

Notes of Rural Partnership Forum Meeting Wednesday 17th November

Attendees:

Stephen Munday, Solihull Care Trust (Chair)
Paul Afford, Hockley Heath PC
Charlene Bale, Solihull MBC
Maurice Barlow, Solihull MBC
Sarah Barnes, Solihull Partnership (Facilitator)
George Burdett, Cheswick Green Residents Association
Godfrey Chesshire, Balsall Parish Council
Ken Cluley, Catherine De Barnes Resident Association
Hannah Colson, Solihull Partnership
Ben Diamond, West Midlands Fire Service
Peter Ewin, Chairman Knowle Society
Margaret Fulford, Mother's Union
Danny Gouveia, Solihull MBC
Steven Hayes, Centro
Alan Head, Balsall Common Village Residents Association
Alex Heath, Solihull MBC
Kath Hemmings, Neighbourhood Manager
Paul Johnson, Solihull MBC
Jacqueline Jones, West Midlands Fire Service
Reena Kaur, Solihull Partnership
S. Kauser, Meriden Parish Council
Martin Lambert, Vice Chair DDRA
Paul Lee, Meriden Parish Council
Melanie Lee, Meriden Parish Council
Gill Lewis, Chair Hampton Parish Council
Melanie Lockey, Solihull Partnership
Councillor Mackiewicz, Dorridge and Hockley Heath
Ken Meeson, Chair Berkswell Parish Council
Claire Millican, SUSTAIN
Chris Noble, Chairman Cheswick Green Parish Council
Keith Portman, West Midlands Police
Glynn Price, Balsall Common Village Residents
Councillor Reeve, Shirley East
Ian Spencer, Dorridge R.A
Neil Walker, Solihull Care Trust
Rachel Westwood, Solihull MBC

Apologies:

Councillor Burgess (Blythe), Councillor Courts (Dorridge and Hockley Heath), Councillor Cresswell (Blythe), Steve Patalong (Warwickshire Rural Community Council), Dave Pinwell (SUSTAIN), Rosie Weaver (Meriden Parish Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephen Munday opened the meeting by welcoming everyone; we then went around the table and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Opening Presentation

Melanie Lockey reminded everyone of the purpose of the Partnership forums:

- (a) Provide an opportunity for information exchange and dialogue between the Solihull Partnership and local organisations and groups.
- (b) Give local organisations and groups a direct opportunity to influence the work of the Solihull Partnership's Strategic Groups and vice versa.
- (c) Identify how common issues and priorities for the area can be addressed.
- (d) Influence the Partnership's priorities.
- (e) Give views on significant policy or service proposals affecting the locality.

Tonight's meeting would focus particularly on the last two of these (influencing the Partnership's priorities and major consultations about the physical development of Solihull) plus reporting progress on issues identified last time.

Melanie explained that the Solihull Partnership is currently consulting about priorities for the Sustainable Communities Strategy; partners will then work together on these priorities over the next 3 years. There are a number of reasons why the Partnership wants to look again at its priorities at this point; these include the changing profile of Solihull's population and resultant increasing demand for some services, the impact of the economic downturn and reductions in public funding. We also need to be more explicit about how we will address inequality within Solihull.

24 possible priorities have been developed, based on evidence and in the results of previous consultation. Melanie gave a brief overview of each of the 24 potential priorities; a voting sheet was circulated and the group members were asked to vote for their top 9 in order of priority.

It was clarified that participants were being asked to give their individual view about priorities. We are happy to take collective views e.g. from parish councils and residents groups subsequently and are happy to come to talk to groups.

The Council is also consulting on its budget priorities for next year. Paul Johnson encouraged people to complete the on-line survey (closing date = 30th November) or to e-mail him direct (pjohnson@solihull.gov.uk) with any views by 10th December.

3. Planning for Solihull's Future

The purpose of this item was to introduce 3 major consultations about the physical development of the Borough - the Local Economic Assessment, the Emerging Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework and the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3.

Cllr Reeve introduced the item and explained the background to it:

- The Emerging Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework is out for consultation until 10th December. All aspects of the consultation are on the table for consideration and this is an important opportunity to become involved.
- The Borough's current development plan - the Unitary Development Plan – expires in 2011. If we fail to progress towards a replacement, we could find ourselves open to challenge by developers and effectively planning by appeal.
- Solihull is an important economic driver in the Region and as we emerge from recession it is important that we continue this economic success.
- A Local Economic Partnership is being established. Solihull will be part of the Birmingham partnership along with South Staffs and Tamworth as this is what businesses wanted.

The Local Economic Partnership is important in terms of acquiring future resources for economic development.

- Solihull has an ambience that makes it a nice place to live - this needs to be safeguarded.
- We need to ensure development takes place in the right places from a point of view of supporting sustainable development principles.

Local Economic Assessment

Rachel Westwood explained that the Local Economic Assessment is an evidence base that informs the Emerging Core Strategy. Key messages from the Assessment include:

- Solihull is the strongest economy in the Region with potential for further private sector jobs growth.
- Birmingham Airport, the NEC, Jaguar Land Rover, Birmingham and Blythe Valley Business Parks and Solihull Town Centre are key economic assets; they need to be safeguarded and their potential realised.
- It is important to create the best conditions for enterprise and innovation.
- The need to develop skills and tackle worklessness. Skill shortages remain and higher qualifications will become increasingly important. Unemployment among young people has risen particularly sharply.

The consultation is asking people whether this is an accurate assessment of the Borough's economy. <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation/lea.htm>

Emerging Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework

Maurice Barlow explained that the Emerging Core Strategy has been informed by a variety of studies and also by stakeholder consultation through the 'Challenges and Choices' issues and options paper in 2009.

Key challenges for the borough are reducing inequality, ensuring that the Borough continues to be an attractive place to live, work and invest and meeting housing needs, particularly the need for more affordable housing.

The Emerging Core Strategy focuses development on supporting the regeneration of North Solihull and on accessible parts of the main urban areas, such as the Town Centre. In the rural areas development will be focussed on meeting local needs

The consultation document and other supporting documents (including the one that lists all the sites considered) can be found at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf/>

West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3

A consultation about transport policies and schemes in the West Midlands starts on 29th November. The consultation will include exhibitions in Chelmsley Wood Town Centre (4th December) and Solihull Town Centre (11th December). The consultation documents can be found at <http://www.westmidlandsltp.gov.uk/formalconsultation>

Discussion

There were a number of questions and comments about the timetable for the consultation on the emerging core strategy. A number of Parish Councillors stated that the deadline does not give them enough time to seek community views. Councillor Reeve said that he was aware of the concerns that had been expressed. Dave Simpson said that the process of seeking

views had been ongoing for some time and that, in practice, they will continue to accept views beyond the 10th December deadline.

The meeting then split into 3 separate workshop sessions; supporting local businesses and creating jobs in the area, transport and housing.

Workshop Sessions:

Transport Workshop

Danny Gouveia (Local Authority Transport Planner) provided an overview of the arrangements in Solihull in relation to:

- Transport Strategy
- Transport Liaison
- Infrastructure Support
- Subsidisation of Routes – that are more expensive to provide, like in rural areas

Current explorations with Centro

Looking at how we can deliver faster services and more frequent services which will have longer journey times.

Understanding how car users can be encouraged into regularly using public transport.

Principles of Rural Transport

De-regulation of transport introduced to create competition. Centro subsidise services to areas where routes are not commercially viable. A system of cross-subsidisation, like that used in London, would help to deliver a more joined transport system.

Centro are currently surveying travel needs in the area, trying to engage with local communities and non users of public transport.

Issues Raised:

- There are economic barriers to having longer journey times to be considered, people will choose to use their cars to get to work if it takes too long on the bus – e.g. 40 minutes plus.
- There needs to be more coordination of bus routes and times with train journeys.
- There is an equality issue here, with people living in rural communities disadvantaged.
- Developers of new villages etc. need to have stronger regulation to improve transport connectivity. For example, Dickens Heath: no parking, no bus stops, limited bus services and cycle routes.
- Balsall Common is a less affluent area so driving is not such an easy option for many. You can get to Solihull, but getting back is difficult as the last bus is 6:00pm - not very good, especially for young people. It is easier for them to go to Coventry.
- Taxi bus not well liked.

Potential options for exploring:

- Making use of community based transport assets – school mini buses for instance. We could look at other schemes like this nationally to get ideas on how best to coordinate
- Parish Councils to take a greater responsibility for providing transport solutions if they managed the subsidy – buying and running a mini bus on a volunteer basis.
- More flexibility from the Taxi bus becoming a bus at certain times
- Locally organised Lift-sharing schemes – Liftshare.org

Housing Workshop

A number of participants restated earlier concerns that the timescales for consultation on the Emerging Core Strategy did not allow Parish Councils sufficient time to seek the views of their communities.

It was asked whether the Housing Strategy takes on board the rise in the proportion of elderly people in the Borough, especially the rural areas. Maurice Barlow replied that both the Housing Strategy and Emerging Core Strategy have taken this into account.

There was agreement that the proposed policy to meet local needs in rural areas was correct. There was, however, a considerable amount of discussion about how local housing needs are identified. It was felt that the needs of rural areas were not sufficiently understood and taken into account. Borough wide housing needs surveys cannot give a detailed picture of the needs in individual communities. It was felt that we ought to be consulting on local needs first with the assistance of Parish Councils can gather to build a picture of local housing needs.

