

Willenhall Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 20th 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 Pheasey & Paddock Partnership plan

2. The Initial Priorities

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

- Ensure a clean and green borough
- Life Long Learning
- Strengthen the Local Economy
- Crime

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 Workshop held to help populate the partnership plan.

4. Recommendations

- The partnership plan be approved and that acceptance of the plan be recommended to Council following submission to Cabinet.
- 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.

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Willenhall

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

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Walsall Council – A Vision for Walsall in 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Priority Areas:

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

About Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership

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

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

The WBSP comprises six Theme Groups:

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

The Partnership is now commissioning against four strategic objectives:

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

With four integral Themes:

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

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

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

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

Foreword by Partnership Chair - C of P

What is a Local Neighbourhood Partnership?

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

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

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

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

SECTION TWO: AREA PROFILE – Strategic Intelligence Unit

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

MAP

Facts About the Area

NOTE: Works to be carried out under the DDA in 2004/05: Hollybank Resource Centre, Coltham Road, Willenhall, Willenhall Lawn Cemetery, Bentley Lane, Willenhall, Willenhall Leisure Centre Bath Street, Willenhall

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 16 and 59 years of age, which would suggest it is an area to which people move to settle to establish a family home. Some 89% of local residents are of white origin, with 7% of local residents being of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi origin. It has 67% of owner occupiers, slightly above the borough average of 65%. It has below the borough for 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?” 78% answered “Yes” – whilst nearly 35% of people thought it had got worse as a place to live.
- Economy: The area has above the borough average for economically active people and, as a result, a relatively low level of unemployment. In terms of people claiming benefits such as Disability Living Allowance, Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support Lone Parent or Income Support it is equal to or below the borough average for all categories. Another indication of poverty is car ownership; this LNP area is slightly above the borough average for 1, 2 and 3 car families in the borough, perhaps an indication of young people living with parents.
- Crime: The crime rate in the LNP area has fallen over the last three years from 01/02 to 03/04 from 129 crimes per 1,000 of the population to 92. When residents were asked: “How safe do you feel in this area during the day?” 88% answered “very or fairly

safe". The rate fell when asked the same question relating to safety during the night, with 38% stating they felt "very or fairly safe". However the area appears to have more incidences of youth offending than many LNP areas, it is the fourth highest LNP area with 123 youth offenders (aged between 10 and 17 years) – a number which has stayed constant from 02/03 to 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 West Willenhall with a rank of 1,375, 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 Code		Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation	IMD Most Deprived Percentage
Willenhall South	E01010406	West Willenhall	1375	5
Willenhall South	E01010404	Below Little London	4916	20
Willenhall North	E01010400	New Invention	5189	20
Short Heath	E01010383	Lane Head	5260	20
Willenhall North	E01010396	North of Short Heath	5361	20
Willenhall North	E01010397	New Invention	5736	20
Willenhall South	E01010408	Spring Bank	5897	20
Willenhall South	E01010401	Noose Lane Area	6277	20
Willenhall South	E01010403	Chapel Green	6370	20
Willenhall South	E01010409	East of Spring Bank	7504	50
Willenhall South	E01010407	Little London	8034	50
Short Heath	E01010381	Pool Hayes	8283	50
Willenhall South	E01010405	Willenhall	8978	50
Short Heath	E01010377	West of Ashmore Lake	9034	50
Willenhall South	E01010402	Shepwell Green	11822	50
Short Heath	E01010382	Lane Head	11862	50
Willenhall North	E01010393	Pool Hayes	14490	50
Short Heath	E01010380	Pool Hayes	15946	50
Willenhall North	E01010399	Nth West of New Invention	16319	75
Short Heath	E01010378	Short Heath	17665	75
Short Heath	E01010379	Bentley Wharf	17842	75
Willenhall North	E01010394	North Pool Hayes	17959	75
Short Heath	E01010376	Spring Bank	19696	75
Willenhall North	E01010395	Pool Hayes	25541	100
Willenhall North	E01010398	Nth West of New Invention	26551	100

There are therefore 25 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.

