

**Brownhills & Aldridge North Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 10<sup>th</sup>  
February 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 Brownhills & Aldridge North Partnership plan

**2. The Initial Priorities**

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

- Environment
- Crime
- Health

**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.
- Identify Training and Development Opportunities available to the partnership, alongside strengths of the partnership.
- Crime & Environment workshops held to take place in early.

**4. Recommendations**

- The partnership plan be approved, and used to form a summary which will be submitted to council cabinet
- That there be the formation of task groups to progress the detail of the first neighbourhood plan.

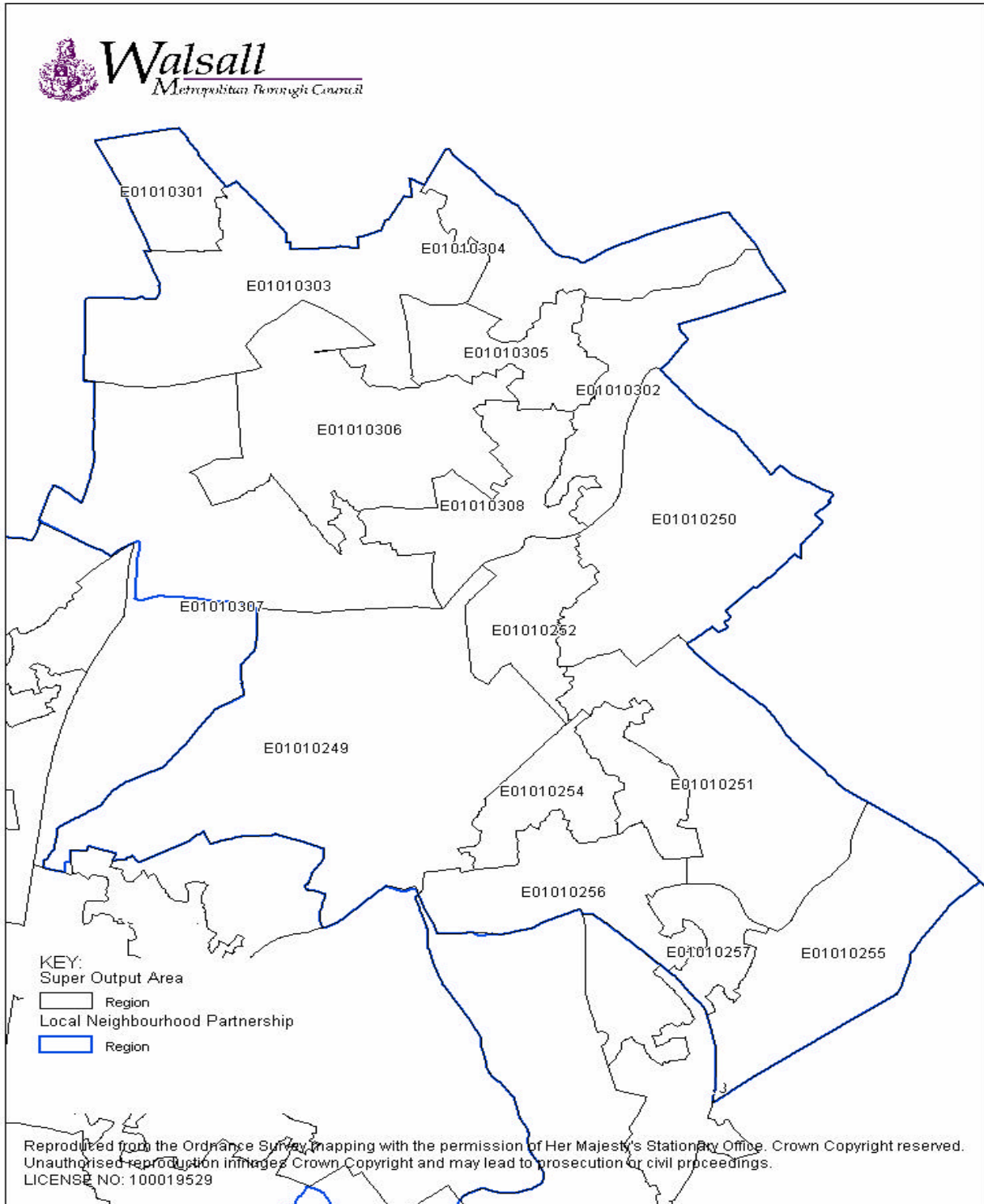
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## SECTION TWO: AREA PROFILE – Strategic Intelligence Unit