There was a discussion about various issues connected with housing affordability. Many young people cannot afford to stay in the area where they grew up; this is not a new problem although the affordability gap has widened. Concerns were also expressed that we haven't always delivered on the target for 40% affordable housing in the past and that areas where development does take place should get their fair share of affordable housing.

Once the needs and sites are assessed, we should be looking at the available funding streams and possible partnerships to see what we can deliver. The solution shouldn't always be to build more homes. For example, it is possible to make changes through Building Control to adapt houses for the elderly (Councillor Mackiewicz).

Councillor Reeve said that we no longer have the top-down approach of the Regional Spatial Strategy targets and we haven't decided yet on a preferred option. We are now looking at needs and how we can address them. Under the current government, we have more freedom but less money and we need to look at other ways of harnessing funds.

Rural exceptions to meet specific local needs are possible. Concern was, however, raised that if green belt is released to meet needs, it can open the gates to developers for infill sites thus encroaching further on the Green Belt.

Concerns about whether there is the infrastructure to support new housing e.g. in Knowle where the secondary school is already bursting at the seams (Peter Ewins, Knowle Society).

4. Notes of Last Meeting, Progress and Next Steps

The notes of the meeting held on 20th July were approved.

Sarah Barnes asked what participants would like to discuss at the next meeting of this forum. A strong view was expressed that we needed to see real progress on the issues that we have identified to date (e.g. around transport and its broader social implications) before moving onto new topics. There are things that we can do individually and collectively (e.g. Berskwell is funding a bus service for 2 weeks before Christmas using the precept) but it was pointed out that some of the issues about rural transport would need a change in the law to address fully.

It was suggested that the needs of older people (e.g. transport / housing / care at home) could be a possible topic for a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 23rd February 2011, 7pm-9pm, Venue TBC

Partnership Forum

Rural Areas

17th November 2010

A Quick Reminder

- ❑ The Forums provide a good channel for communication & consultation about the work of the Partnership with local stakeholders:
 - ❑ Enabling a dialogue about work to deliver our vision for Solihull
 - ❑ Providing an opportunity to influence the work of the Partnership
 - ❑ Shaping the priorities in Solihull's community strategy
 - ❑ Identifying how common issues and priorities for the locality can be addressed
- ❑ Enable local stakeholders to be consulted about significant policy or service proposals affecting the locality

Tonight's Agenda

Three main areas:

- ❑ Your view on what the Partnership priorities should be for the next 3 years
- ❑ Planning for Solihull's Future - major consultations on the physical development of Solihull
- ❑ Progress on issues you identified last time and future agendas for this Forum

Partnership Priorities

for the next 3 years

Why Revisit Our Priorities Now?

- ❑ Responding to the changing environment
 - ❑ increasing demands for services
 - ❑ addressing the impact of the economic downturn
- ❑ Responding to reduction in public funding announced in the Spending Review
- ❑ Being more explicit on how we can address inequality within the Borough
- ❑ Identifying cross-cutting priorities which require a multi-agency response

Overview of Emerging Priorities

Healthier Communities

- Life Expectancy Gap
- Health Prevention & Promotion

Stronger Communities

- Engaged, Involved and Inclusive Communities
- Building the Capacity of the Third Sector
- Volunteering
- Participation in Sports, Arts and Leisure

Safer Communities

- Substance Misuse
- Fear of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour
- Reduction in Reoffending
- Domestic Abuse
- Serious Acquisitive Crime
- Most Serious Violent Crime
- Road Safety

Children & Young People

- ❑ The Attainment Gap
- ❑ Best Start in Life for Children
- ❑ Alignment of 14-19 Education Strategy to Future Jobs and Skills Needs
- ❑ Things to Do, Places to Go
- ❑ Keeping Children Safe from Harm

Prosperous Communities

- Worklessness
- Economic Growth
- Transport Accessibility
- Housing Stress
- Climate Change
- Conserve and Enhance the Natural and Built Environment

Your Chance to Vote

- Let us know what you think are the priorities for Partners in Solihull to work on together over the next few years.
- Choose the **9** issues that you think are most important. Rank them in order of importance, 1 being most important.

Solihull Local Development Framework Emerging Core Strategy

Solihull Local Economic Assessment

The West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3



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The Consultations

Local Economic Assessment – Ends 3rd December

- Economic evidence to inform policy and strategy
- Inviting review and comment on the draft

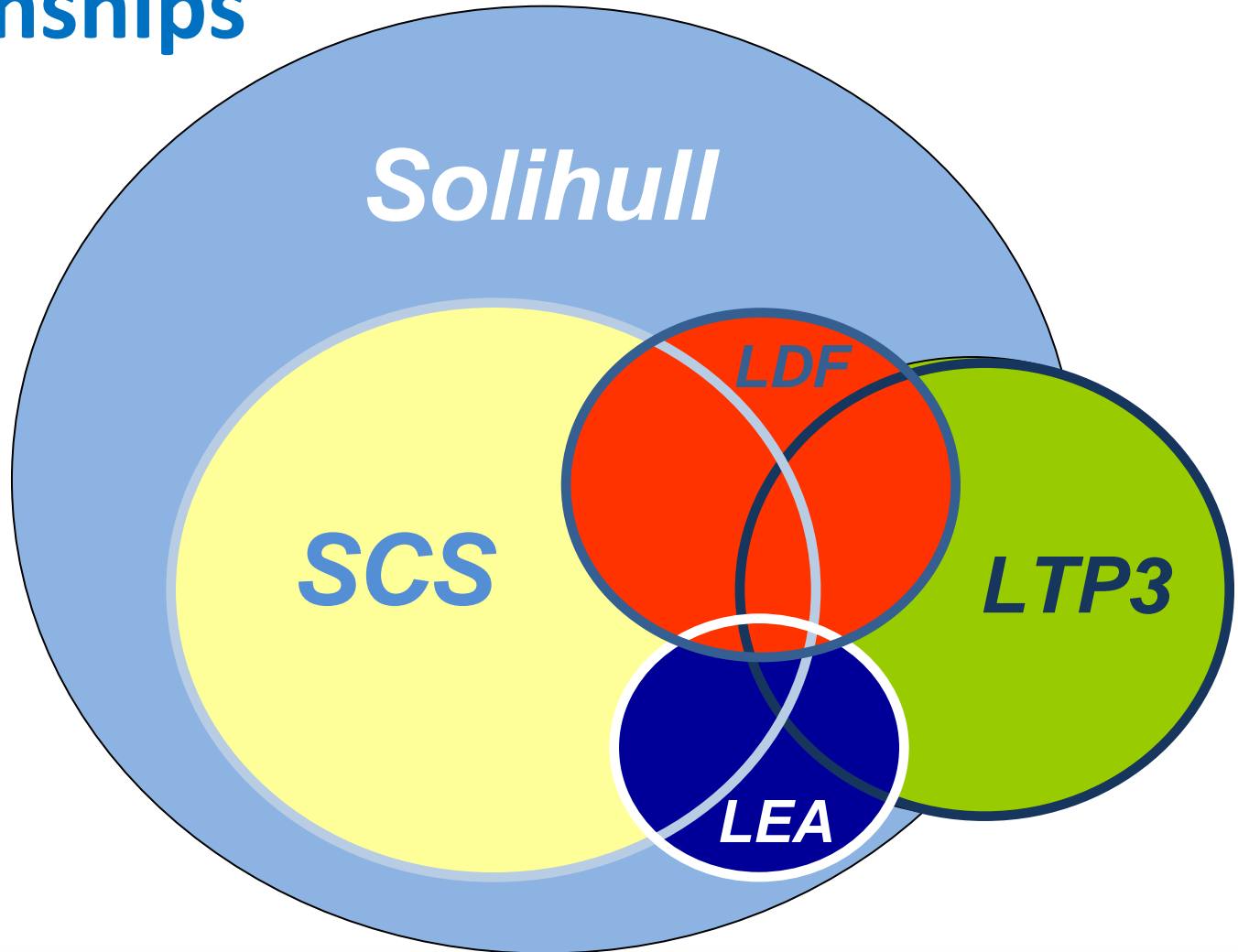
LDF Emerging Core Strategy – Ends 10th December

- Development plan, replaces the Unitary Development Plan
- Consulting on challenges, vision, strategy, policies and proposals

Local Transport Plan – Starts 29th November

- The transport strategy and policies for the metropolitan area
- Consulting on strategy and priorities for investment

Relationships



LDF Emerging Core Strategy Research

Based in research, including:

- Evidence studies

Local Economic Assessment is an important part of the evidence

- Stakeholder and community involvement
- “Challenges and Choices” (issues and options) consultation

Solihull Local Economic Assessment



Solihull
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Local Economic Assessment Key Findings

- Strongest local economy in the region with leading potential for future jobs growth
- Key role of Birmingham Airport, National Exhibition Centre, Jaguar Land Rover, Birmingham & Blythe Valley Business Parks, Solihull Town Centre
- Importance of transport connections, quality of environment and other quality of life in attracting business and jobs

Local Economic Assessment Emerging Strategy

- To accelerate growth in key sectors and the “green economy”
- To safeguard and realise the potential of our economic assets
- To create the best conditions for enterprise and innovation
- To develop “world class” workforce skills and tackle “worklessness”
- To develop our image & reputation

