

# SOCIAL AUDIT NORTH. BATTERSEA

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This report is based largely upon a physical exploration of the area between June- July 2006 and interviews and desktop research, which took place until mid October. As far as possible information has been verified at the time the report was written in late October. The author takes no responsibility for inaccuracies resulting from any ongoing changes during the audit period.

## Executive Summary

### The Audit Described

#### Description of the proposal

Thames Community Foundation (TCF) commissioned a Social Auditor to look closely at local needs in North Battersea. Thames Community Foundation seeks to encourage local philanthropy, to support local community and voluntary activity and bring about measurable changes and improvements to meet local needs. Thames seeks to achieve this through building partnerships with donors and grant applicants and delivering effective, innovative grants to local community and voluntary groups.

Thames Community Foundation is working to build a store of permanent Endowed, or Community, Capital to support grant making in Battersea and elsewhere in its areas of operation forever.

This social audit, described in this report, took place between late June and October 2006.

#### Methodology

Through the Social Audit the consultant:

- a. Physically explored the area in order to locate centres of community support and note the presence (or absence) of community facilities within the area.
- b. Contacted and interviewed people delivering community support within the area
- c. Collected information from other recent research in the area, which highlighted local needs and aspirations- this included desktop research to obtain relevant statistical information for the area.
- d. Wherever possible sought the views of people living in the area- this included many people working or volunteering for community support organisations or services in the area (see b above)
- e. Collated and analysed the material collected, and drew conclusions about local needs, services, issues and gaps in services
- f. Made recommendations to TCF.

The area of study was determined in consultation with Thames Community Foundation and the private donor who financed the project

Phase 1. Information was gathered by physical exploration and observation of the area on a street-by-street basis.

Phase 2. Interviewing key people at various facilities noted in Phase 1. In general, face-to-face meetings were for up to one hour or interviews by phone for no more than 10 minutes [APPENDIX 1- Interview list]. Concurrently information and contacts were gained from desktop research or word of mouth as interviews proceeded. Within the time constraints of the research (Approx 100 hour's total) some interviews were conducted at lesser depth with residents in the area and also by writing to 9 Tenants and Residents' Associations (TRA's) in the area.

[APPENDIX 2- Sample letter to Tenant and Residents' Associations plus distribution].

Enquiries and meetings were reasonably open ended but based upon 3 basic parameters:

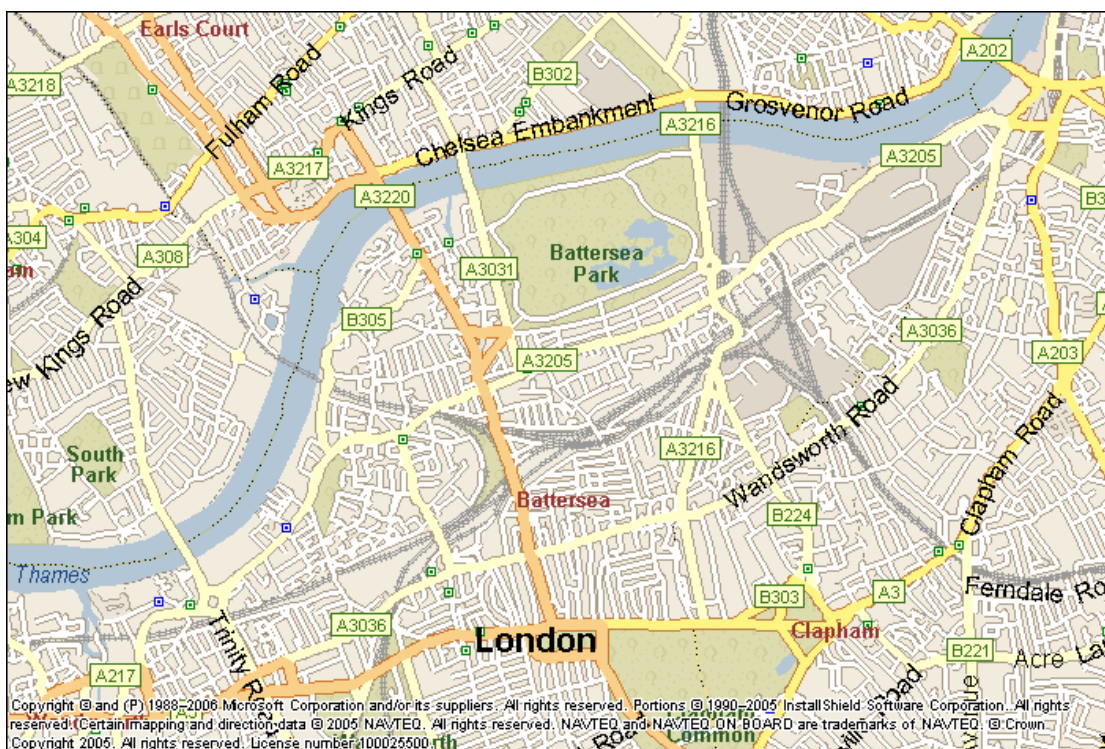
- An understanding of the services offered to the local community by the interviewee's organisation.
- The needs within the organisation and the needs of the communities in which they worked.
- An overall insight into life in North Battersea- "*make a wish for Battersea*".

In some of the less formal enquiries residents were asked to name 3 likes/ 3 dislikes about living in Battersea and make one wish for Battersea as a whole.

As the research progressed and certain overriding needs within the area emerged there were more specific enquiries and towards the end of the research hypothetical recommendations were explored. It was also possible to connect one or two potential partner organisations.

## THE STUDY AREA DESCRIBED

### 1. The geographical area



North Battersea roughly equates with Queenstown, St Mary's Park, Latchmere and Shaftesbury Wards in the London Borough of Wandsworth. To the north the area is bounded by the River Thames with the river bank running upstream from the far eastern end of North Elms Lane to Wandsworth Bridge. The southernmost boundary is from the junction of East Hill/Wandsworth Common Northside along

Wandsworth Common Northside/Battersea Rise/ Clapham Common Northside to Wix Lane. From here the Wandsworth boundary runs north crossing Wandsworth Road taking an irregular not entirely logical north easterly path to the north of Wandsworth Road to North Elms Lane.

Historically Battersea as a whole is a much larger area including Northcote ward to the south. Often dominated by Clapham Junction, Battersea is often a poorly determined area in many residents' minds.

The postcode for the study area is SW11 in its entirety and part of SW8, which is shared by parts of the London Borough of Lambeth (Vauxhall, South Lambeth and part of Stockwell.)

## **2. Brief description of the area**

North Battersea is an area of marked socio- economic contrasts- often within close proximity. Increasingly, often to the consternation of 'old Battersea' residents, the communities are sharply divided and separated by gated riverside developments that aspire towards life across the Thames in Chelsea. There are some large estates in the area with multi story high-rise flats. The principal ones are:

- Winstanley Estate
- Doddington and Rollo Estate
- Savona/ Patmore/ Carey Gardens Estates
- Surrey Lanes/ Somerset Estates
- Clapham Estate ( Peabody)

Because of their sheer size these are identified as the 5 principal estates in the area. However there are several other estates with high proportions of social housing dotted throughout the area. Some of the estates are managed by Housing Co-operatives on behalf of the landlord – Wandsworth Council - whilst others are managed directly by the council. There are also 3 principal housing associations in the area: The Peabody Trust, Servite and Threshold.

Throughout the area are privately owned houses and flats including luxury apartments overlooking the Thames, and Battersea Park, many of the smaller Victorian terraced properties (e.g. on the Shaftesbury Estate) are desirable and command a sale prices in the region of. £360/£425k.