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



## Facts About the Area

NOTE: Works to be carried out under the DDA in 2004/05: Oak Park Sports Centre, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, Oak Park Sports Centre, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall Wood Library, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood, Brownhills Library, Brickiln Street, Brownhills

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 between 30 and 64 years of age, which would suggest it is an area to which people move to settle to establish a family home. Some 97% of local residents are of white origin, and 70% of residents are owner occupiers, close to the borough average of 69%. It is well below the borough average in terms of households moving, which would suggest it has a relatively 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?” almost 80% answered “Yes” – whilst nearly 29% of people thought it had got worse as a place to live – it is useful to note this is the least dissatisfied of all LNP areas.

**Economy:** The area has one of the highest numbers of people employed of all LNP areas. In terms of people claiming benefits such as Disability Living Allowance, Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support Lone Parent or Income Support it is well below the borough average for all categories. Another indication of poverty is car ownership; this LNP area is above the borough average for 1, 2 and 3 car families in the borough, perhaps an indication of young people living with parents.

**Crime:** Whilst the area has a low crime rate in relation to some LNP areas, the crime rate has NOT fallen consistently year on year over the last 4 years. Incidences of disorder, again whilst low in comparison to other areas, have risen slightly in 03/04 compared to 02/03. However, that residents feel secure in the area is borne out by a survey which asked: “How safe do you feel in this area during the day?” 93% answered “very or fairly safe”. When asked the same question relating to safety during the night, over 50% stated they felt “very or fairly safe”, the highest of all LNP areas.

## 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 Catshill with a rank of 3,897, 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.

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Super Output Area Code</b>		<b>Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation</b>	<b>IMD Most Deprived Percentile</b>
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010308	Catshill	3897	15
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010305	Holland Park	5809	20
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010302	Catshill	7063	25
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010254	Walsall Wood	8898	50
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall</b>	E01010252	Shire Oak	9116	50

<b>Wood</b>				
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010306	Brownhills	9620	50
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010301	Brownhills West	9770	50
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010303	Brownhills Common	10723	50
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010253	Holly Bank	10830	50
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010249	Clayhanger and Farms	11193	50
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010250	Catshill/Sandhills	14361	50
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010256	Vigo	16901	75
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010304	New Town	17811	75
<b>Brownhills</b>	E01010307	Clayhanger and Farms	23604	75
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010251	Castlebank	28146	100
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010257	Below Holly Bank	29186	100
<b>Aldridge North And Walsall Wood</b>	E01010255	Druid's Heath	29705	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 3 small neighbourhoods in the top 25% of deprived areas nationally, however, it also has 6 neighbourhoods (listed from Vigo and reading down the chart above) which are amongst the least deprived in the country.