Solihull Local Development Framework

Emerging Core Strategy



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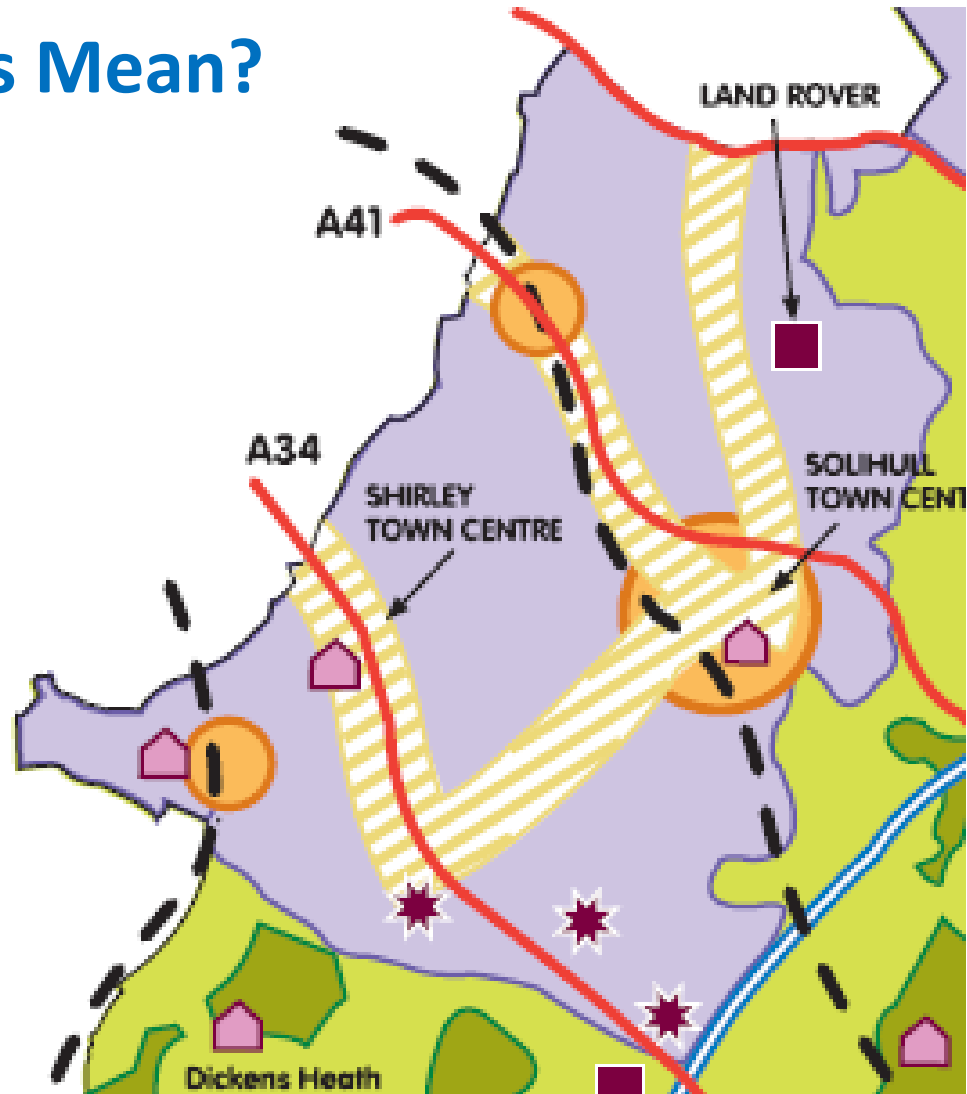
The Key Challenges

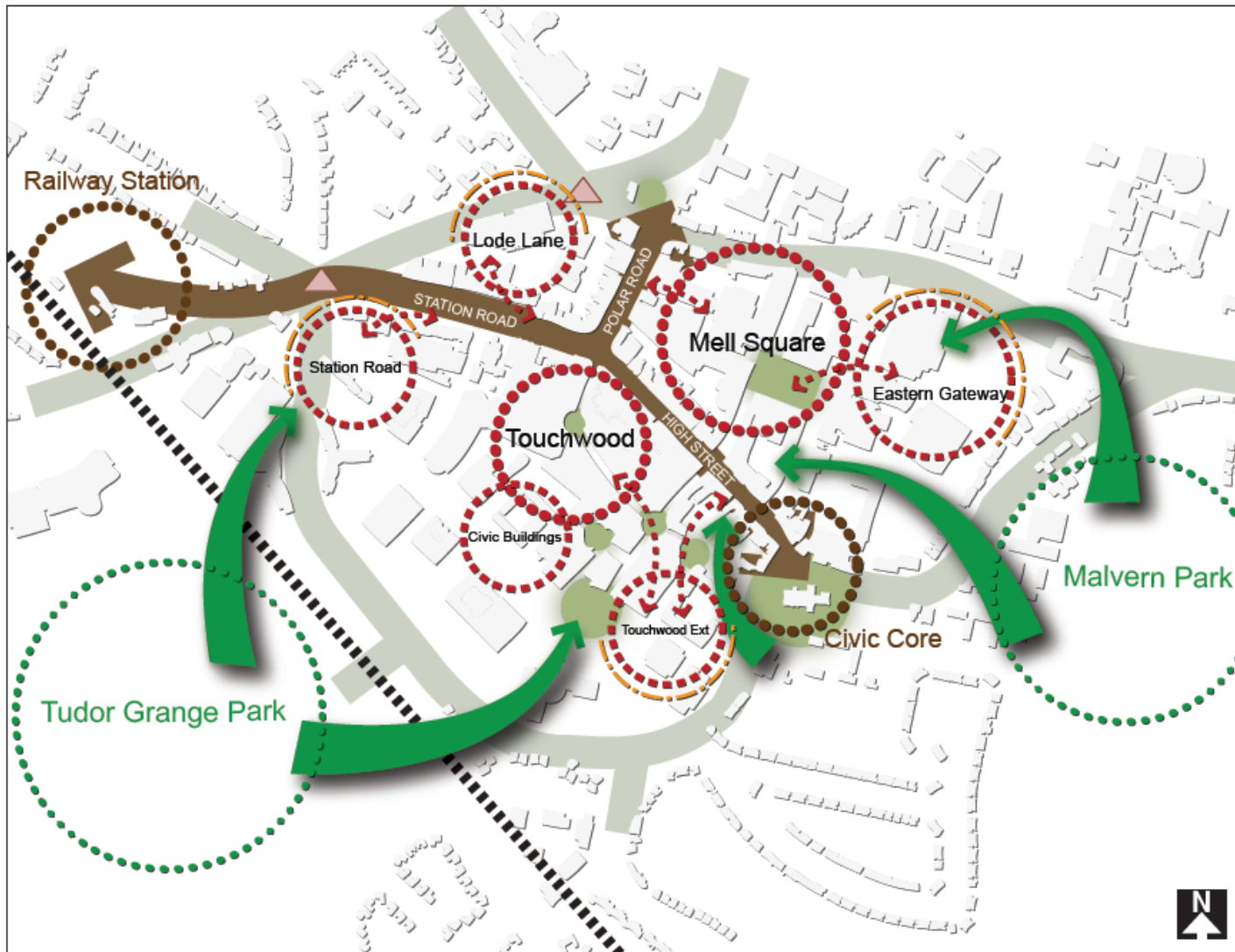
- Reducing inequality, particularly between the regeneration zone and the rest of the Borough
- To ensure the Borough continues to be an attractive place to live work and invest
- Meeting housing needs, particularly the need for affordable housing

Strategy

- Focus new development to support the North Solihull Regeneration Zone and within the most accessible parts of the main urban area
- New housing for local needs in the villages
- Support development of Birmingham Airport, National Exhibition Centre and Jaguar Land Rover
- Provide sites for local employment
- Protecting local character
- Improve green space and sport facilities
- Identify sites to manage waste and mineral extraction

What Could this Mean?





The Consultations

Local Economic Assessment – Ends 3rd December

- Economic evidence to inform policy and strategy
- Inviting review and comment

Emerging Core Strategy – Ends 10th December

- Development plan, replaces the Unitary Development Plan
- Consulting on challenges, vision, strategy, policies and proposals

Further Information:

www.solihull.gov.uk/consultation

West Midlands

Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Consultation

CENTRO led consultation on transport policies and capital schemes

29th November 2010 – 31st January 2011

Solihull Events:

- 2nd December Key stakeholder drop in session, Solihull Civic Suite 3:30-8:00
- 4th December Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre Exhibition 10:00-3:00
- 11th December Solihull High Street Exhibition 10:00-3:00

Further details from:

- www.centro.org.uk
- Simon Rowberry 0121 214 7327

**Notes of Knowle, Dorridge & Hockley Heath, Meriden, Balsall Common and
Surrounding Villages Partnership Forum Meeting
Tuesday 20th July 2010**

Attendees:

Stephen Munday, Solihull Care Trust (Chair)
Claire Millican, Solihull SUSTAIN (facilitator)

Paul Afford, Hockley Heath Parish Council
Carol Andrew, Solihull MBC
Gary Baker, Solihull MBC
David Baystel, Knowle Allotments
Councillor Godfrey Chesshire, Balsall Parish Council
Ken Cluley, Catherine De Barnes Residents Association
Hannah Colson, Solihull Partnership [note taker]
Councillor Courts, Dorridge & Hockley Heath Ward
David Deanshaw, Balsall Common Village Plan
Peter Ewin, Knowle Society
Lynda Hackwell, Solihull MBC
Alex Heath, Solihull MBC
Kath Hemmings, Neighbourhood Manager
Aimee Horne, Solihull MBC
Claire Laland, Balsall Common & Berkswell Churches Together
Dr Gill Lewis, Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council
Melanie Lockey, Solihull Partnership
Councillor Mackiewicz, Dorridge & Hockley Heath Ward
Councillor Meeson, Dorridge & Hockley Heath Ward
Dr Naylor, South Solihull PBC
Steve Patalong, Warwickshire Rural Community Council
Keith Portman, West Midlands Police
Councillor Potts, Knowle Ward
Lynda Poulson, Bickenhill Parish Council
Glyn Price, Balsall Common Village Residents Association
Councillor Peter Rayson, Hockley Heath Parish Council
John Rowley, Knowle Society
Bob Thurtle, Community Services Committee, Knowle & Dorridge Lions Club
Neil Walker, Solihull Care Trust
Rosie Weaver, Meriden Parish Council
Richard Whitehead, Hockley Heath Residents Association

Apologies:

Linda McCormick (Friends of Dorridge Park), Councillor Rebeiro (Knowle Ward),
Dave Pinwell (SUSTAIN),

1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephen Munday welcomed everyone and participants then introduced themselves.