Practically all major riverside industries associated with Battersea (e.g. Hovis and Mayhew's Flourmills and Morgan Crucible Co's factories) have disappeared. Some have been converted to housing or smart offices; others have been demolished to make way for residential non-commercial properties. Downstream, Battersea Power Station (one of the largest brown field development sites in the capital) with its protracted uncertain future. There are strings of small shops along Battersea Park Road and Wandsworth Road/ Lavender Hill with principal supermarkets around Clapham Junction (ASDA & Lidl). The main shopping complex nearby is the Southside Centre in Wandsworth Town.

Many of the estates have a paucity of shops providing basic everyday needs and the only remaining market near the old Battersea High Street is a shadow of

its former self although it still operates two days a week This relative decline has been compensated in some ways by a regular Sunday Boot Fair on the grounds of Battersea Technology College. In contrast many of the basic shops in the more fashionable areas have been replaced by restaurants, cafes, house agents and luxury goods outlets (e.g. Battersea Square and streets off Albert Bridge Road)

Battersea Park is the showcase open amenity space with a few others less manicured and patrolled open spaces dotted throughout the area. (E.g. York Gardens; Falcon Park, Fred Wells Gardens) The eastern end of the area has little open amenity space.

### **3. Transport links, getting about the area**

The presence of Clapham Junction mainline station (Britain's busiest Railway Station) and the proximity of Victoria and Vauxhall Stations (both Over ground and Underground) give the area a plentiful number and frequency of bus routes with services connecting the Patmore Estate (P5) and Shaftesbury Estate (G1) with the wider area. Footpaths across the area are generally good. The main access problem is caused by the number of railway lines that are traversed by short tunnels and bridges. Several of these are not welcoming places-particularly at night and were often mentioned throughout the audit (especially the bridge between Culvert Road and the Shaftesbury Estate and the footpath via the tunnel which connects the residential area and schools W of Falcon Park with Latchmere Road.) Some of the estates have steps and barriers designed to prevent cyclists speeding through the area. Some of the steps are counter productive for less physically able people or those with buggies or wheel chairs. Throughout the audit the researcher travelled by foot, cycle and public transport and experienced no problems getting about the area, however, many of the areas are very restricted for people with physical disabilities.

### **4. Social profile**

#### **Ward statistics**

Traditionally Ward statistics have been used as a comparative measure of deprivation for a range of social conditions. Ward boundaries in Battersea were amended a few years ago.

#### **Super Output Areas (SOA's)**

These are more detailed statistics based upon areas with similar characteristics and population size (an average of 1200 people per Super Output Area). SOA's are more focussed than previous ward level information, which often 'averaged out' the conditions across an area with contrasting social conditions. This is of particular interest in Battersea where the contrasts are sharp.

The Neighbourhood Statistics Neighbourhood profile provides the following data for the Local Super Output Areas as Standard Indices of Deprivation data 2004. The ranking is out of a total of 32,482 LSOA's in England \***Note1**. These areas were chosen from postcodes on the following estates:

- Doddington & Rollo
- Winstanley
- Patmore

## Key to super Output Area (SOA) data

Scores below 1625 –the area is among the **most deprived 5%** in England and Wales

Scores below 3250 –the area is among the **most deprived 10%** in England and Wales

Scores below 4875 –the area is among the **most deprived 15%** in England and Wales

Scores below 6500 –the area is among the **most deprived 20%** in England and Wales

Scores below 8125 –the area is among the **most deprived 25%** in England and Wales

Measure	Patmore Estate	Winstanley Estate	Doddington & Rollo Estate
Income deprivation	1179	3894	3317
Employment	5531	6834	7133
Health	4421	6694	9453
Education	10461	11776	8155
Barriers to housing and services	5090	7239	6437
Local environment	6578	5474	4127
Crime	18052	9320	7603
Index of Multiple deprivation 2004	<b>3948</b>	<b>6022</b>	<b>5428</b>
IMD as a %	12.15%	18.53%	16.7%

In comparison Wandsworth was ranked 128 out of 354 Local Authorities with an average deprivation score of 11694 or 36%

### \*Note 1

The Indices of Deprivation 2004 were produced as a means of comparing different measures of deprivation in different parts of England. Based on 2001/02 data, they were calculated for both local authorities (LAs) and Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). In both cases the data were ranked such that a lower score indicates greater deprivation. In other words the most deprived local authority / LSOA is indicated by a rank of 1.

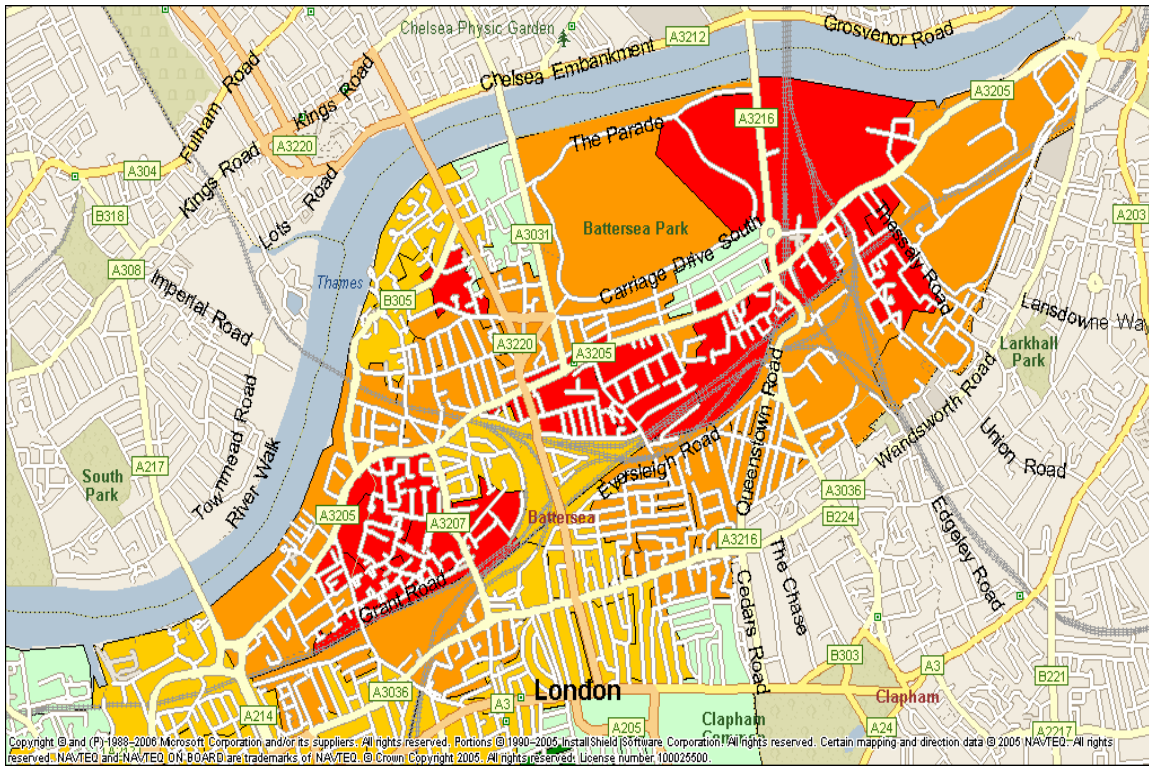
At LSOA level there were separate deprivation indices for income; employment; education, skills and training; health; barriers to housing and services; the living environment; and crime. In addition there was a combined 'Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