### **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),

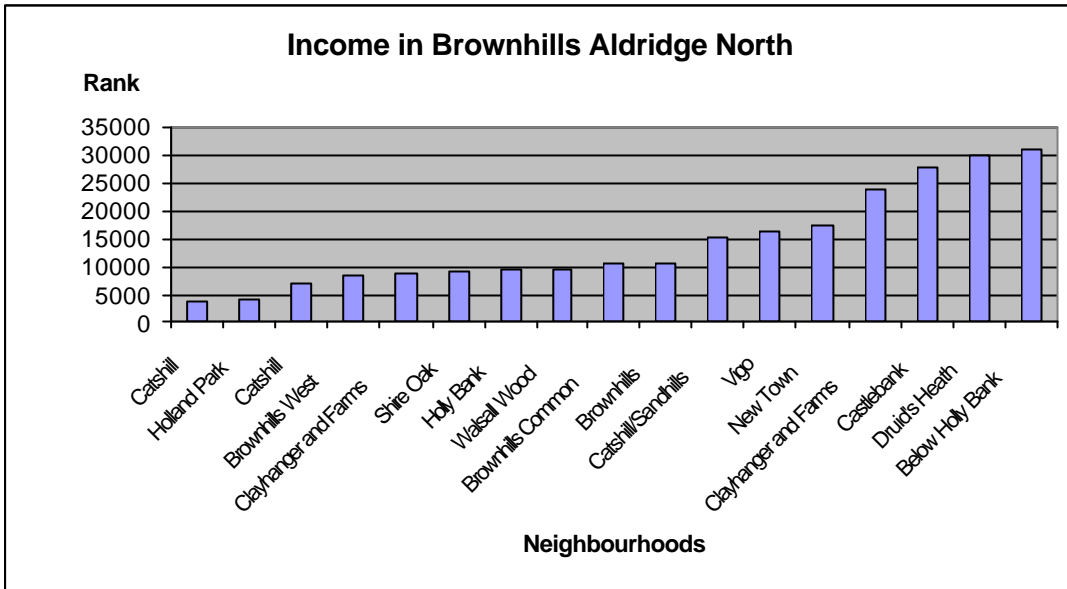
Housing & Services (lack of services based on geographical barriers or access to suitable housing)

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.

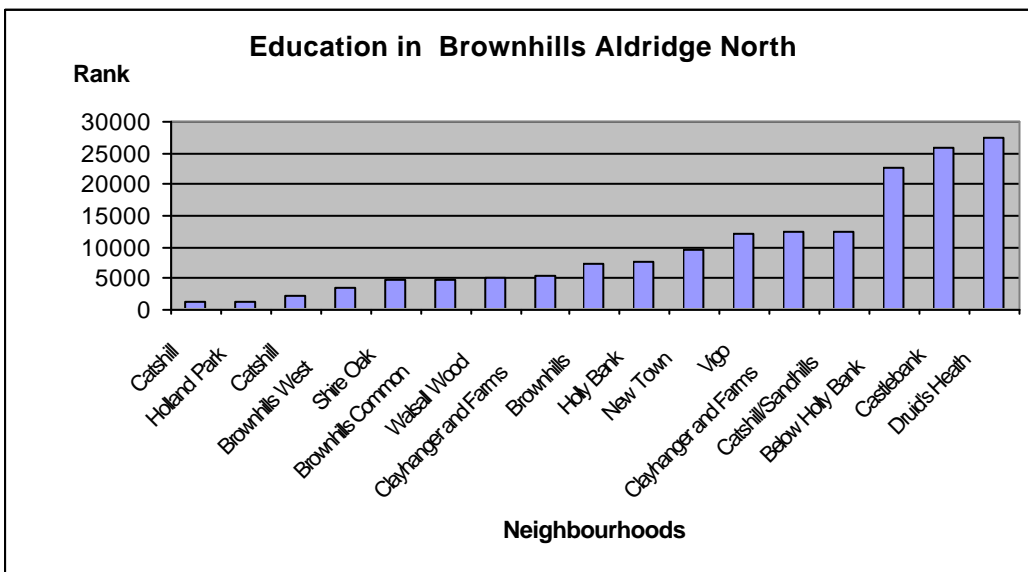
Graph 1



The above chart shows 3 small neighbourhoods, at the left hand side of the chart above, as being within the top 25% deprived neighbourhoods in the area. Conversely, 3 neighbourhoods to the right of the chart above, Castlebank, Druids Heath and Below Holly Bank are all ranked as being amongst the least deprived of all neighbourhoods in England. This illustrates the range of deprivation apparent in the area, with some areas obviously in need of more help than others.