Stephen Munday explained that the purpose of the Partnership forums is to:

- (a) Provide an opportunity for information exchange and dialogue about the things that different organisations and groups are doing to try to make Solihull's communities healthier, safer, stronger and more prosperous.

- (b) Give local stakeholders a direct opportunity to influence the work of the Solihull Partnership's Strategic Groups and vice versa.
- (c) Influence the Partnership's priorities.
- (d) Identify how common issues and priorities for the locality can be addressed.
- (e) Give views on significant policy or service proposals affecting the locality.

2. Partnership DVD

A DVD was played to give a brief introduction to the work of the Solihull Partnership. The DVD looks at how Partners are working together to achieve safer communities, healthier communities, stronger communities, prosperous communities and a brighter future for children and young people.

Following the DVD a participant raised a question regarding the 'Access for IT project' which was highlighted on the DVD. Lynda Hackwell, representing Solihull MBC responded to the question and informed the group, the allocation of money for the 'Access for IT' programme came from the Government through the Family for Learning Grant and the programme has been targeted at under-privileged groups or areas where there has been a low take-up of internet access, for example areas of high elderly population. If anybody would like any further information on this programme

3. Presentation

Melanie Lockey gave a presentation describing the following characteristics of the area:

- Population characteristics
- Deprivation
- Access to services
- Employment and unemployment
- Resident satisfaction with the area as a place to live and with services
- Village & Parish Plan's
- Health
- Educational attainment
- Crime and anti-social behaviour

It was requested that in future meetings 'Hampton-in-Arden' is named and not grouped under the 'surrounding villages'.

Participants raised an issue about the educational attainment data and requested more detail to identify the specific areas of Meriden West.

4. Discussion about Issues Raised

There was a discussion about the priority issues for this area in the light of the data and participant's own knowledge and experience. The following issues were identified as priorities:

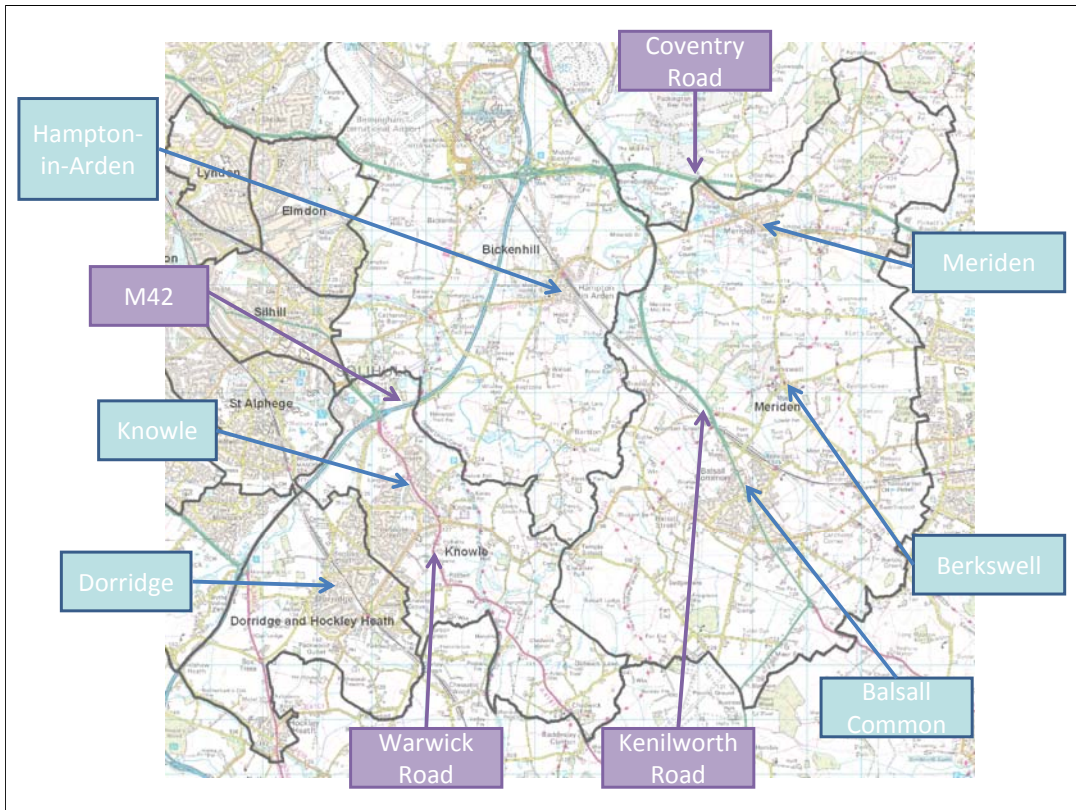
- i) Ageing population, **increasing demand and access to health services**. Knowle Ward has the longest life expectancy for females in the Borough and Dorridge Ward has the longest life expectancy for males in the Borough, this puts a huge demand on health services in this area. Also need to explore whether the ageing population is due to migrational issues, of people retiring and moving to Solihull.
- ii) The **need for more social housing** in this area and also **affordable housing** so young people stay in the area.
- iii) **Access to services and facilities** and **lack of joined up services** in rural areas. Main issue with access to services in the rural areas is the lack of public transport to gain access to the services.
- iv) **Rural public transport**. All participants agreed rural transport needs to become a bigger priority. There are issues around bus services being cut without consulting the local people, and consequently making it difficult for local people to access services such as doctors, schools, shops and employment opportunities. The frequency of services has affected the locals it is difficult to get in and out of Solihull in the evenings, issues with travelling anywhere on Sundays and people are not able to rely on the buses to get to work. Also problems with the bus timetables not matching up with the train times.
- v) As a result of poor public transport in the rural areas there has been a knock on effect with **traffic congestion** increased as people use their cars to travel around. Participants also raised **speeding traffic** as an issue, especially through rural villages.
- vi) **Lack of activities and facilities for the youth** to get involved in, particularly sports facilities. This is also affected by the poor public transport as the younger population are not able to get anywhere to access facilities across the Borough.
- vii) **Feeling of disconnection with Solihull**, particularly Hampton-in-Arden and Balsall Common who don't feel they are getting support from Solihull MBC and have considered becoming part of Warwickshire.
- viii) **Ability to implement Village and Parish Plans**. Most of the requirements in the plans necessitate liaising and working with partner agencies which is proving difficult.
- ix) Crime in general is reducing in rural areas. However, **vehicle crime** particularly in Meriden Ward is an issue. Some participants also raised lack of **police visibility** as an issue.
- x) **Over reliance on local volunteers** in rural areas. Participations requested support from the Solihull Partnership to join agencies up to help rural communities to share activities and be aware of facilities available to them.

Melanie Lockey confirmed that we would programme these issues for discussion at future meetings and will invite the appropriate service providers to be present to discuss these.

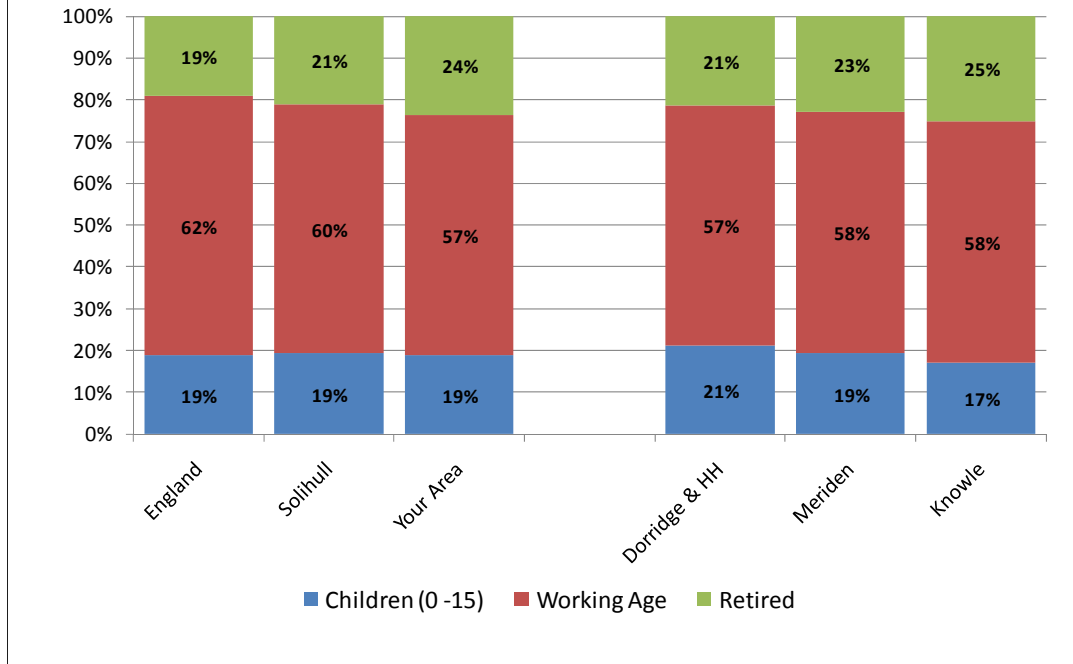
Overview of Knowle, Dorridge & Hockley Heath, Meriden, Balsall Common and Surrounding Villages