### The following areas in Battersea are SOA 'hotspots'

Geographic area described	Categories of deprivation (All in the bottom 10% with the bottom 2.5% shown in bold)
Queenstown Battersea Park Road stations + Patmore Estate	<b>Income deprivation affecting younger people</b> General overall income
N & W of Queenstown Battersea Park Road stations + part of Rollo & Doddington Estate	<b>Income deprivation affecting younger people</b> Income deprivation affecting older people

N of Clapham Junction + part Winstanley Estate	Income deprivation affecting older people Health and disability
Battersea Wilditch and Shaftesbury Estates	General overall income
W of Battersea High Road	Income deprivation affecting younger people Income deprivation affecting older people General overall income
Part of Rollo & Doddington Estate	Income deprivation affecting younger people
N of Clapham Junction	Income deprivation affecting older people Living environment

### Multiple deprivation in Battersea

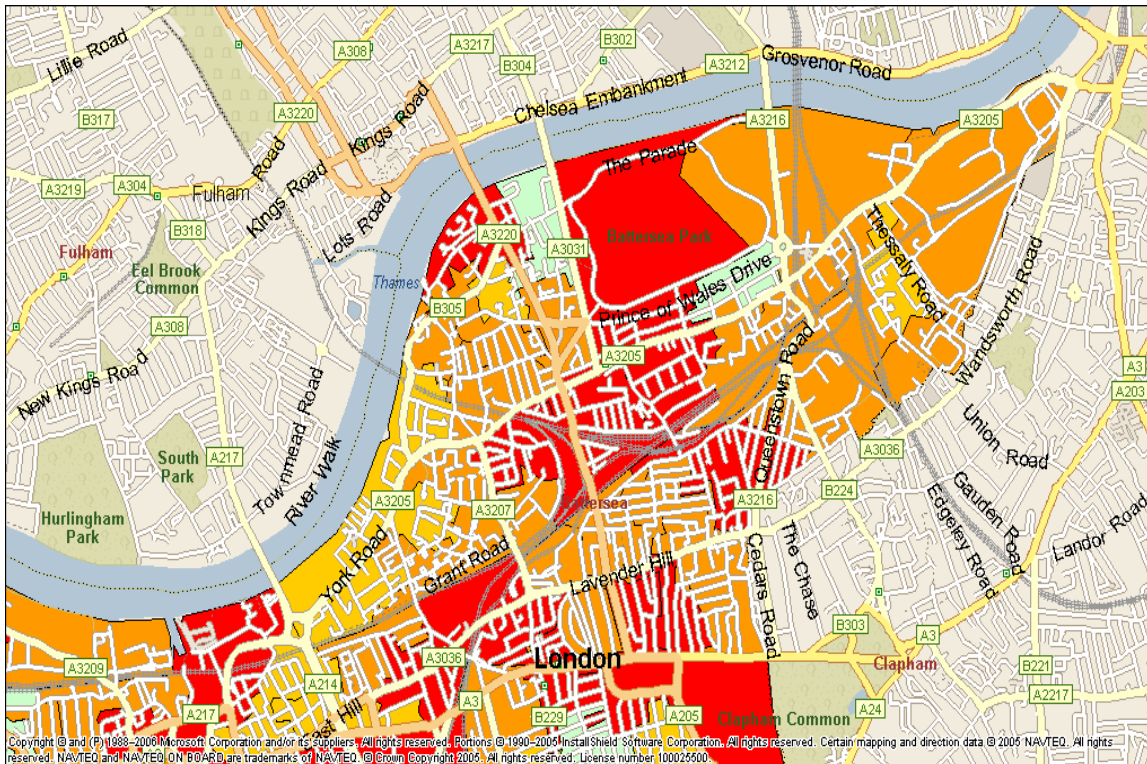


### Key to all maps

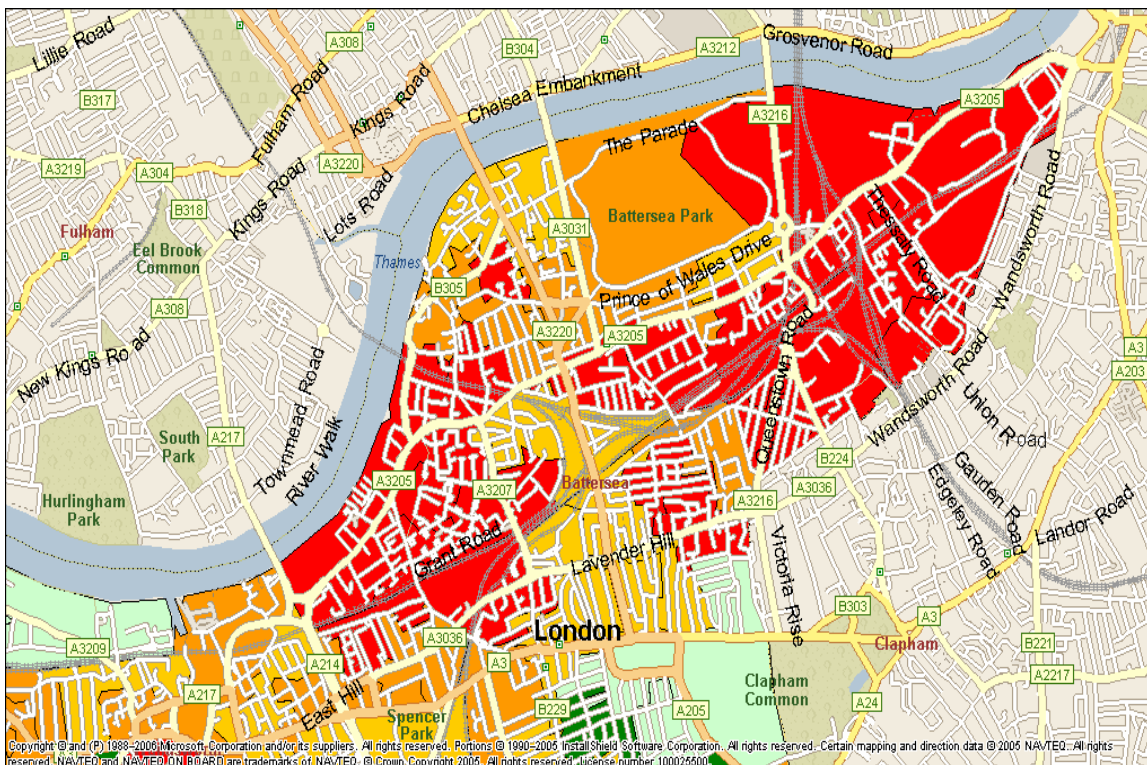
<b>Most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Next most deprived 20% of neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Neighbourhoods falling between the 40% to 60% bands of deprivation</b>
<b>Second least deprived 20% of neighbourhoods</b>
<b>Least deprived 20% of neighbourhoods</b>

The multiple deprivation figures can be broken down further, by category:

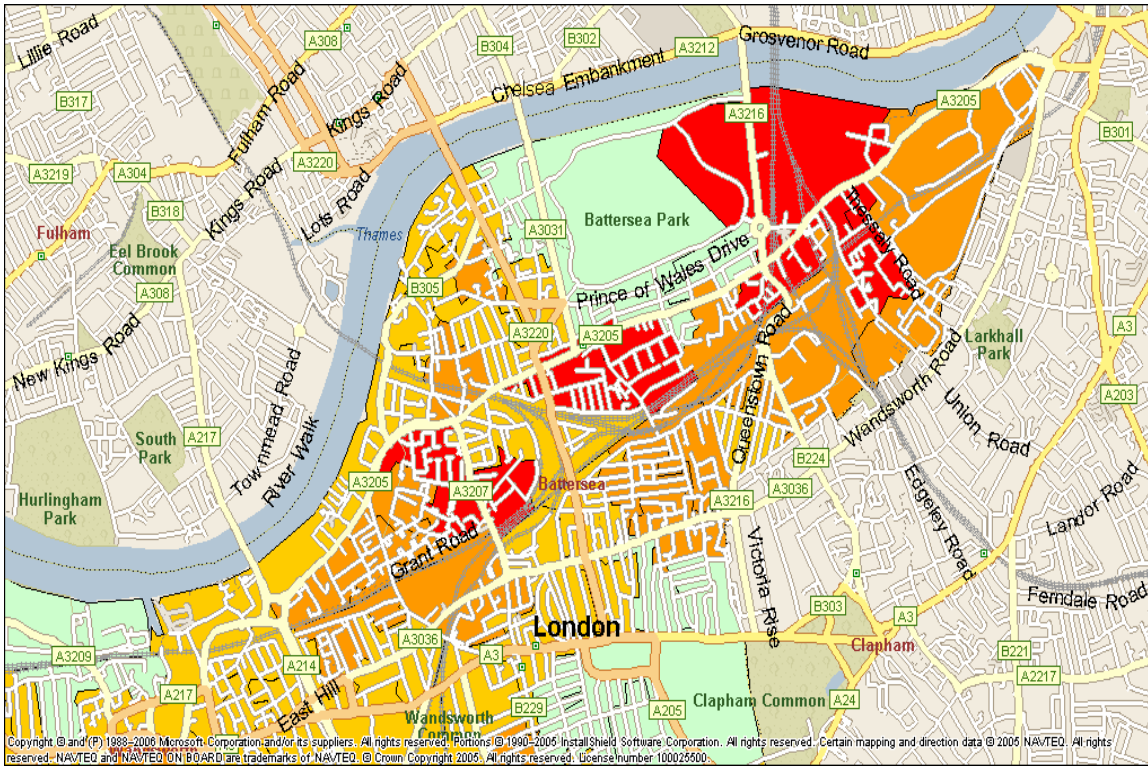
### Crime and Disorder



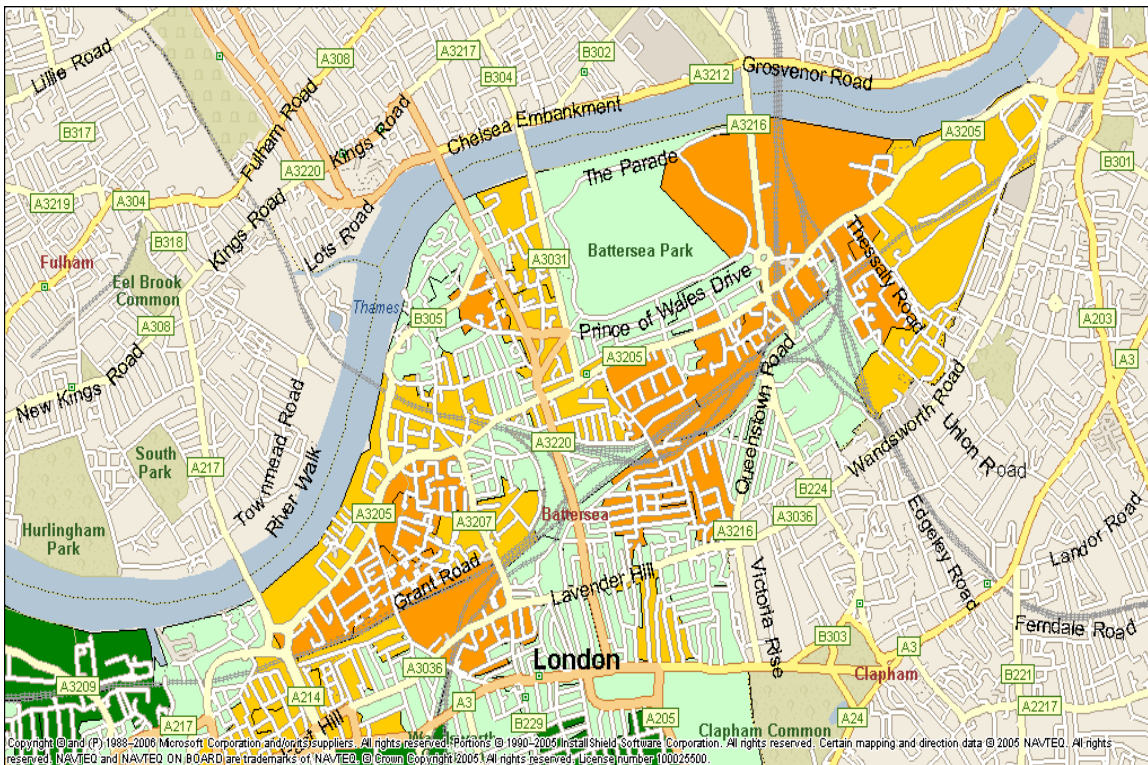
### Child poverty



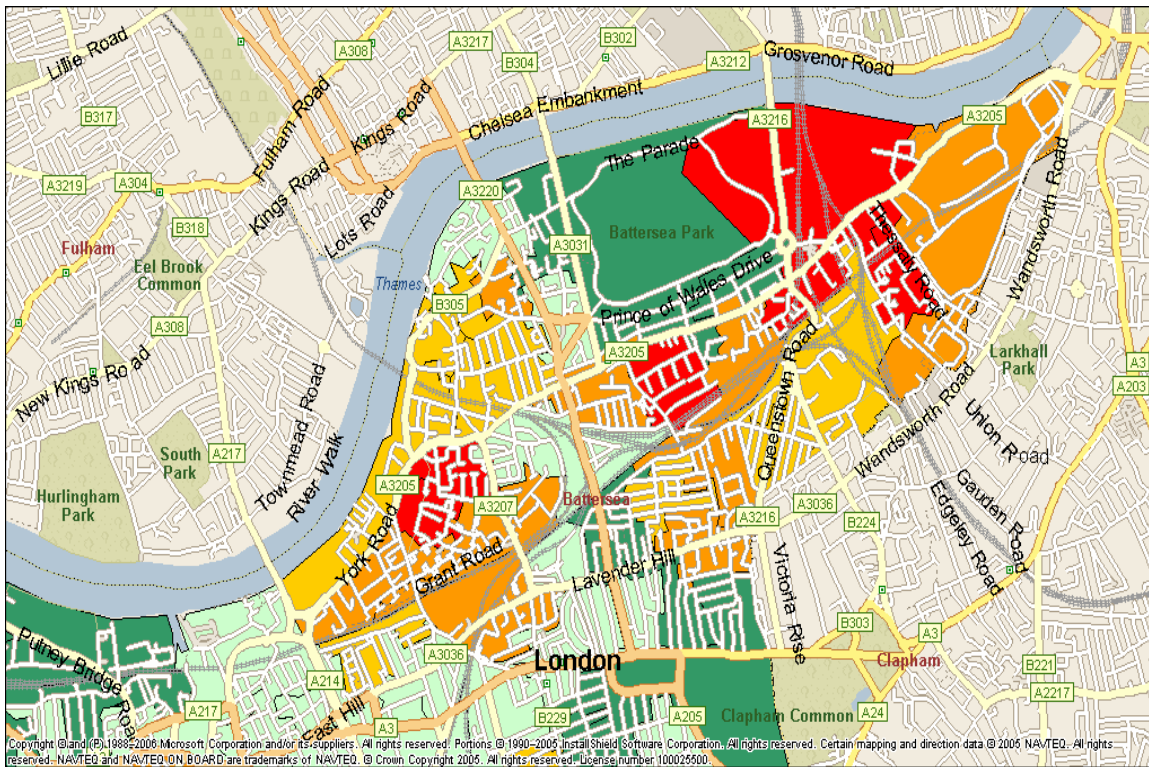
## Health and Disability



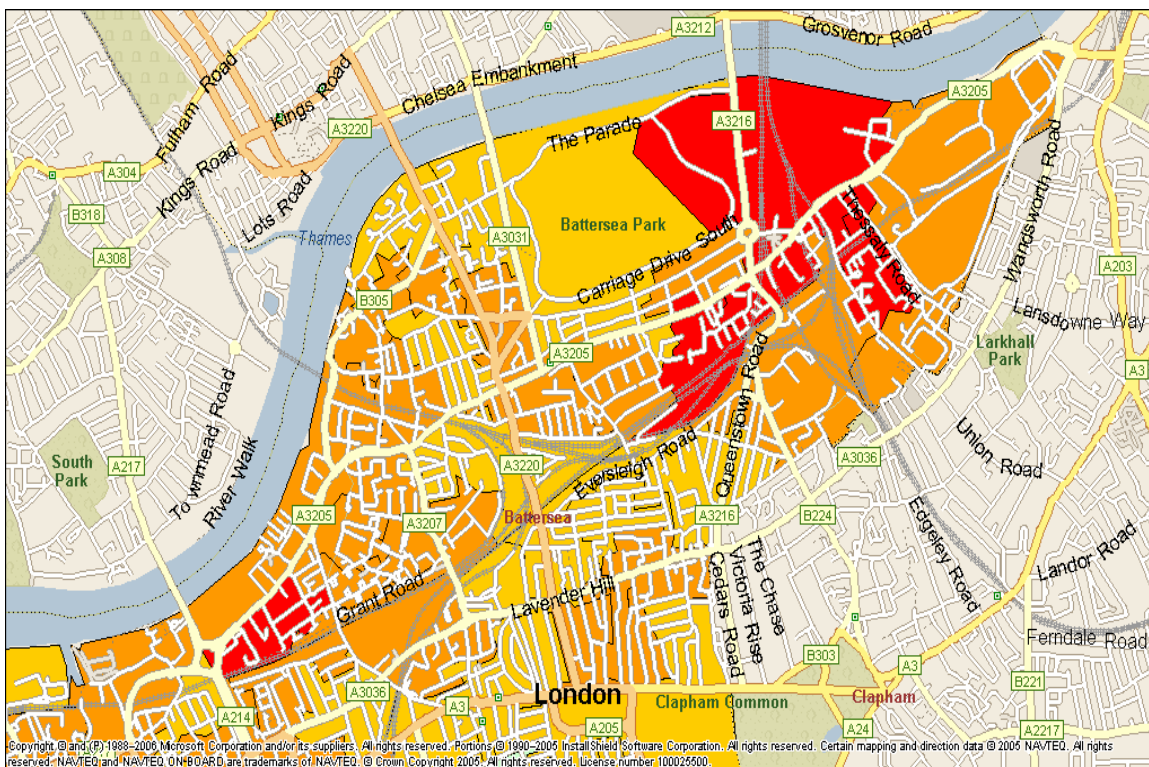
## Education Skills and Training



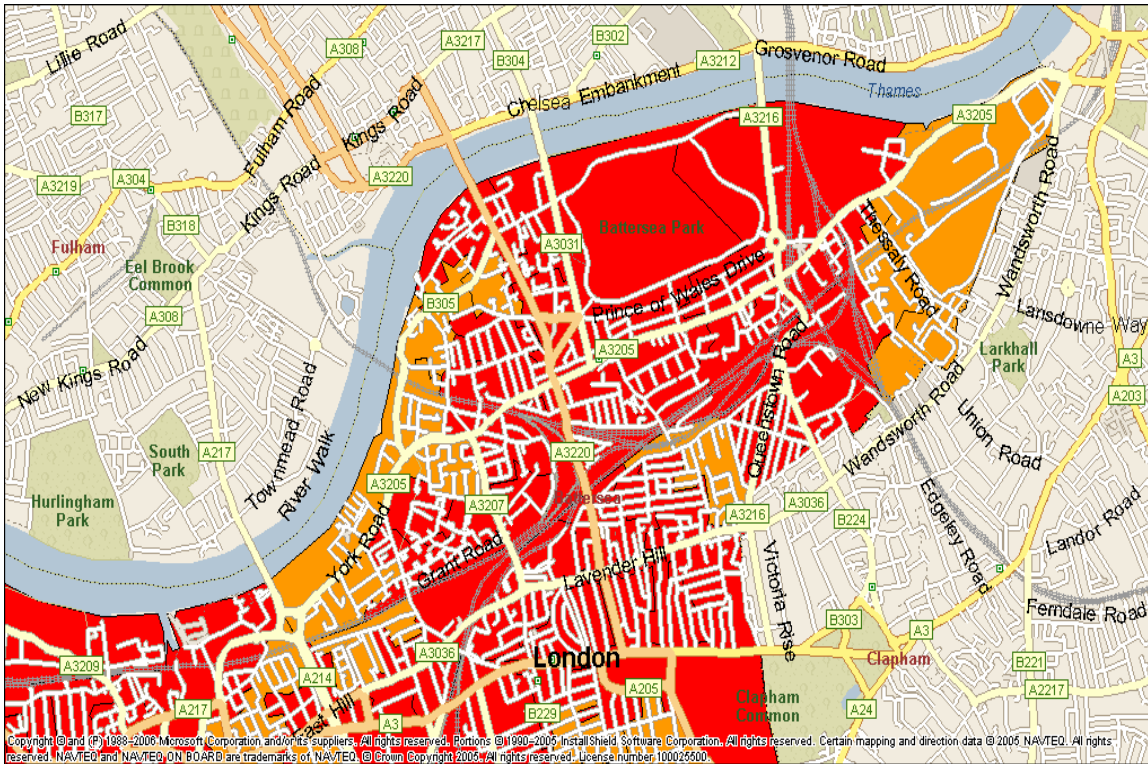
## Index of Employment Deprivation



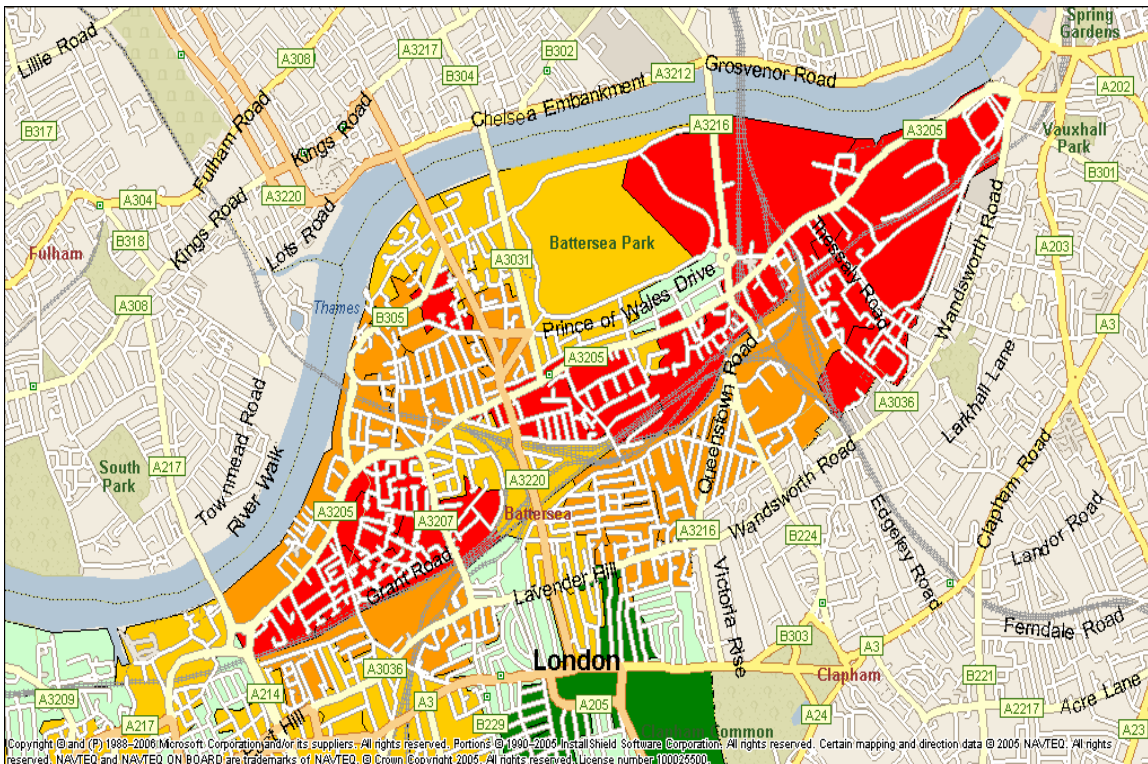
## Barriers to Housing and Services



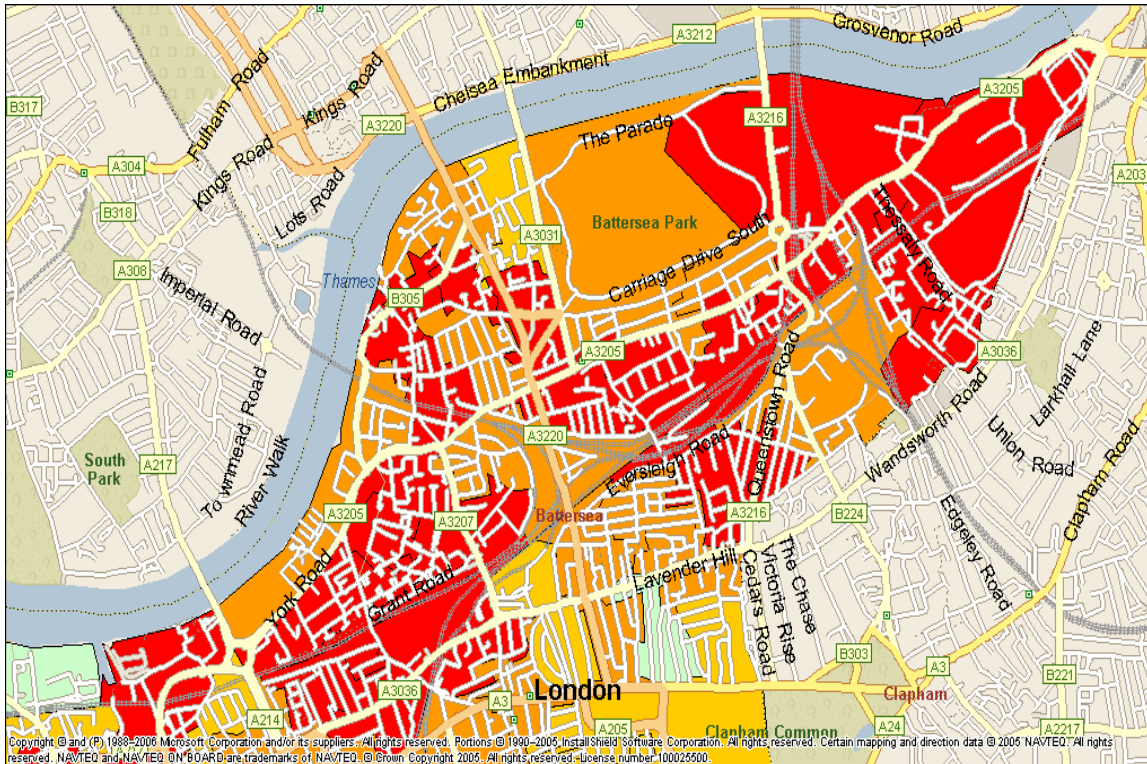
## Deprivation of Living Environment



## Income Deprivation



## Deprivation of the Elderly



## Demographics – \* Notes 2 & 3

### Population

Based on the 2001 census returns the populations statistics for the wards comprising the Battersea area were :

Latchmere ward	13,100
Queenstown ward	13,000
St Mary's Park ward	12,900
Shaftesbury ward	13,100
Total	52,100 or 25% of the population of Wandsworth borough.

In 2005 the GLA produced Ward Projections for Wandsworth estimating the population levels by 2016.

The Wandsworth model used is slightly different to the pan London model to take account of the generally lower birth rate in Wandsworth as a whole. On a borough wide basis the projection is for the total population to grow by