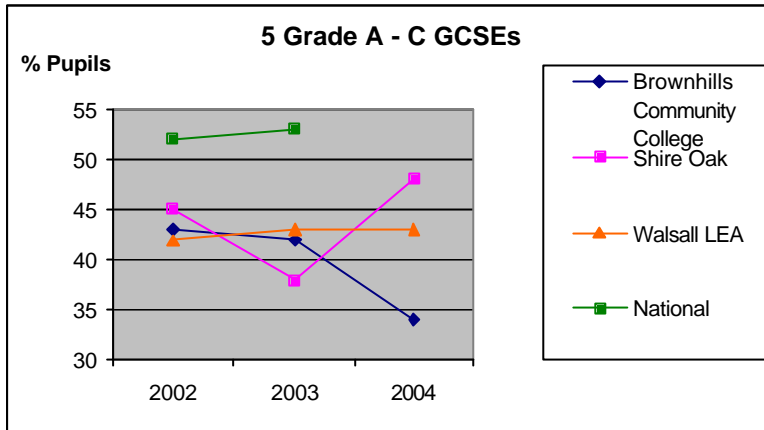
Graph 2 Education

Whilst education was not discussed as a key theme by the LNP at its initial meeting, it is worth considering the education graph:



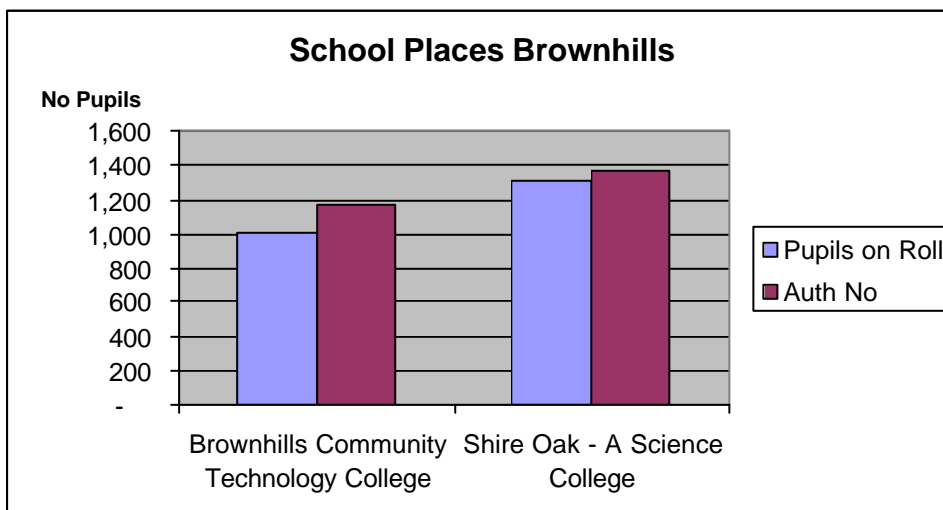
The above chart indicates the extent of deprivation across the LNP area. There are eight neighbourhoods (reading from left to right – Catshill to Clayhanger & Farms) which are in the top 20% of most deprived neighbourhoods, in educational terms nationally – e.g. they score below 6,496

Graph 3 shows the achievement of the two secondary schools based in this LNP area,



