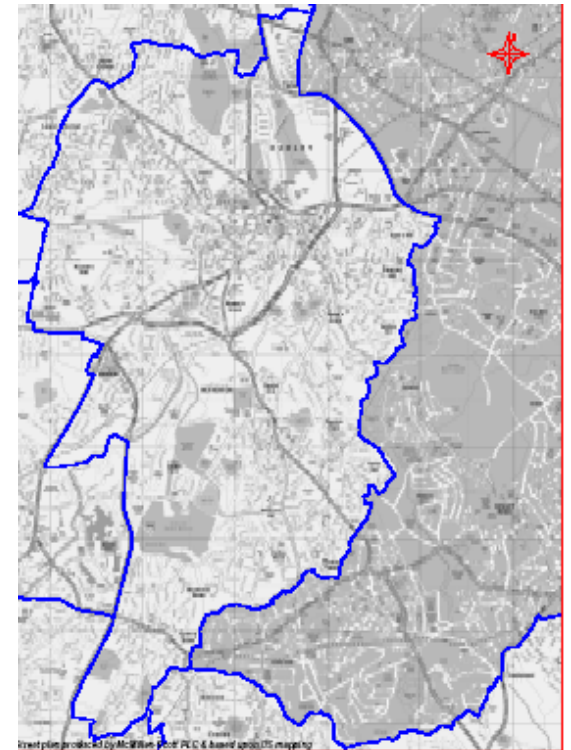


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LISTENING TO YOU....

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA



Welcome

On behalf the Central Dudley Area Committee, welcome to our first Local Community Plan for the Central Dudley Area which covers the wards of **Castle & Priory; St James's; St Thomas's; Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews; Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood**

As Elected Members, we hear about many day-to-day issues that cause concern to you, our local residents. Through our Councilor's surgeries and our Area Committee process, we recognize the need to focus on the more immediate concerns of local residents. Concerns over issues such as Anti Social Behavior, litter and graffiti, lack of facilities for young people are regularly raised as concerns and within this plan we include action plans to address these and other frequently raised issues which we believe are:

Anti-Social Behaviour

Housing

Care & Health

Transport & Traffic

Environment

Jobs & Training

Education & Leisure

Regeneration Activities

We know that we cannot deliver this Plan on our own. We need to work in partnership and link our Plan to those of others and ensure that they support one another. We seek, as Elected Members, to actively support partnership activity in addressing these priorities whilst at the same time ensuring appropriate focus is given to the geographical area of Central Dudley.

Our Central Dudley Area Committee is a means of being accountable to you, the people of the central Dudley area. Our meetings are held at various venues around the central Dudley area and you have the opportunity there to raise questions relating to the Wards in which you live. We invite you to work with us to improve our central Dudley area through this Plan so that we can continuously review it and see it as a means of dialogue through the Area Committee and with your Ward Councilors on an individual basis.

Cllr. Mahbubur Rahman
Chair – Central Dudley Area Committee

CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN PRIORITIES 2006

Theme	Issues
Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address Anti-Social Behaviour • To support alcohol bans in public spaces in the central Dudley area in connection with anti-social behaviour • To enforce Tenancy Agreements in connection with anti-social behaviour
Care and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist in the increase of child care places in the central Dudley area • To promote the improvement in the general health of community including banning of smoking in public places • To help tackle alcohol problems in the central Dudley area e.g. through use of education programmes highlighting long-term affects • To contribute to work addressing the prevention of and the consequences of teenage pregnancy • To promote integrated funding strategies to improve health and well-being of the community • To support healthy lifestyles including regular exercise
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve improvement in the environment of the central Dudley are through tree maintenance and street lighting • To co-operate with Friends organizations where appropriate to work for the improvement of local parks and open spaces and so called “grot spots” (land not used). • To help resolve litter and fly-tipping problems across the central Dudley area and seek enforcement where required • To seek improvement of business, private and residential buildings to enhance the appearance of the area including the gateways to central Dudley area
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage improvements in the general condition and quality of council and private sector housing across the central Dudley area • To ensure that the Lettings policy is implemented in a fair way and pilot a 'Choice Based Lettings' model for allocating properties

