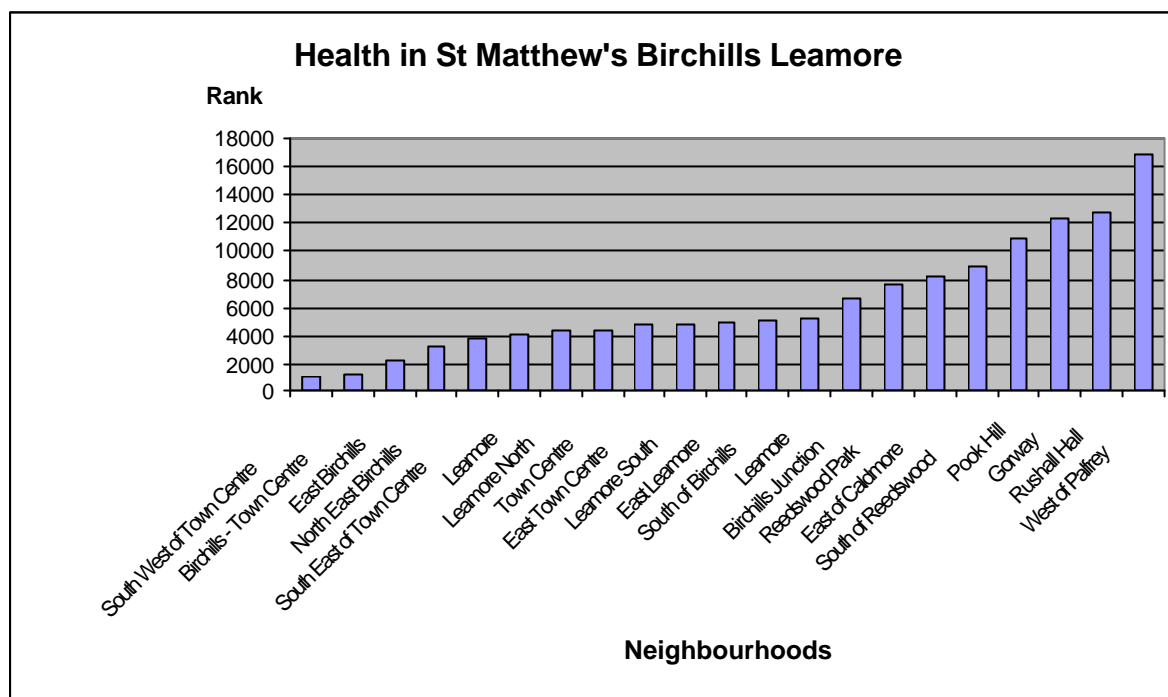


However, school achievement in the area indicates that whilst the two grammar schools are perhaps not fully reflective of the LNP area, the remaining schools are not dissimilar to the borough average, and are potentially showing signs of improvement, particularly Frank F Harrison. This is interesting 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					
Lichfield Street – Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme	August 2003, Completion March 2008	ERG			
Ablewell Street/ Bridge Street: Townscape Heritage Initiatives	Start April 2005, Completion January, 2009	ERG		AWM Application for match funding to a Heritage Lottery Fund approved programme awaiting to be approved.	

Brown bins/ kerbside recycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timescale for rollout - Multistorey flats – what is being done about recycling 					
Rubbish/ litter Emptying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sainsbury's bus shelter - McDonalds Frequency of cleaning up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - litter squad - level of service and frequency - Caldmore - Butts 		Street Pride			
White goods and bulky items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost of removal of white goods to Burrowes St TMO if they collect on behalf of residents as it is regarded as commercial 		Street Pride			
Abandoned / Burnt out cars		Street Pride			

Lack of maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birchills Playing Field - Back of Burrowes Street 					
Lay-by Bloxwich Lane/bottom of Reedswood Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prone to fly tipping 		Street Pride			
Tree management		Street Pride			
Canal entrances on Birchills street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Litter - Drug dealing - One of the entrances has problems with vehicles gaining access (by Golden Lion pub) 					
Lighting, dropped kerbs, bushes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leamore Lane - Lamppost in middle of footpath, does not allow disabled people to pass - Dropped kerbs at Junction of Leamore Lane/ Darwin Road & Leamore 					

Shopping Precinct - Bushes overgrown off Leamore Lane - Disabled parking: moving it to the back of the Civic - Leamore shopping precinct- alleyway to Cornwall Close					
Neighbourhood wardens, Police community support officers - Build a co-ordinated systems including Wardens/PCSOs/ Policy					
State of Buildings - Gladstone House, Birchills Street - “Comfy cushions”/soft furnishings - General state of building - Leather Factory - Farringdon Street - Mellish Road Church - Stephenson Square Flats (above shops)					