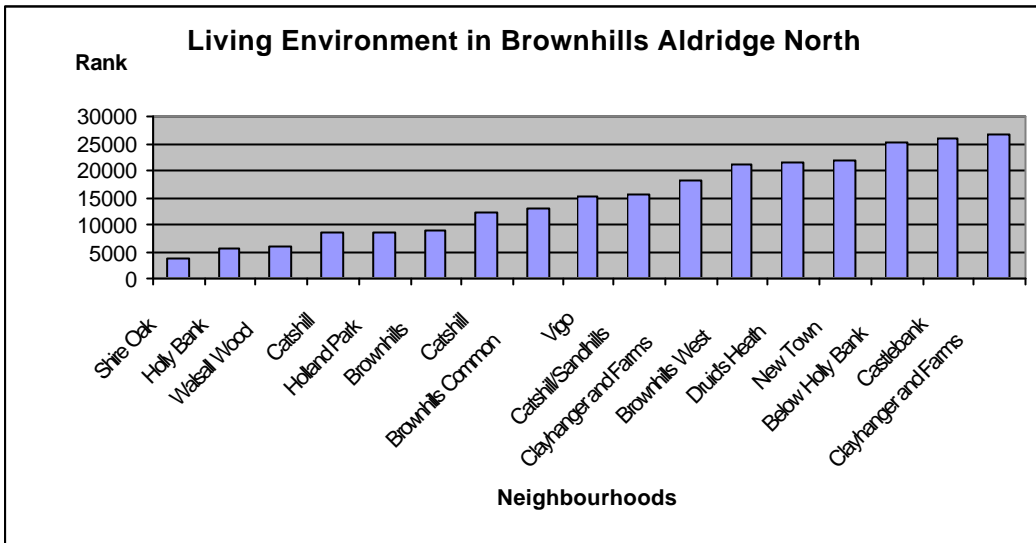
As can be seen the two schools are showing very different trends, both have vacant places

Graph 4



Environment

Graph 5

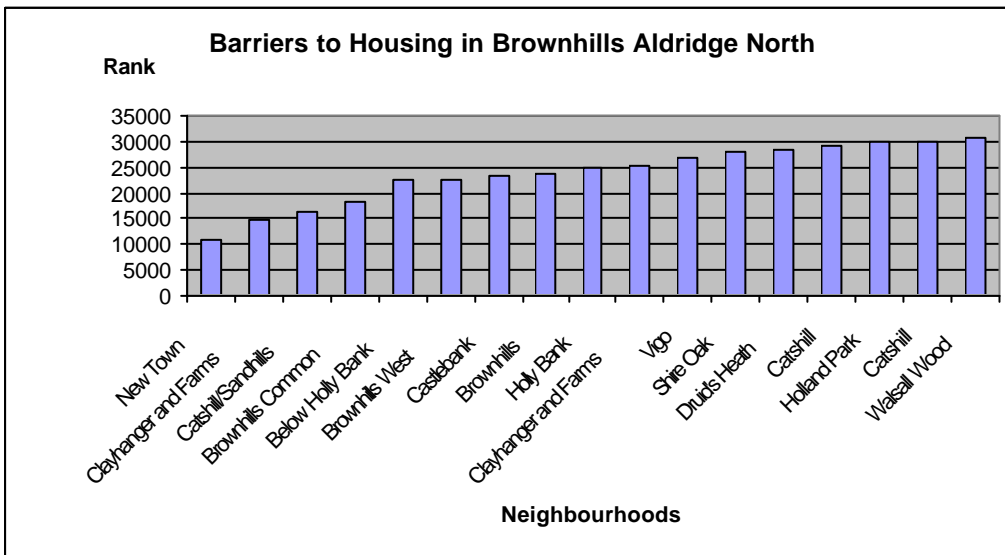


This aspect considers the indoors living environment in terms of measuring the quality of available housing and the outdoors environment. The above chart illustrates the extent of the deprivation in specific neighbourhoods such as Shire Oak, Holly Bank and Walsall Wood all of which are within the top 20% deprived neighbourhoods in England.

However it is useful to consider a further element of the “living environment”. The following chart titled “Barriers to Housing” is an indication of the amount of housing stock available in specific neighbourhoods. It is to be noted that Walsall Wood (one of the most deprived neighbourhoods above) scores 30,782 which places it in the least deprived of English neighbourhoods.