between 18,200 (+6.7%) to 20,300 (+7.5%). Within this borough average there are wide divergences seen on a ward by ward basis with some wards, including Shaftesbury estimated to show a modest decline in numbers while others, headed by Queenstown and St Mary's Park, are predicted to increase by almost 30%.

The ward by ward projections for 2016 for Battersea are;

Latchmere ward	13,900	+ 800	+ 6%
Queenstown ward	16,800	+3,800	+29%
St Mary's Park ward	16,500	+3,600	+28%
Shaftesbury ward	12,900	- 200	- 2%
Total change		+8000	+15%

### Age profile

Like the whole of Wandsworth Battersea is a 'young' borough. In Battersea, 56.4% of the population is aged between 20-44. In comparison 35.1% of the England and Wales population is in this age group and 42.8% of the London population. St Mary's Park has the highest percentage of children aged 0-4 (8%) and Shaftesbury is the ward with the lowest percentage of children aged 0-4 (5%).

Battersea has a much smaller portion of older people compared to London and the rest of England. The most obvious difference seems to be 65-74 age groups. The London percentage is 8.35 and the England percentage 6.53. Latchmere is the ward with the largest number of people aged 65-74 (6.23%) Battersea wards have a lower percentage of older people compared to London and England.

Projected population change between 2001 and 2016 differs markedly by age group. The number of people aged 0-19 and 30-59 is projected to increase, whilst the number of people age 20-29 and 60+ is projected to decrease over this period.

\* **Note 2** this data is from the 2001 census- although no data can be produced the profile has certainly changed with the influx of many single working females and males from recently joined EU accession states.

\* **Note 3** A good source of data for demographics is the Department of Public Health Primary Care Trust February 2004 Health Needs Assessment for Wandsworth which also provides detailed data about the health profile of the local population.

### Ethnicity and country of birth

At the time of the 2001 Census 23% of the population described themselves as Non-White. The largest non-white ethnic group in Battersea was Black Caribbean (6.4%)

Of people living in Battersea, 73.6% gave Great Britain and Northern Ireland as their country of birth. 2.1% gave the Republic of Ireland, 4.5% stated they were born in other EU countries and 19.8% were born elsewhere.