Railway bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Past Leamore Lane - repair - Fencing near Sainsburys is damaged, needs to be replaced - Land and fencing on Green Lane/Birchills Street - Bentley Lane Reedswood traffic management issues. Too narrow for two cars to go past. - Leamore Lane Railway Bridge deteriorating 					
Advertising Boards Corner of Green Lane/Birchills Street – not supposed to be there.					
Alleyways/ Gating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary Street - Lewis Street - Croft Street - Leamore shopping precinct leading to Cornwall Close - Associated 					

terraced housing gating - Flytipping and ASB					
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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 12th 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

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<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 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)	Due to commence October 2004, completed December 2004	TYS			
<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	The project is due on site in approximately May 2005 and complete in July 2005				

reinstatement of the path between Bloxwich Lane and Frank F Harrison School (a new safe route to school) and improvements to the access points to the park off Bloxwich Lane and Hadley Road.					
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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)				Report by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, outlining key recommendations	Refer to LNP Crime and Community Action Plan
<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)				Report by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, outlining key recommendations	Refer to LNP Crime and Community Action Plan

Anti Social Behaviour/ Youth Nuisance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephenson Ave - Stephenson Square (8PM -10PM) - Bloxwich Lane - Caldmore Green - Little London flats - Town Centre - Burrowes Estate - Green Lane Shops - Green Lane - Cavendish Road Open Space - University campus - Pouk Hill - Birchills Street - Croft Street - Reedswood Park 				Report by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, outlining key recommendations	Refer to LNP Crime and Community Action Plan
Prostitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Glebe St - Mount St - Vicarage Place - Vicarage Walk - Wednesbury Road - Tasker St - Midland Rd - West Bromwich - Dog Kennel Lane 				Report by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, outlining key recommendations	Refer to LNP Crime and Community Action Plan
Lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alleyway to Comwall Close 					

Speeding/ Vehicle Nuisance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephenson Ave - Bloxwich Lane 					
Drinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town Centre - Guvirons Beechdale social Club and Centre - Pouk Hill 					
Fear of Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watery Lane - Orlando estate - Sandwell Street 				Report by a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor, outlining key recommendations	Refer to LNP Crime and Community Action Plan
Drugs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alleyway to rear of Lewis St/Mary St - Birchills Street Canal Bridge - Birchills Street - Glebe Street - Moat Street - Little London 					
Asylum Seekers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fear in other residents 					

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.

Children and Young People and their families want to access a seamless service that protects them and promotes their well being. Services will work together to develop an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to service planning and delivery, including information sharing. Children's Centres will provide more joined up early years services for families and promoting their well-being.

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.				Neighbourhood Partnerships Team currently discussing ways for this to happen, through meetings with Youth Opinions Unite, Youth Service etc.	

Consider specific actions/projects aimed at breaking down barriers between ethnic groups.					
Childrens Centres	Phase 1: 2006 Phase 2: 2006-2008	Michael Hiscox		Phase 1 identified, Awaiting outcome of funding for Phase 2	Children Centre's Programme
Involvement of wider community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surestart not able to access certain sectors of community e.g. Young Mothers 					
Under 11's Need for community involvement in "extended school" development					
Youth provision/ facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some facilities are unable to be properly utilised as lack of localised funding - Cricket Pitches - Sports facilities in Birchills 					

How do we join up work with young people in terms of youth work, health and obesity issues and sport programmes?					
CA support network - The LNP would stress wish to support our local CA's, through external funding for community development and delivery of sources					

Theme: Housing
Objective:

Action	Target & Timescales	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Need for better availability of Affordable Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One parent families - Extended families - Affordable housing - Homeless housing - Housing suitable for extended family/social housing. - Social Housing 					
Void Properties					
Awareness of local Housing Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borough wide, LNP and Neighbourhood Level 	May 2005			Identified need for training/awareness session. Made contact with Sue Byard with respect to delivering this in May 2005	
New Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must include adapted developments 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of Homeless drop in shelters - People presently homeless are being sent out of Walsall Borough - Better access for Councillors to Housing services 					
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SECTION FOUR: MAKING IT HAPPEN

Summary of Planned Consultation Events

How can local people be involved?

Local people and groups can be involved in many different ways in their LNP:

- Attending the quarterly LNP meetings.
- Becoming a member of one or all of the LNP task groups.
- Becoming a member of the community forum.
- Attending consultation events organised by the LNP.
- Publicising the work of the LNP in your community.
- Encouraging people and groups you know to attend LNP meetings and events.

LNPs are particularly keen to involve and make contact with young people and groups in your area who don't traditionally take part in partnerships such as this.

If you would like to know more, then please contact Narinder Singh Chumber on 01922 653508 or email chumbern@walsall.gov.uk

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.

APPENDIX

List of Partners – To be added

Useful Contacts – To be added