Prepared by Solihull Observatory





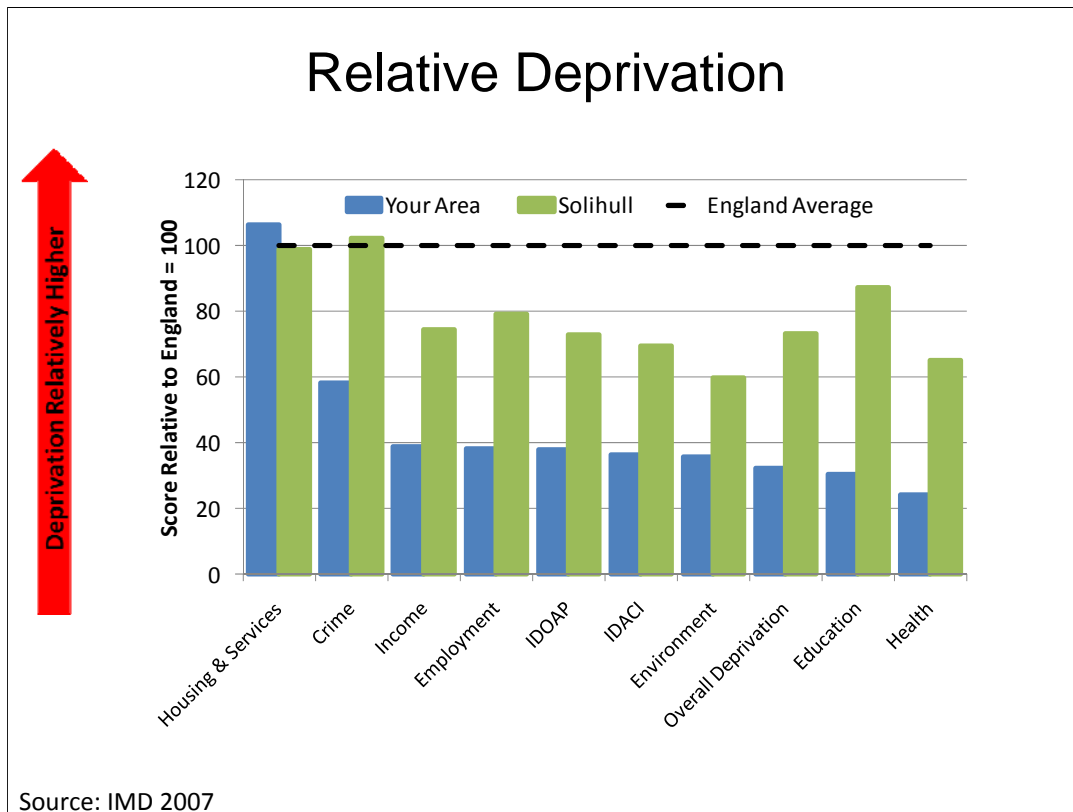
Population Profile Mid 2008



Solihull has an older population than the national average at 2001 Census the median age for the Borough was 40 years compared with 37 years nationally. This is reflected in the higher proportion of people of retirement age than England as a whole.

In this area the profile is more pronounced than Solihull; with a higher retired pop (24%).

Bickenhill is not included in this presentation in ward comparisons as 80% of the population falls outside of this profile area.



The IMD (Index of Multiple Deprivation) allows the relative deprivation experienced by local neighbourhoods (defined by LSOAs~Lower Super Output Areas of approximately 1,500 people) to be measured in a national context.

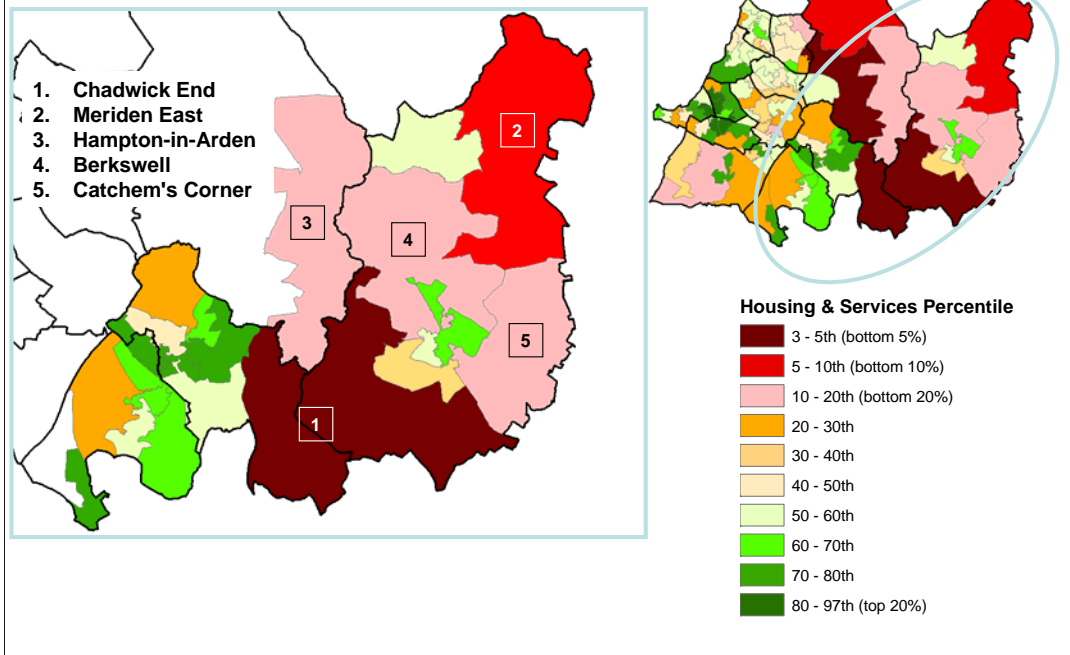
The overall deprivation measures comprises of 9 broad socio-economic and housing categories.

In general Solihull is subject to relative limited deprivation with just 10 LSOAs (all in North Solihull) in the bottom 10% most deprived neighbourhoods nationally and none in the bottom 5%.

This chart shows that with the exception of crime Solihull is subject to lower levels of deprivation than England as a whole across all categories.

Only Barriers to Housing and Services is worse (perhaps surprisingly at first) in this area than the England Average. This is explored further in the next slide. The rest of the individual domains are well below both the England and Solihull levels.

Barriers to Access to Housing & Services



Two areas are in the bottom 10% nationally here with one (Chadwick End) in the bottom 5%.

Barriers to Housing and Services is made up of:

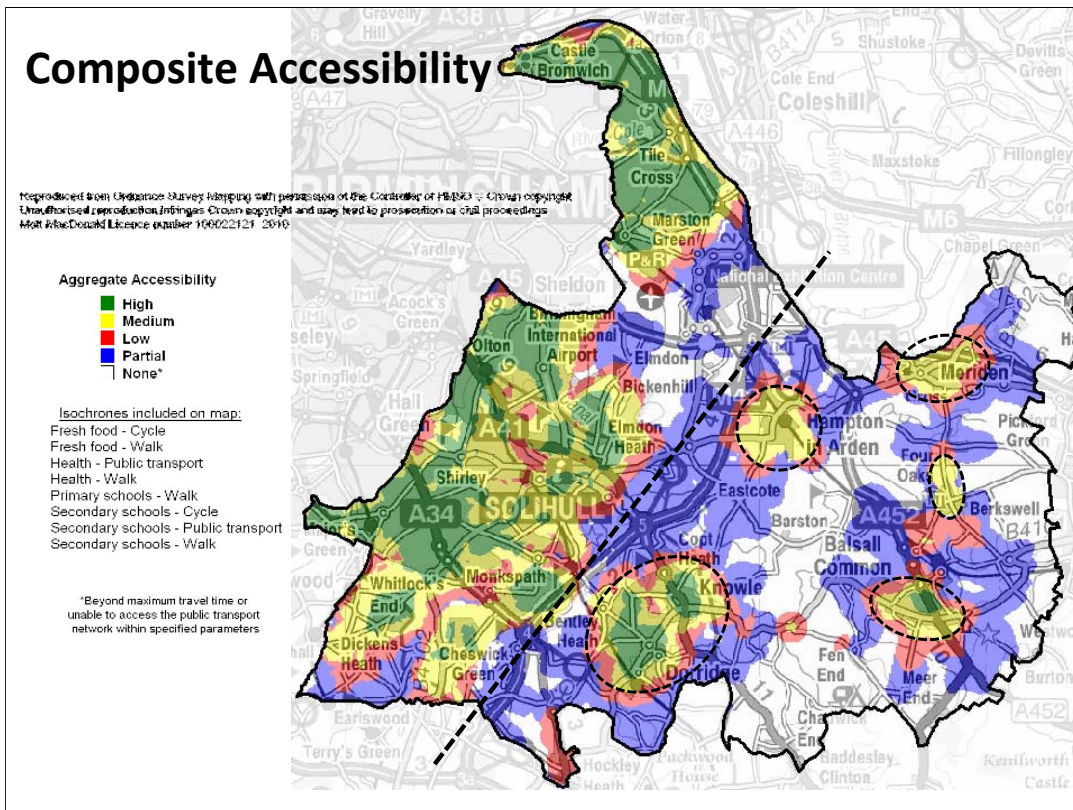
Sub Domain: Wider Barriers

- Household overcrowding
- Homeless households applications
- Difficulty of access to owner occupation