In Battersea. St Mary's Park is the ward with the highest percentage of children born outside the UK (12.0%) and Shaftesbury has the lowest percentage of children born outside the UK (7.2%).



weekdays. This facility was favourably commented on by some young people in the area- although more challenging equipment and structures would be welcomed. There is one LEA Primary School - Falconbrook - not immediately on the estate in Wye Street. This also offers a term time After School Scheme. A new 52 place Children's Centre on the site of St Peter and St Paul Church was under construction and 'topped out' during the audit. This development should also include some key worker flats.

There is a Library at York Gardens, which includes a Community Centre. The Community Centre has facilities to accommodate groups of up to 60 and 200 + and a kitchen. From discussion with a member of staff and other local comment the facility seems underused. It has a Bridge Club 2 weekdays, Sure Start activities via the library and Surgery sessions for local Councillors and the local MP. Otherwise the facility is used by church groups and for weddings.

In what might be loosely termed the 'heart' of the estate is a former library building (now used by Thames Christian College), a Baptist Church and a square with damaged seating and broken paving overlooking a row of shops which include a surgery, newsagents and dry cleaners and a number of shuttered vacant shops. The nearby public house is closed with shutter-boarded windows.

**This was one of the most run down areas encountered in the whole audit.**

Apart from a Grocer at the bottom of Gagarin House with nearby Off Licence the other local shops are to be found in York Rd. Several are closed although a bakers and general store survive. A former room in Gagarin House used for a time by the police is now unused.

Across the estate between Grant Road and Falcon Road are several community type shops including a Red Cross Charity shop and Platform One, a café training scheme working with special needs clients. Also in this area is the Little Red Hen Nursery School adjacent to The Church of the Nazarene, a black led church with a congregation drawn from a wide geographical area.

Several key community services for young people living in this area are in surrounding streets. On Falcon Road is Providence House Christian Centre, which provides extensive programmes for young people in the area and beyond including a residential programme in Devon. Nearby the Islamic Culture and Education Centre also has a thriving Youth Group. There is an active Tenants Residents Association in the area but no response to enquiries was forthcoming. Individual residents mentioned both crimes by young people and lack of diversionary activities with no facilities for older people. Although some reported improvements on the estate it was also reported that several long-term residents had moved away because of crime related issues.

The Wimbledon Guardian reported in 2004:

'Ask anyone about Battersea's Winstanley Estate and one will inevitably be told it is notorious hotbed of drug dealing, graffiti, vandalism and crime. The now derelict Duke of Wellington pub on the Clapham Junction Estate was the centre of the local crack cocaine trade of the mid-1990. Despite a series of high-profile

police and council raids capturing the big dealers, an armed turf war then developed as various smaller gangs vied to take control. Vandalism and petty crime on the 1,100 home Winstanley and neighbouring York Road estates was rife, and police community relations were non-existent.'

Winstanley and York Gardens neighbourhood became the first area in Wandsworth to join the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood scheme. A survey of 400 residents in 2005 revealed that the prime concerns of residents were; Graffiti, Teenagers hanging around, Drug Use, Vandalism, Drunkenness / Rowdiness.

## **DODDINGTON and ROLLO ESTATE**

A large estate with many contrasts. Most of the maps on the large notice boards at pedestrian and vehicular entrances to and within the estate are out of date. Many of the facilities mapped no longer exist or have been replaced by something else e.g.

- Doddington Youth Centre, locked shuttered, has now been replaced by a new facility Base D.
- Longhedge Day Centre and Elderly People's Home have been closed.
- The Vietnamese Day Centre closed some time ago- a church took its place but the single storey block now stands shuttered and empty.
- Wandsworth Housing Support project has closed. Another community project offering support to adults living with mental health problems closed suddenly during the audit.
- Battersea Counselling Centre looks inactive – this was confirmed by one of the local cleaning team.
- The Central Clubroom at Arthur Court, which also served as a Job Club, is also closed.
- Several caged ball courts and play areas for younger children are marked but some of these have fallen out of use e.g. Play area near Arthur Court is locked and a play area near Russell Court complete with a hill fort is locked and overgrown.

The former roof garden above Doddington and Rollo Community Association (Lucas Court) appears to have been withdrawn on health and safety grounds although there is some minimal garden maintenance. The games courts (play pens to local residents) are well used especially when staff from the Youth Team and Youth Offending Team set up evening activities- although there have been problems with the floodlit lighting

An updated estate map should include:

- Base D - a youth facility with modern appearance. As well as offering a comprehensive programme of activities this is the base for Battersea Area Support and Detached Development Youth Workers
- Clubroom facilities in Park House- although the adjoining play facilities seem unused
- South Thames College Annexe
- Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network
- Families Anonymous

As shown on the estate maps the following services remain.

- Doddington & Rollo Community Association
- Doddington Activity Centre- this is a registered out of school service. Free use during term time weekday afternoons (3.15 – 6.15). During school holidays there is a pay scheme which runs weekdays 9.00 am – 5.15 pm with optional extension from 8.00am – to 6.00pm
- Doddington & Rollo Children's Centre – for under 5's it includes Sure Start activities and has an outside fenced play area.
- Doddington Health Clinic
- Doddington Play Group

Situated on the boundary of the estate are:

- Shaftesbury Christian Centre – currently this two storey facility with hall and smaller meeting spaces + kitchen
- Battersea Fields Medical Practice
- Battersea Park Library – this hosts a weekly Citizens Advice Bureau as part of the Battersea Healthy Living Initiative

Shopping facilities are dominated by a Somerfields Supermarket on Battersea Park Road. Behind this is an attractive square offset by rather run down shops including a closed Post Office. Groups of youths congregate near the shops and walkway leading from the square and overlooked by The Grove public house.

The square seems to work as a community space. It has a ring of seating and modern sculptures and it is used well throughout the day – especially as families return with their children at the end of the school day. During summer evenings it can be filled with up to 40 adults and children congregating in distinct but harmonious groups. Sometimes several drinkers congregate during the daytime. The nearest school is Chesterton Primary. There is an active TRA in the area.

The estate comprises more than 20 distinct blocks many exceeding 10 storeys and some adjoining blocks are connected at alternate floors by covered 'tube' walkways. The more traditionally brick built blocks are 6 storey or less. All the more modern blocks have security entry, as do the others except ground floor with individual doors. Several blocks have enclosed gardens with seating and well maintained gardens. A team of cleaners cover the estate. There was evidence of abandoned household goods on street corners. These are either 'recycled' by other residents or collected by refuse teams within days. Dog faeces were in evidence, often near or in play areas.

### **SAVONA/ PATMORE/ CAREY GARDENS ESTATES**

Although contiguous these are three distinct estates situated at the eastern end of the study area. Railway lines hem in the whole area with commercial properties to the east (New Covent Garden) and west. For Savona Estate Battersea Power Station is on the immediate skyline and to the other end it is bounded by a main rail route encased in grey concrete- constructed to lessen the noise impact of Euro Star. Parts of Patmore and Carey Gardens indeterminately make their way across the Lambeth border before Wandsworth Road is reached.

## **SAVONA ESTATE**

This estate is managed directly by Wandsworth Council. The other two estates each have a co-operative. Apart from 3 play areas (One fenced off Basket Ball Court for under 14's and two Play areas for under 5's) and some grassed areas between blocks there is no outdoor amenity space on this estate or near by.