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

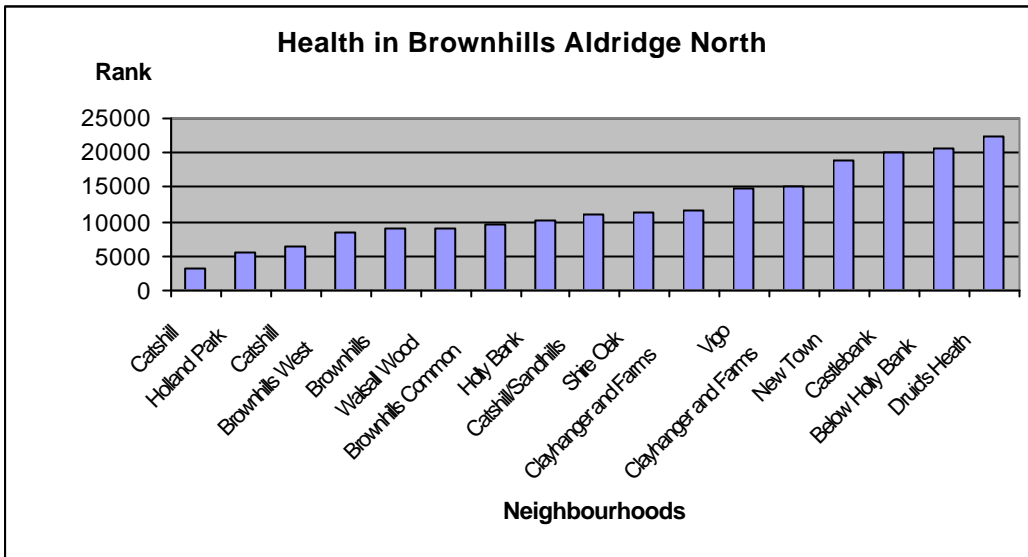
Graph 6





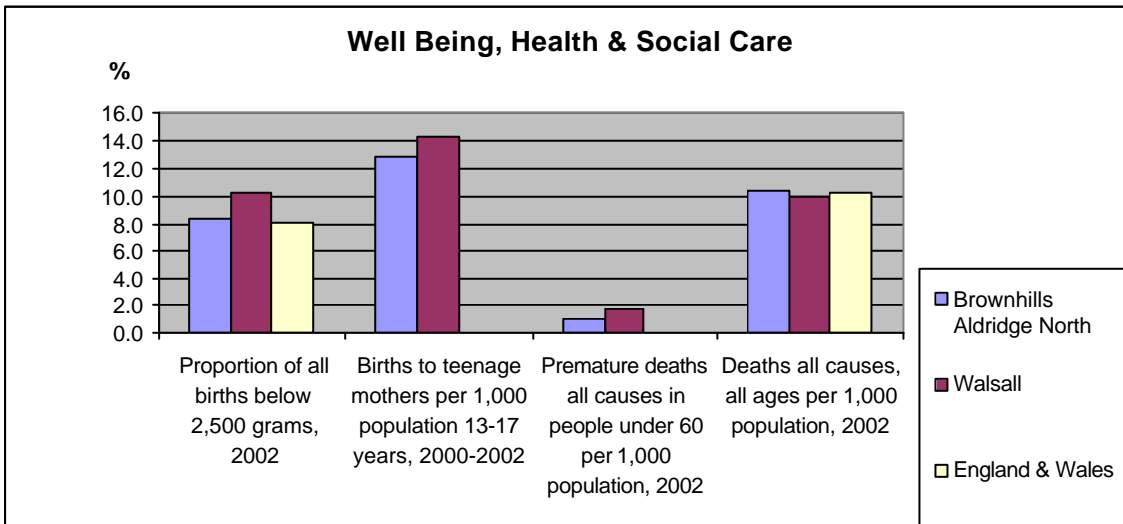
## Health

Graph 7



The above chart indicates that 3 neighbourhoods (2 areas of Catshill and Holland Park) rank within the top 20% most deprived in England. Four neighbourhoods (reading from New Town to Druids Heath) are ranked at above mid range – e.g. all score above 16,242

Graph 8



The above chart confirms that the area has below borough statistics relating to issues such as low birth weight babies and births to teenage mothers.