Sub Domain: Geographical Barriers

- Road distance to GP premises
- Road distance to general store or supermarket
- Road distance to a primary school
- Road distance to a Post Office or sub Post Office

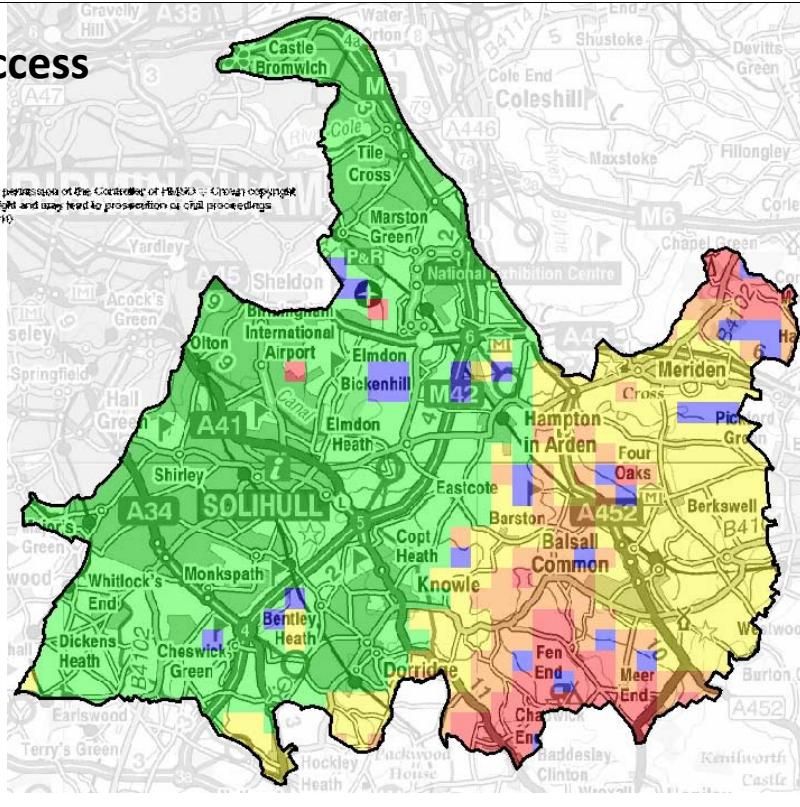
The comparison with England makes more sense in view of the geographic factors and modelling by Mott MacDonald (next slide) which complements the IMD and being from 2010 is more timely.



Considerable difference with this forum area and the other three which have very limited white/purple areas. For instance there are large swathes that either have only partial [purple] or indeed no [white] accessibility (as modelled by Mott MacDonald). This model combines access to fresh food, health and education services – note that this is a general view and in some parts of the Borough access to further education for example can show a very different pattern to that above (where this area actually fares quite well compared with some parts of the urban west).

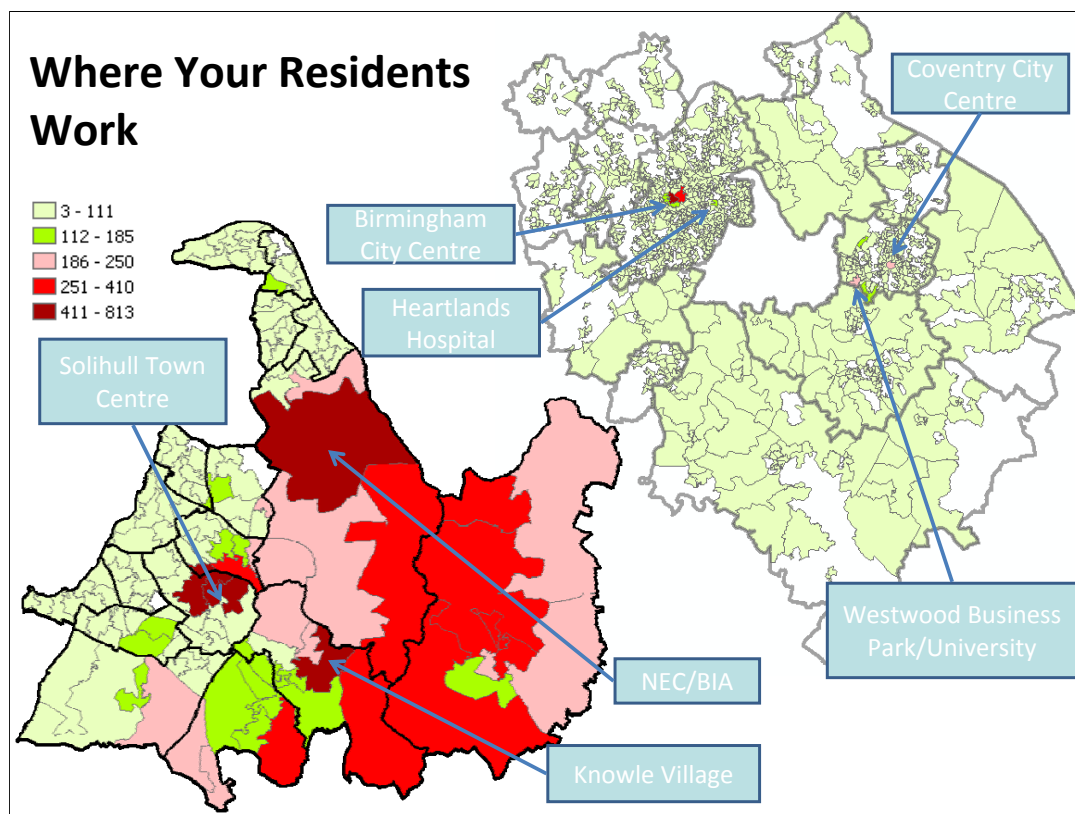
Total Jobs Access

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Map #MacDonald Licence number 106622121 2010



This is within 30 minutes travel time by cycle, public transport or on foot at 9AM on a weekday.

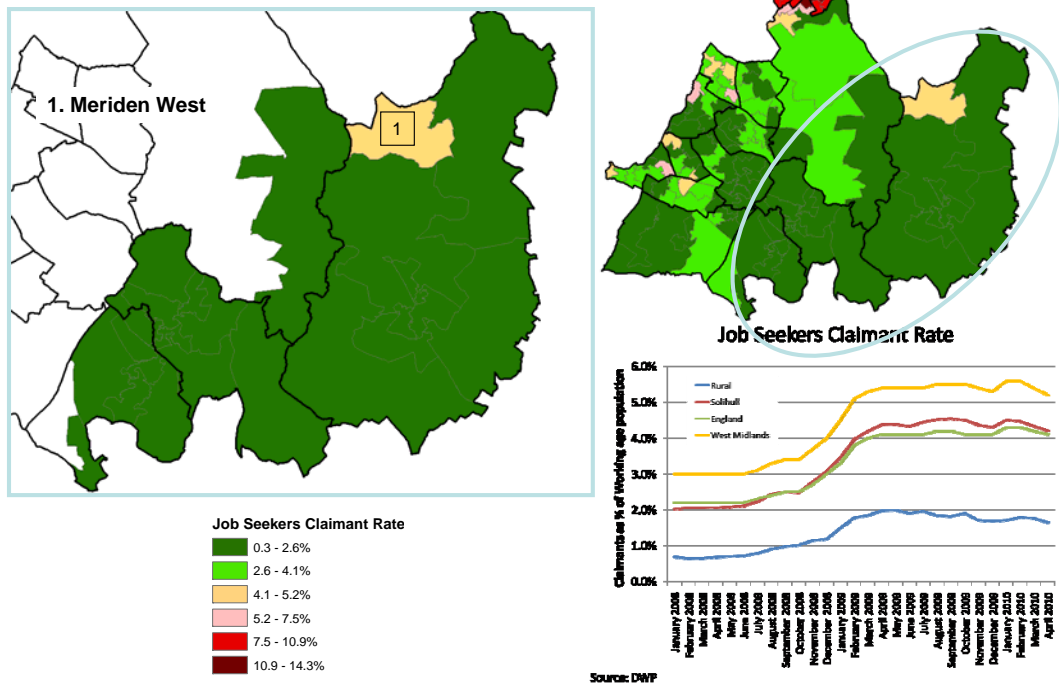
It should be noted that many people will travel to work by car in this area



This is from the 2001 Census so there is some caution i.e. Blythe Valley Business Park may have seen an increased rating. However, it is clear that although there are some clear destinations (Solihull Town Centre, Birmingham City Centre and the NEC/BIA complex) there is a very local focus which will include micro and home based businesses.

Outside of the West Midlands Mets commuting is most clearly displayed to; Warwick/Leamington, Hatton/Lapworth, Kenilworth/Stoneleigh, Coleshill (all Warwick and North Warks districts) and to a lesser extent Wythall, Henley and Gaydon (the latter is really the extent of the economic area due to historic ties with the Rover Group).