The above chart suggests that whilst some neighbourhoods within the LNP exhibit deprivation factors (those within the top 20% above) 7, North West of New Invention onwards fall outside of the 50% most deprived areas in the country.

Considering specific elements of the overall “neighbourhood ranking”

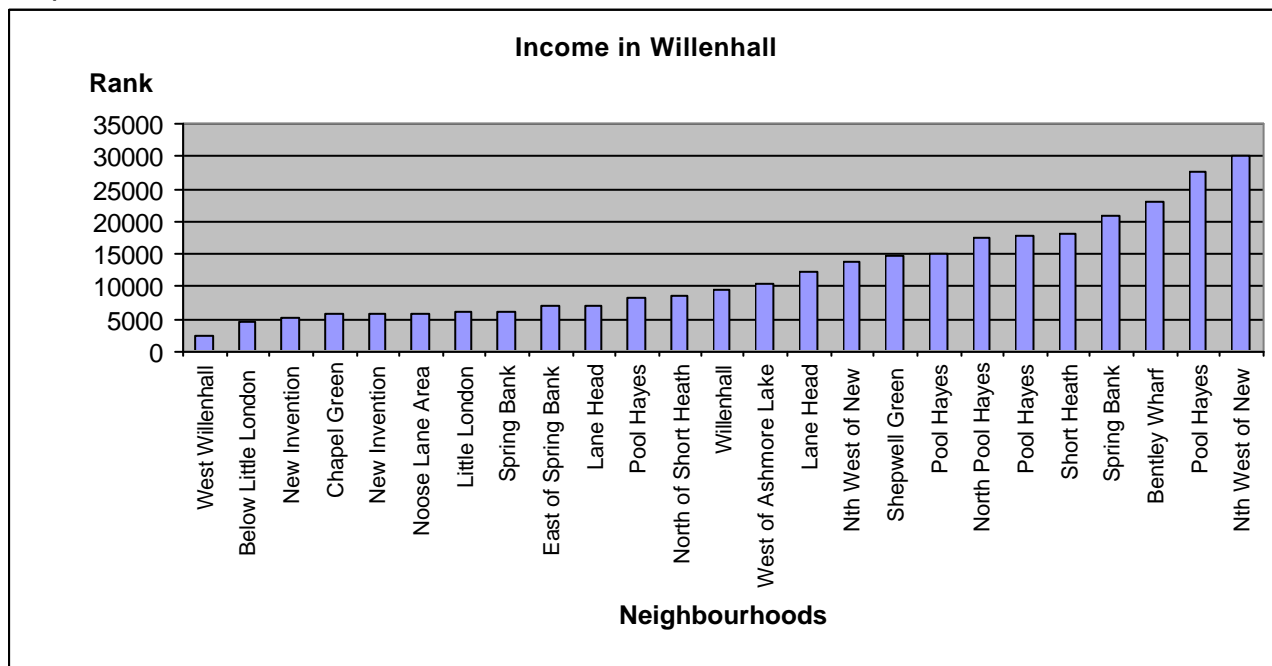
The above chart brings together a series of “scores” from various aspects of living in an area to arrive at the overall rank. These aspects include:

- 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.