## SECTION THREE: AREAS FOR ACTION

Environment

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

**Objective:**

Note: Many of these issues had been identified in the Ward Walk completed on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004; further discussion was held by the Town Centre and Environment Theme Group which met in January 2005

Brownhills High Street was a specific area of concern where rats and pigeons are a problem. It was vital that action was taken quickly to implement a new regeneration masterplan for the area with improvements needed to the traffic management system and the quality of the shops locally.

Note: previously noted on the Community Plan developed by Brownhills Local Committee.

Short term issues include the appearance of the area which is thought to be generally untidy. Litter was commented upon as being a particular problem in several identified areas plus rat infestation and pigeon mess. A perceived lack of enforcement around fly tipping exacerbates the “untidiness” problem.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Develop a masterplan for Brownhills Town Centre, investigate funding for a Town Centre Manager, support existing shop owners with range of grants, arrange to meet with traders					
Ascertain the status and future plans of buildings/land such as the Activities Centre,					

former Town Hall, Oak Park Kentucky Fried site					
Environmental Health to be asked to check on "fast food" take away premises					
Street pride to consider "Litter Blitz" and on the spot fines					
It was felt greater surveillance on sites with a history of fly tipping, with cameras being installed could assist in reducing the problem as would restriction on access to sites					

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 27<sup>th</sup> September 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>Greenwood Road</u> The scheme will replace aged play equipment on the site, install safety surfacing and provide perimeter fencing.	Work on site is anticipated to start in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.				

<p><u>Holland Park</u> A new youth shelter is due to be installed to compliment the existing youth provision at the site</p>	<p>Work on site is anticipated to start in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				
<p><u>Oak Park</u> Skating provision to be provided to enhance the range of leisure facilities available at the site.</p>	<p>Work on site is anticipated to start in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				
<p><u>Andrews Road Play Area (Shire Oak Park)</u>The scheme will improve and upgrade the current play facilities by installing new equipment on the site.</p>	<p>Work on site is anticipated to start in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				
<p><u>Coppice Road Play Area (Walsall Wood Railway Play Area)</u>To compliment improvements already taken place, the play facility will be further enhanced by new items of play equipment and safety surfacing.</p>	<p>Work on site is anticipated to start in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				

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

**Objective:**

Short term issues were perceived to be the amount of burglary in the local area, particularly domestic burglary and other buildings. These concerns were closely followed by vehicle crime and instances of criminal damage with disorderly young people also causing problems locally. These five issues form the basis of the focus of action for the Partnership

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
There needs to be a range of interventions to be considered from stricter policing to greater use of intelligence.					
Further analysis of a range of issues such as types and locations of criminal damage and disorder to inform future action plans.					
Focus on the needs and issues surrounding young people to develop a balanced area policy relating to young people.					
Higher profile policing to offer reassuring presence (including specials and wardens).					
Review the effectiveness of witness care arrangements					

Develop a multi agency support service for asylum seekers					
Review levels of engagement with hard to reach/vulnerable groups locally.					

**Theme:            Make Walsall a healthy and caring place**

**Objective:**

**Make Walsall a healthy and caring place**

The planned new health centre and the impact this would have on the area is under discussion by the LNP. It should be considered what services this would provide locally rather than travelling to the Manor Hospital. In common with other LNPs which are on the “fringes” of the borough there were perceived to be problems in travelling due to a lack of public transport. Also felt that there was inequality in the access to facilities and services locally rather than the more highly populated areas of the borough.

When considering the issues in the area, the group felt there were two distinct levels of care required. Firstly focussing on “acute” care – e.g. for local people in need of highly qualified nursing care and secondly focussing on care for vulnerable people. In terms of acute care it was stated that this was the responsibility of the PCT.

However, in terms of the second issue it was felt that it was here the LNP could take action. It was suggested that there were high numbers of elderly people who are isolated and in need of being integrated into the community. Isolation leads to exclusion and fear of crime etc increasing.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Target &amp; Timescale</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Progress so far</b>	<b>Themed Strategic Link</b>
Consider introducing a good neighbour scheme with local people calling on elderly people and assisting with “low level” tasks such as shopping.					