Job Seekers Claimant Rate



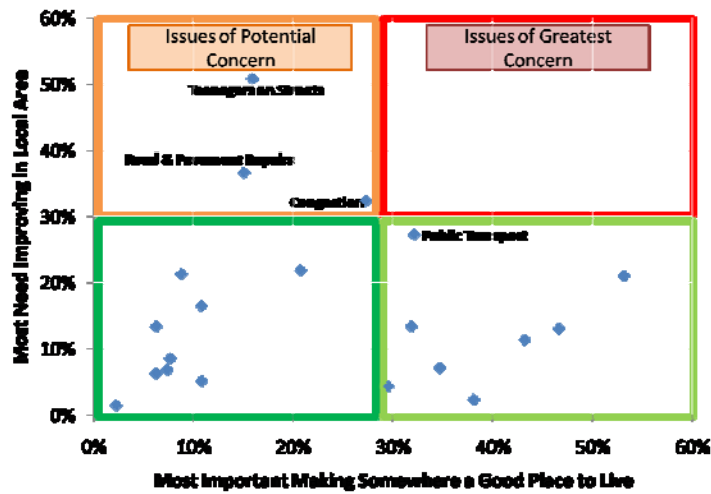
At 1.7% (April 2010) the job seekers claimant rate is below the Borough (4.2%) and national average (4.1%).

In common with comparators the rate in this area increased sharply between October 2008 and 2009 (from 1.0% to 1.9%) before edging downwards.

Areas with a high claimant rate are largely confined to North Solihull with some select pockets elsewhere.

Only Meriden East has a claimant rate at or above the national average.

Resident Priorities from Place Survey 2008



Improvement Priority		
	Your Area	Borough
Teenagers on Streets	51%	45%
Road & Pavement Repairs	37%	34%
Traffic Congestion	32%	32%
Public Transport	27%	18%
Affordable Housing	22%	20%
Sports Facilities	21%	14%
Crime	21%	27%

Respondents to the Place Survey were asked which of 20 aspects of life were most important to making an area a good place to live and which of those 20 were most in need of improvement in their local area.

Plotting the results on a matrix provides some indication of the aspects of life that are most in need of redress in this area, with the red quadrant representing areas of greatest concern and the orange quadrant representing issues to place on a “watchlist” because residents regard these issues as in need of improvement.

In this area there are no aspects of community life to place in the issues of greatest concern but **Congestion** and **Public Transport** are fairly near. Alongside Congestion other areas in the “watchlist” include **Teenagers on Streets** and **Road & Pavement Repairs**. **Crime** (though not highlighted above) is deemed of the highest importance.

Meriden Parish Plan 2009 – Resident Improvement Priorities
Better facilities & activities for young people and better play facilities for whole community (key priority)
Road safety and better bus services , particularly to Solihull (key priority)
Community policing & action to reduce the fear of crime and ASB (key priority)
More affordable housing for local people
Better facilities for older people and improve community spirit and involvement (especially relations between the generations)
Tackle climate change raising local awareness, home energy saving and recycling
Balsall Common Village Plan 2009 – Resident Improvement Priorities
Improve Medical facilities , increase surgery capacity, opening hours and access (being addressed through new health centre at Riddings Hill)
Traffic congestion , a complete review of existing infrastructure capacity to accommodate village expansion and additional car journeys. Also associated speeding hotspots.
Provide more for Youngsters to do , including addressing limited holiday facilities, swimming pool access
Improve range of shops , address issues of vacant shops and encourage local support for shops
Improve bus services , increase routes (round village bus and service to Warwick/Kenilworth) and frequency of service.
Address local parking issues , especially in village centre and around schools

Balsall Common, Hampton-in-Arden and Meriden have gone through a process of preparing a Parish Plan in the last few years.

These slides summarise the key issues that were identified in the three plans. There is some commonality between them and also with the Place Survey (transport and accessibility, and things for young people to do [Meriden and Balsall]).

There is also some interesting local variation (e.g. medical facilities, congestion and parking in Balsall Common, speeding and general maintenance in Hampton in Arden, affordable housing and Anti-Social Behaviour in Meriden).

Hampton-in-Arden Parish Plan 2010 – Proposed Actions with a High Impact on Community Ratings

Key agencies to investigate publicising **energy saving measures and grants** to tackle potential low uptake

Speeding through the village is considered a problem by an overwhelming majority of respondents (84%) – pursue **use of Section 106 funding** in any new developments to appease this concern

Investigate the setting up of more **Neighbourhood Watch** schemes

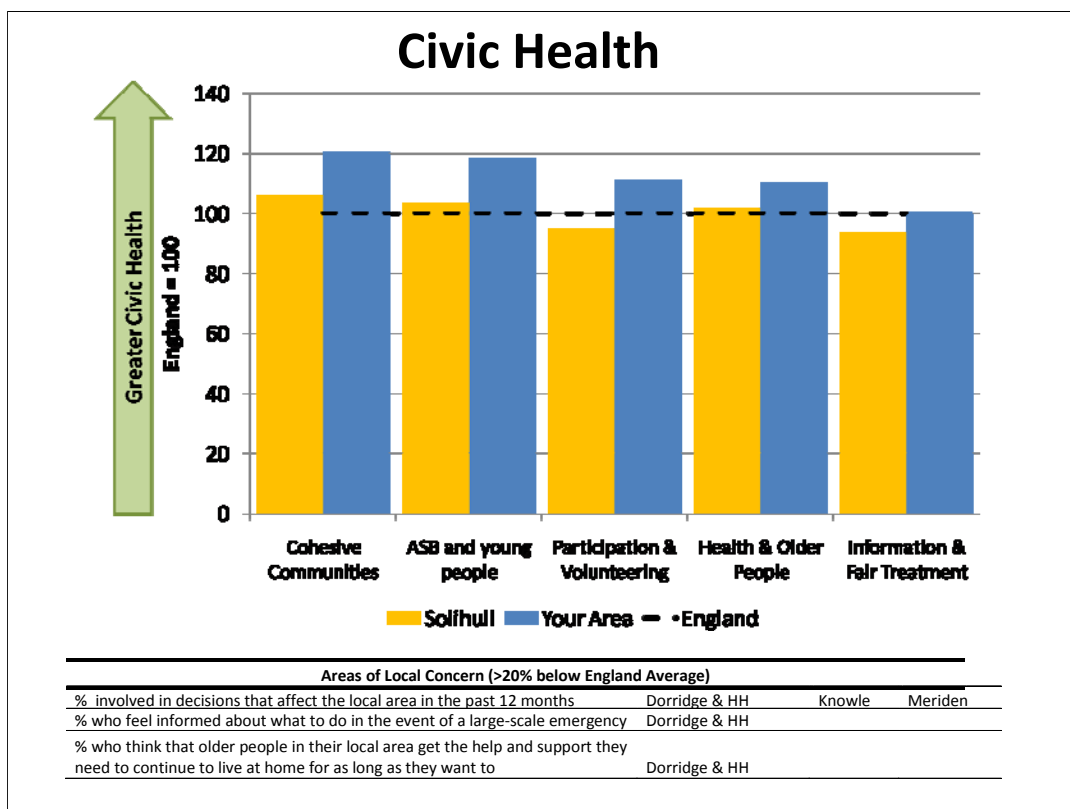
More promotion of the parish councillor role as a “**Community Champion**”

There are two strands to environment improvement: 71% of respondents support principle of a **village caretaker** (and increase to Precept) with likely duties; clearing unwanted vegetation and other obstructions, litter picking and maintaining pavements

Other strand is working with SMBC through; **Highways Maintenance Plan** (access to trains and shops), addressing **specific street lighting** problems (bottom of Fentham Road and Old Station Road) and investigate new contract for **recycling to include plastic**

Review design of website through **Communications Working Group** and investigate this media for publicising **planning applications** and criteria for objections (ie 81% of respondents thought further apartments in the village should not be supported)

Web development for the purposes of communication is an interesting observation.



There are 18 National Indicators in the Place Survey which provide a measure of the civic health of the area at a ward level.

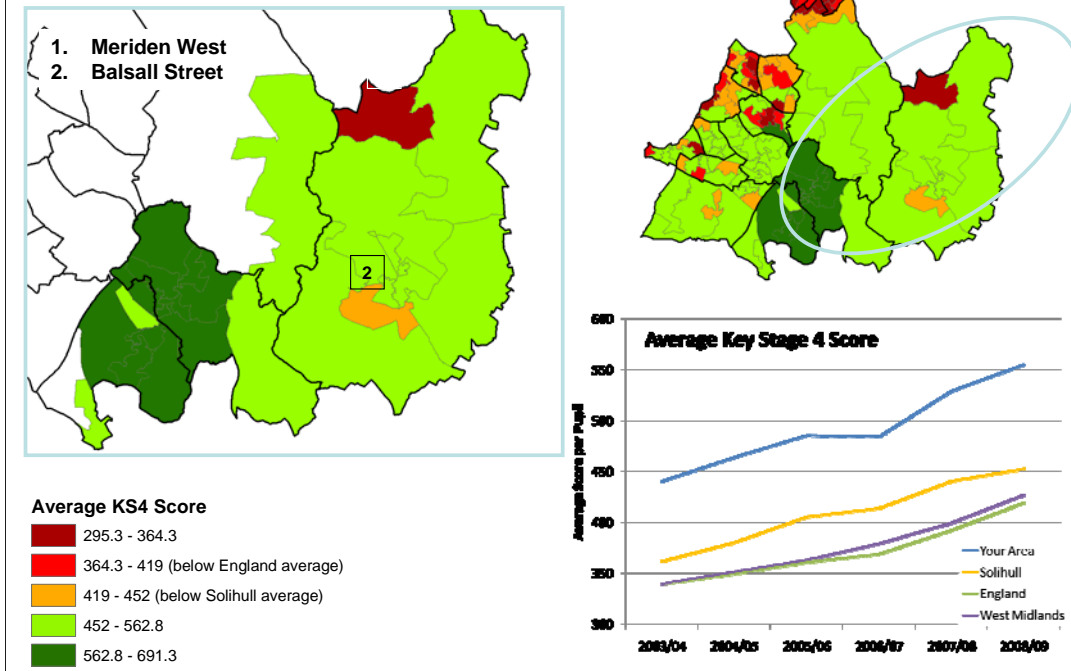
These 18 Nis can be grouped into five broad themes:

1. **Cohesive communities** (addressing issues of community relations and belonging)
2. **ASB and young people** (how young people are viewed in the community).
3. **Health and older people** (health of the population and support and satisfaction of older people)
4. **Information and Fair Treatment** (whether public service effectively communicate and treat people fairly)
5. **Participation & Volunteering** (involvement in the community and decision making process)

This area has a better profile than Solihull (and England) as a whole.