Income

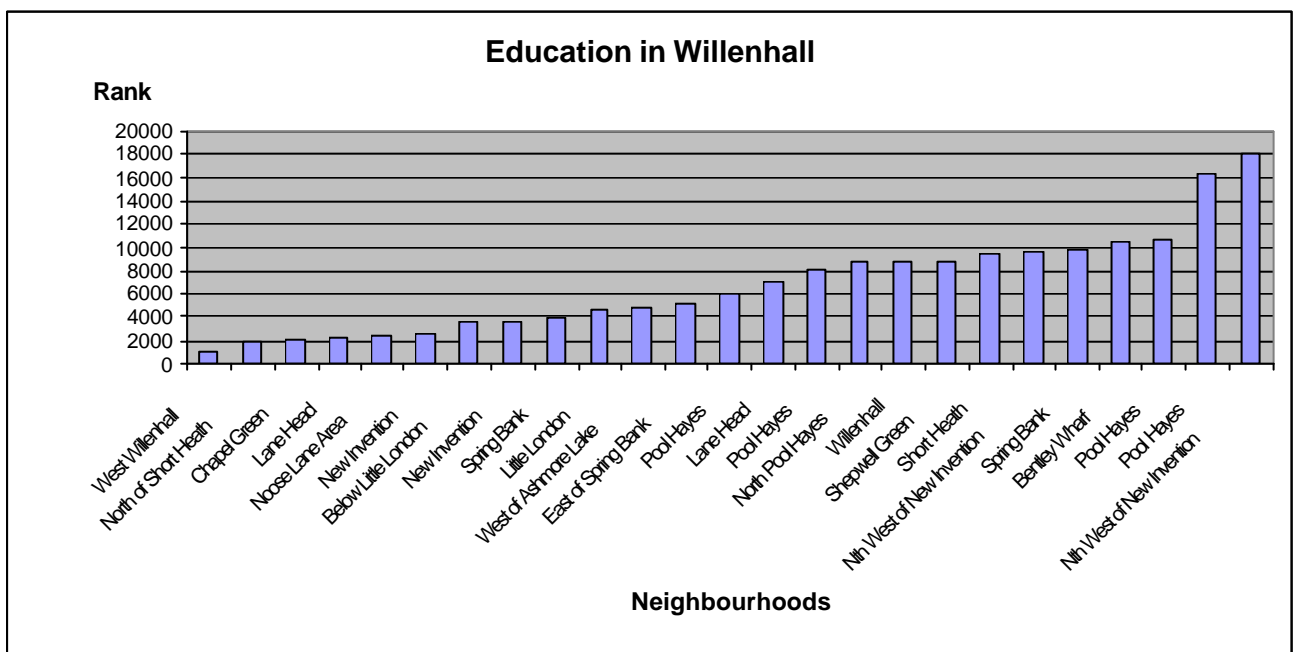
Graph 1



The above graph confirms the levels of the deprivation across the LNP area, it also illustrates the “spread” of neighbourhoods within the area. Reading from left to right, West Willenhall is ranked at 2,572 hence it is within the 10% of English neighbourhoods in terms of deprivation, it is closely followed by the neighbourhoods from Below Little London to Spring Bank, all of which score below 6,496, hence they are within the top 20% nationally. Conversely Pool Hayes and North West of New Invention with scores of 27,548 and 30025 respectively both rank within the least deprived of all English neighbourhoods – hence they can be considered relatively affluent.

Education

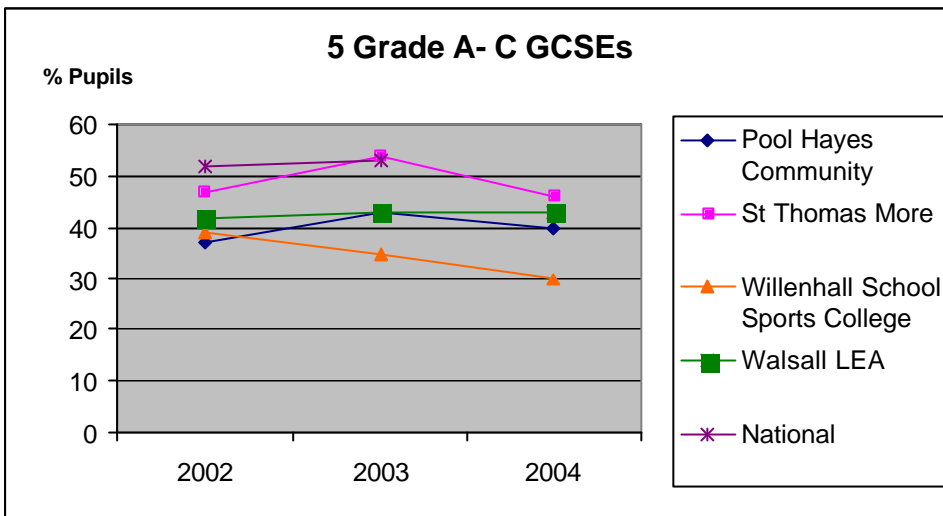
Graph 2



West Willenhall with a score of 1,084 is ranked within the top 5% of deprived areas in England. Reading the chart left to right from West Willenhall to Pool Hayes (some 13 neighbourhoods) confirms that just over 52% of the LNP area is ranked within the top 20% of most deprived English neighbourhoods

With regard to schools in the area, as can be seen from graph 2 below, there is a mix of achievement when compared to the Borough average.