Theme	Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all Council Properties meet the 'Decent Homes' Standard by 2010 and continue to explore other options, where and when appropriate, in relation to improving council and private housing stock.
Jobs and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create positive link with business community • To assist in the promotion of jobs in the central Dudley area because of the above average unemployment in some areas • To support training programmes in central Dudley to provide local jobs for local people
Leisure & Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help with the provision of additional leisure facilities and explore external funding to help with provision of leisure facilities in central Dudley area • To improve Leisure facilities across the central Dudley area • To seek greater provision of Youth Services in the central Dudley area • <i>Through Education programmes</i>, help tackle alcohol problems in the central Dudley area as well as use such programmes to contribute to work addressing the prevention of and the consequences of teenage pregnancy
Transport & Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make public transport better meet the needs of people in CDAC area • To encourage traffic calming measures across the central Dudley area to improve safety in certain areas • To promote good use of the Metro across the central Dudley area as a helpful public transport solution to alleviate congestion and improve the local economy and investment
Regeneration Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage continued development of local regeneration in the central Dudley area e.g. Town Centre development; Five bids to be made for central Dudley area • To revisit area needs assessments • To develop a “Master Plan” for each Ward • To create capacity to put bids together for the central Dudley area

OUR CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA – A BRIEF PROFILE

Our central Dudley area has a rich and varied profile. This profile is an important background to the challenges that face us.

The Past

Our history in the central Dudley area has been built on natural resources such as coal or iron ore. These influenced the growth of our area over many years. The Castle and the ruins of the Priory remind us that our area has seen many changes over the years such as the influence that the central Dudley area had in the development of the industrial revolution. Many people – some well-known - have been born in our area and contributed to the life of our locality and the nation. We cannot ignore the past. But this plan is about the future. To help us plan, however, we need to understand how things are at the moment.

The present

The Census 2001 showed us that our central Dudley area is a diverse area with a *population* of 66,326. Just over 50% are *women* and just under 50% are *men*. A quarter of our population are *aged 17* and under, just over 15% are over 65 with the remaining 60% being aged 18- 64.

The majority of our population (86.43%) are of white *ethnic origin*. The next largest ethnic groups are Pakistani (4.33%), Indian (3.74%), Caribbean (2.39%) with smaller numbers of other groups such as people with mixed ethnicity (1.27%), Irish (0.49%), Chinese (0.28%) or Bangladeshi (0.13%) ethnic origin

Our area has some of the most *disadvantaged* areas in Dudley Borough. Two areas within the wards of St James's and Castle and Priory are in the most deprived 10% in England.

We have a lot of *unemployment* e.g. Castle and Priory 6.9%; Netherton and Woodside 7.9%; St Andrews 4.5%; St James's 6.7%; and St Thomas's 8.1%. A map showing the deprivation levels in our area is shown on the next page.

The *health* of people in our area could also be improved. According to the 2001 Census, although over 63% of people said their health was “good”, nearly 37% of people said it was only “fairly good” or “not good.” Other examples include the life expectancy at birth for men in Netherton that is 8.5 years less than that in the Norton area of the Borough. Also, 11% of babies born in St Thomas’s ward have low birth weight and teenage conceptions in Dudley Borough are higher than the national average – in Castle and Priory there are over 100 per 1,000.

There is more for us to do in tackling *crime*. In 2004, almost a third (31%) of the total burglary of dwellings in the Borough happened in the police ‘beats’ covering our area. Similarly, 29% of the total vehicle crime in the Borough also happened in the police ‘beats’ covering our area.

Working Together To Make Our Plan Work

To make our Plan work, it needs to take everything we have said about health, crime and the age of our population into account. To deliver our Plan and improve our area it is vital that we hear your views. There are many ways to make your views known to us. Some of these are:

- **Ward Councilors for the Wards of Castle & Priory; St James’s; St Thomas’s; Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews; Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood** through local surgeries, telephone, e-mail, participation in specific groups or activities.
- *Our Members of Parliament.*
- Responding to *surveys or research*
- *feedback, a compliment or a complaint* about Council services or those of other public sector agencies, voluntary organizations or private businesses in our area.

- Participation in *voluntary or interest groups*
- *School Councils and Youth Parliaments* – giving young people a stronger voice in our area.

Where do we go from here?

We believe our plans must be flexible and we know that our Plan needs to fit in with other plans for our area. Things can change quickly over time and new opportunities can develop e.g. the Metro link going through our area. Therefore, we will review and monitor this Plan.

We invite all of you in the central Dudley area to work with us in improving our area for the benefit of all of us who live in and value our central Dudley area.