Potential local issue with involvement in decision-making aspect of **Participation & Volunteering** where all three wards are 20% below the England average.

Pupil Attainment at Key Stage 4



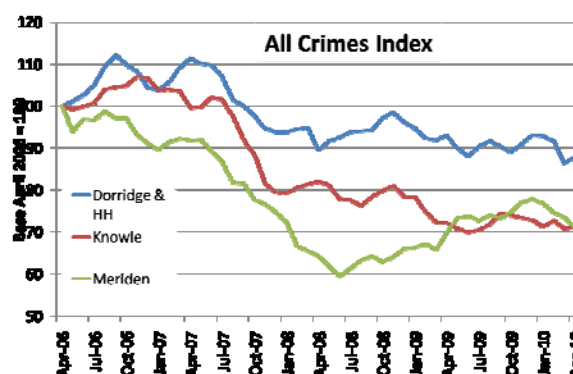
Average GCSE and Equivalent Point Score Per Pupil at the End of KS4 (Key Stage 4), based on pupil residence for 2008/09.

In a national context average KS4 score is very strong in this area.

Only Meriden West has a lower KS4 score than the England average this could of course be a single cohort issue and needs to be monitored.

Safer Communities

	Crime Rate per 1,000 Population (except burglary rate per 1,000 households)					ASB Rate per 1,000 Population			
	All Crime	Residential Burglary	Criminal Damage	Wounding & Assault	Vehicle Crime	All Anti-Social Behaviour	Rowdy Behaviour (Youth)	Nuisance Neighbours	Vehicle Nuisance
West Midlands	82.7	16.4	13.9	13.1	10.3	64.9	16.5	7	4.5
Solihull	73.3	13.3	11.3	9.7	9.8	51.3	15	6.2	5.0
Meriden	44.9	16.3	4.4	2.5	10.7	24.2	7.4	2.7	3.2
Dorridge & HH	34.3	11.7	4.9	3.7	7.0	22.3	7.1	1.6	3.5
Knowle	33.4	9.5	4.7	2.6	4.6	18.7	5.3	1.9	1.5



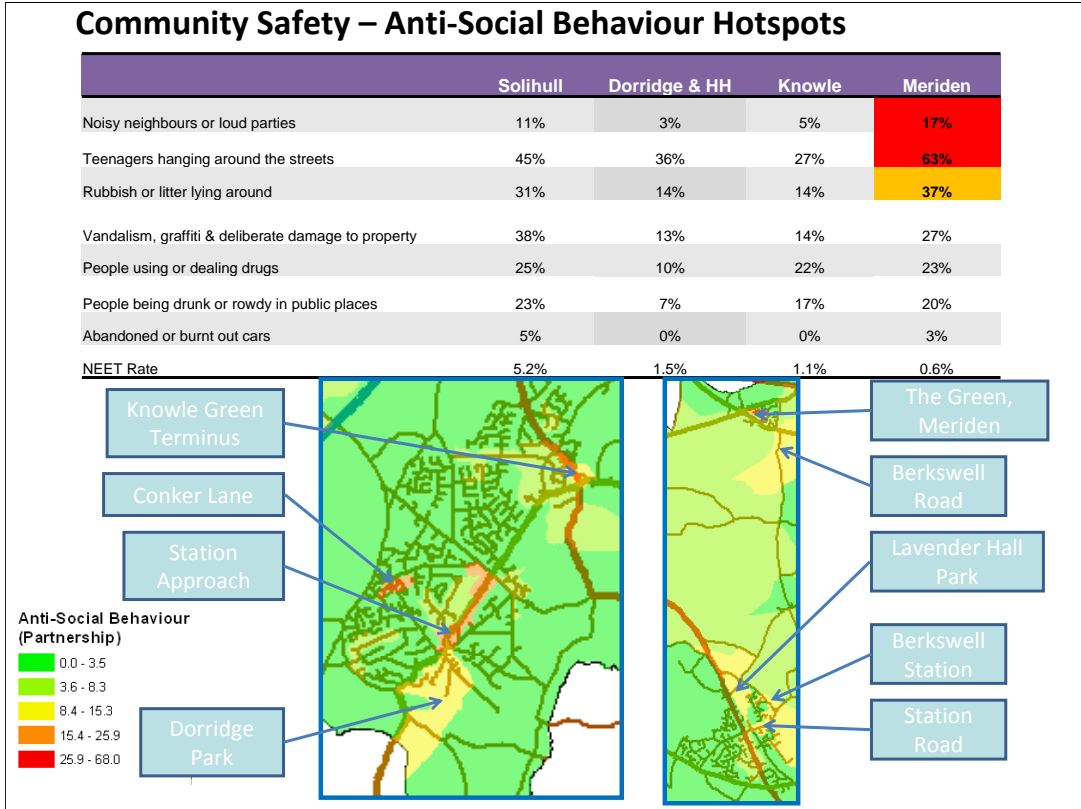
Chart

The number of reported crimes has trended downwards across Solihull and the West Midlands over the last four years.

The wards in this area have followed this pattern, with the number of annual recorded crimes (Apr 2006-Apr 2010)

Table

Orange squares rate below Solihull average, red squares below West Midlands average.



Table

Place Survey (2008) asked respondents whether certain ASB/low level crime issues were a problem in their neighbourhood.

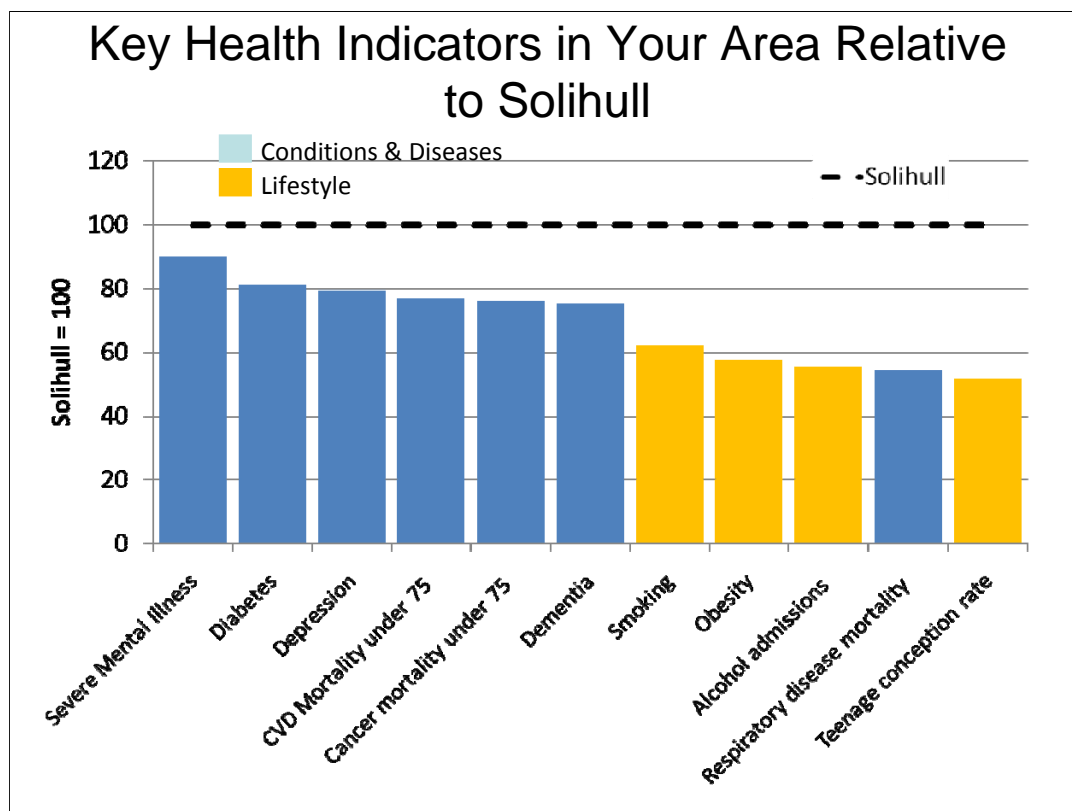
Red squares 20% worse than the Solihull average, orange squares less than 20% worse than the Solihull average.

ASB not viewed as especially problematic by respondents in this area, with the exceptions of noisy neighbours and teenagers hanging around in Meriden.

Map

This maps reported ASB incidents at Output Area (lowest statistical disaggregation).

Station Road in Dorridge and The Green in Meriden are the most significant hotspots.



This slide uses surgery and ward data from the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) (from 2008). It shows the prevalence of key health indicators (diseases and conditions) in this area relative to the Solihull average.

This area is better than Solihull in all areas and it is interesting to note that conditions directly linked to lifestyle behaviours (obesity, smoking, alcohol admissions) are more favourable still.