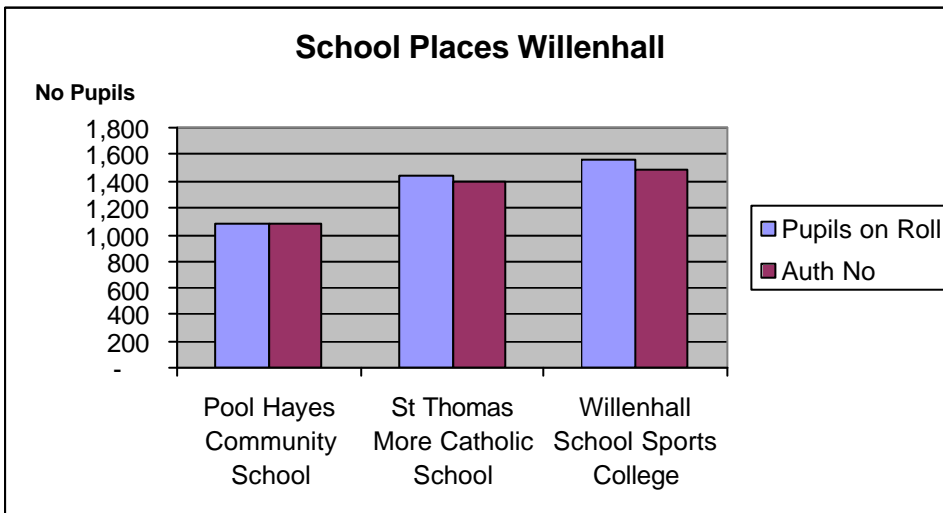
Graph 3:



Further statistics confirm that the area performs slightly below the borough average in terms of achievement at keystage 1 and 2

Take up of places in the schools is as follows:

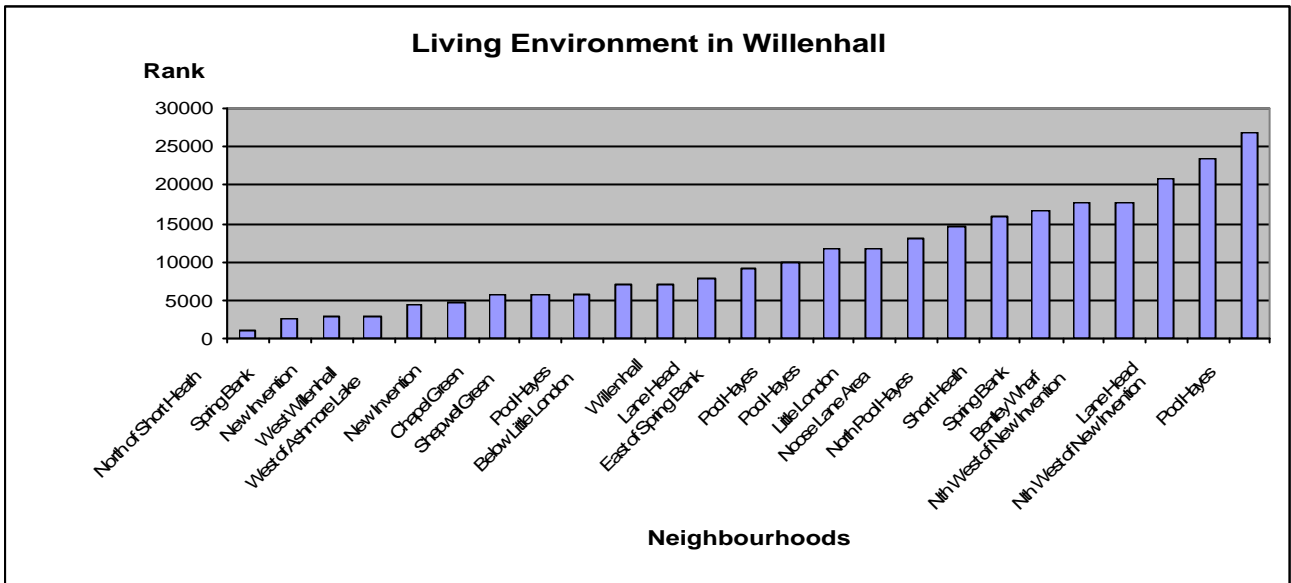
Graph 4



Pressure on services due to new build in the area may be a factor in the above which confirms all schools serving the LNP area are either full or over subscribed. Again this supports the view that the area is home to many “middle aged” families with secondary school age children.

Housing and Environment

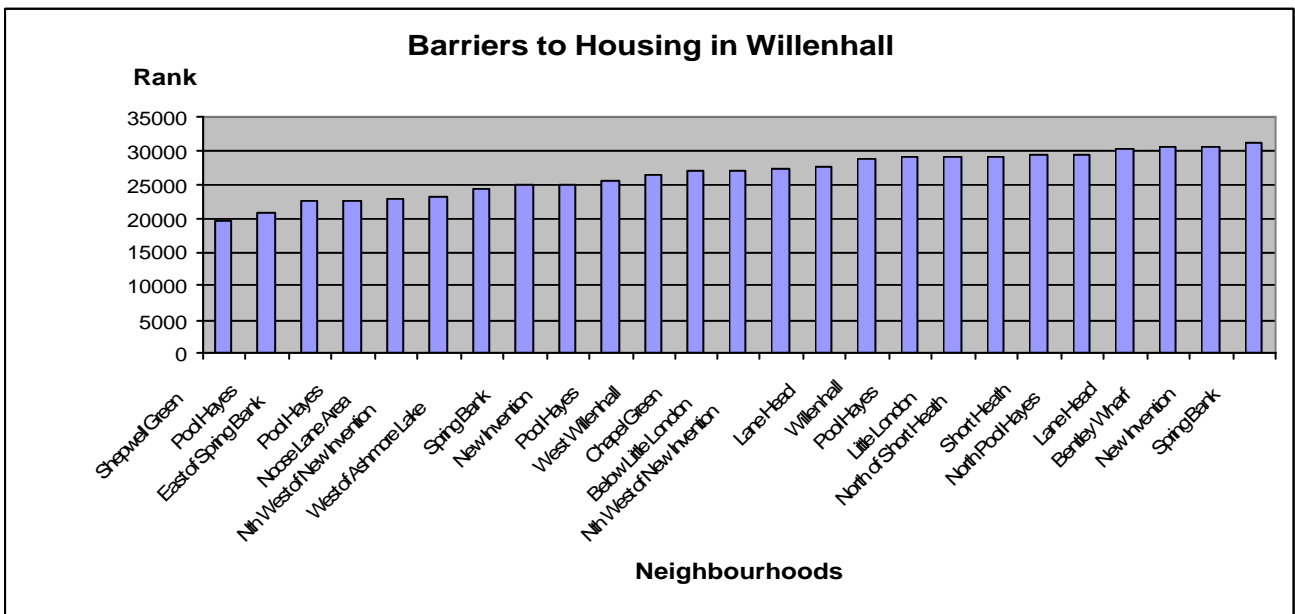
Graph 5



This aspect considers the indoors living environment in terms of measuring the quality of available housing and the outdoors environment. The above chart graphically illustrates the extent of the deprivation in specific neighbourhoods within the LNP area. There are 9 small neighbourhoods ranked within the top 20% of most deprived English neighbourhoods (reading left to right in the chart) from North of Short Heath to Pool Hayes.

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 the area. It is to be noted that North of Short Heath (most deprived above) scores 29,166 which places it in the least deprived of English neighbourhoods. In fact all neighbourhoods score highly with Shepwell Green being the “lowest” at 19,618.

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



SECTION THREE: AREAS FOR ACTION

The LNP is intent on developing a vision for the area which rests on creating a better and exciting future for Willenhall by generating confidence in the town. It believes the LNP will be judged on the tangible benefits it delivers to the area and it needs to engage all members of the community in the debate to ensure the LNP makes a real difference to the lives of local people. The LNP has chosen 3 priorities on which to focus but will ensure both young people and access to services are adopted as overarching priorities.

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

Objective: **To improve the quality of life for local people**

There are a number of positive aspects to the area which need to be acknowledged and built upon. These have been identified as being: plans to refurbish or improve areas (particularly the schemes to be funded via Transforming your Space (noted below)), work undertaken at Rough Wood and the canal to create paths and trails all of which have, or will, enhance the local environment. Additionally Willenhall town itself has the potential to be an attractive centre with historic buildings and attractions, whilst the Square at New Invention has been refurbished. The proposed metro link from Willenhall to parts of the borough will bring more opportunities for travel around the area. Action has also been taken to deal with anti social behaviour from young people which has included general tidy ups and removal of graffiti.

The issues which have been identified as in need of action are as follows

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Establish a plan to revitalise the local area. Make it an ever more attractive place to live and work					
Celebrate the heritage of the area and ensure public places are free from litter					

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 18th 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
<p>The existing play area at Harlech Road will be improved through the installation of new play equipment and safety surfacing. In addition to this, new multi-use goal ends will be installed on a resurfaced tarmac area on the location of the existing 'hard' court, adjacent to the existing play area.</p>	<p>The schemes outlined above are anticipated to be on site in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				
<p>Hartill Street Open Space New play equipment, fencing and safety surfacing will be installed on the site to replace the old facilities.</p>	<p>The schemes outlined above are anticipated to be on site in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<p>Manor Farm Open Space</p> <p>The scheme will install new 1.2m rebound fencing and a gate around the existing football facility. Multi-use goal units were installed on the open space as part of the first phase of improvements for Manor Farm.</p>	<p>The schemes outlined above are anticipated to be on site in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				
<p>Willenhall Memorial Park, Play and Youth Proposals</p> <p>Some of the worn items of equipment within the existing play facility will be replaced and safety surfacing will be included. In addition to this, several youth focused items, including a youth shelter, will also be installed.</p>	<p>The schemes outlined above are anticipated to be on site in June 2005 and complete in approximately September 2005.</p>				

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
<p><u>Gomer Street</u></p> <p>South Willenhall representatives on the strand 1 TYS steering group have identified the vacant land adjacent to the CHART building to benefit from TYS funding. However, as the site is currently in private ownership the implementation of the identified scheme is subject to the Council gaining ownership of the site and its use as a leisure facility being agreed. If so, the proposed scheme will provide a new sports facility and small play area. However, if the preferred site is not available, the TYS strand 1 group have identified the Willenhall Memorial Park as the beneficiary of the TYS funding.</p>	<p>Work will begin on site in July 2005 and be complete in October 2005</p>				

Theme: Strengthen the local economy

Objective: To support local companies and industries to create greater employment opportunities for local people

It is recognised that the structure of the local economy has changed markedly in recent times; skills have become outdated whilst industries have closed down or moved out of the area.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Create training programmes which provide access to new skills and future job opportunities					
Support the Business Infrastructure by creating business parks or sustainable business centres in appropriate locations					
Protect the environment by creating green shields around industrial bases					
Support childcare initiatives which enable people to return to work					

Theme: Lifelong learning

Objective: To create wider opportunities for the local adult population

The changing nature of the local economy has meant there is an urgent need to offer retraining opportunities to local people, particularly those who feel they have little to offer the labour market. It is felt raising aspirations amongst local people is vital.

Action	Target & Timescale	Champion	Outcome	Progress so far	Themed Strategic Link
Develop localised learning hubs to attract learners					
Ensure training programmes accredit existing skills and link to future employment opportunities					
Support people who have retired to reuse or recycle their skills for the benefit of others.					