There are approximately 350 dwellings in buildings 5-2 storeys high + a small collection of single storey bungalow boxes for vulnerable adults at Tideswell Court. There are 3 community buildings bounded at rear by the screened section of railway line. Two of these were in a dilapidated condition both abandoned with overgrown play areas, strewn with rubbish and a burned out caravan. This spills into the other area ROSE Clubroom (Residents of Savona Estate). Until recently this facility was used only by a church but a local community group STORM were about to take over management of this clubroom. Apart from a public house on Battersea Park Road and basic shops in Thessaly Road (Launderette, Foodfare, Newsagents and one void property) there are no other facilities on this estate. Always present is the background noise of barking dogs from Battersea Dog's Home and the busy railway lines on two sides of the estate.

The main notice board for the area is via the newsagents, which has signs advertising local facilities and meetings. (e.g. Patmore Children's Centre, STORM events, Safer Neighbourhood Team contact nos., Notice of Consultation Young People 10-20+ via Yvonne Carr Centre)

## **PATMORE ESTATE**

There are 854 properties managed by Patmore Co-operative. Approximately 33% of these are leasehold. Properties include some large 4-bedroom maisonettes. The maximum storey height is 6.

The outdoor amenities include a football pitch and 5 play areas. Reportedly these are well used. Additionally the outdoor play facilities at Sir James Barrie Primary School are well used by the local community - young people and adults. Services and facilities on the estate include:

- Patmore Children's Centre (children 6mth- 5 yrs) – subsidised rates for estate residents
- St George's Church
- Battersea Fields Practice Surgery
- Patmore Co-op Office
- Social Services facility - former Save the Children Centre Patmore
- Co-op Clubroom in Deely Rd
- Yvonne Carr Centre (NB Also known as Thessaly Community Centre). This centre includes an adjoining Community Clubroom managed by the centre under Wandsworth Council's standard terms of use. Next to this is a piece of abandoned amenity space. There are plans to develop this space as a Lavender Garden to commemorate the lavender industry in this area.

There are two local Primary schools St Georges C of E Primary and Sir James Barrie

## CAREY GARDENS

Attractive 4/3 Storey flats with exterior walkways

Services and facilities on the estate include:

- Carey Gardens Centre- including the Estate Office for Carey Gardens Co-op
- Carey Gardens Senior Citizens Clubroom

## SOMERSET & SURREY LANES & ETHELBURGA ESTATES

These three distinct estates have been grouped together for although interrupted by fairly busy roads they stretch from Battersea Church Road to Albert Bridge Road overlooking Battersea Park. Although this a convenient arrangement for this report it should be noted that the residents of these estates see themselves as living in quite separate parts of Battersea.

### SOMERSET ESTATE

The estate consists of 9 distinct blocks. Two of these are 20 storey tower blocks with most of the remainder 2 storey flats with external walkways. No play areas were apparent. Arrangements of steps throughout the estate prevent cyclists from swooping through. Apart from a public house at the corner of Sunbury Lane and Westbridge Road there are few shops in the immediate area

Bordering Battersea Church Road the following facilities were noted:

- St Mary's Church- this includes a Playgroup and some community use of the Crypt in Churchyard.
- Althorpe Mews Clubroom – looking rather abandoned
- Somerset Nursery School- one of the few local authority schools solely for nursery use.
- Dimson Hall on corner- shuttered/ no notices visible

The local Primary School is Westbridge in Bolingbroke Walk

### SURREY LANE ESTATE

Housing consists of twelve 2-storey developments (Courts) and six 20-storey tower blocks. Play space includes three Play Areas (with under 8's age restriction) and a caged games court (a Pen) for older children, some pleasant small gardens and well tended hilly grassed areas with one small fenced off play area.

Also in this area is

- Randall Close Centre - a facility for young disabled previously run by Wandsworth Council and now by Leonard Cheshire Homes.
- Surrey Lane Community Clubroom- although a sign states 'run by Voluntary SLCC Management Committee ' and gives an old telephone number (081 prefix) this facility was apparently closed because of rat infestation [see later section on Community Clubrooms]
- Battersea Christian Centre owned by London City Mission ' Serving the whole Community- between the shops and police station' with clubs for parents and toddlers and older children and youths advertised.

On nearby Battersea Bridge Road are several shops including a Cost Cutter, Butchers and Chemist and a Police Station

## **ETHELBURGA ESTATE**

Dominated by one tower block and surrounded by lower rise dwellings this estate only has one small play area for under 8's. However it is just across the road from Battersea Park. By observation residents make ample use of this asset on their doorstep. On the estate there are the following facilities:

- Ethelburga Community Clubroom – with lots of activities advertised [see later section on Community Clubrooms]
- Ethelburga Early Years Centre- adjoining the Clubroom
- Opposite the Community Clubroom is Ralph West Hall of Residence an empty building due for demolition and redevelopment as a 2-10 storey building for 128 flats. Following a successful appeal by local residents this has been put on hold.

## **CLAPHAM ESTATE**

This Peabody estate is just in Northcote ward and is in contrast to the socio economic profiles for its neighbourhood i.e. its needs could be overlooked. It consists of 22 x 5 storey blocks of flats. Included in the area are:

- Digital Learning Centre (LDA)
- Gate House- meeting room facilities
- St Johns Hill Centre- this is a facility for elderly in local area (not just Peabody tenants). The active TRA on the estate plan to fundraise to include activities for young people at this centre and to upgrade play facilities.

Traditionally a social landlord, Peabody has started putting some of the flats on this estate on the open market. There are play areas and open spaces on the estate but a games pen was reported as unsafe and in need of repair.

## **BATTERSEA PARK ESTATE**

This estate comprises approx 520 dwellings including a 22 storey block. With the areas between having seated open spaces with trees and Orkney St has play area. This estate has recently been set up as Battersea Fields Co-op. An appointment with the chair was not forthcoming. There is communal office space and a small meeting room available on the estate. The facilities bordering Doddington & Rollo i.e. Shaftesbury Christian Centre and, Battersea Fields Medical Practice are opposite. On Dagnall Street are Chesterton Primary School and the rear of Battersea Technology College – comprehensive for boys and girls. I have included Rowditch Lane as part of this area- possibly not under the Co-op management. This latter portion consists of a mixture of houses and low rise flats with a play area and fenced off ball games area.

## **WILDITCH ESTATE**

Adjoining Battersea Park Estate but separated by Culvert Road this estate consists of 104 dwellings in 6 blocks x 5 storeys + Weybridge Point 20x storeys .The latter was under renovation. Amenities consist of 1 open playground and a fenced ball games area for Under 14's.

On Culvert Street is the Wilditch Community Centre, which includes Battersea Healthy Living Project offices and extensive IT facilities as well as some small local

community projects. Although fairly near Battersea Park Road the local shops are minimal and include a General Store, Off Licence and Café plus offices as well as 2 shuttered premises. Latchmere Leisure Centre is fairly near by with fashionable terraces and a gated community in between.

## **OTHER AREAS**

The following areas have been included either from impressions gained by the auditor or subsequent information.

- Area to west of Winstanley estate ( Wynter Street/ Maysoule Road) sometimes referred to as the Wilberforce Estate. Apart from a few shops on Plough Road and one former community facility in Wynter Street the area has no facilities and is recognised as a crime 'hot spot' Kambala Estate- near Winstanley with gated estate Falcon Gardens in between- an area with an active TRA.
- Goulden House with nearby Mc Kiernan Court and Gaitskell Court (also signed as Gaitskill Court) All these properties are managed by Goulden House Co-op Fairly near rows of comfortable terraced properties e.g. Shuttleworth Rd / Winders Rd and Bullen St and likely to be overlooked.
- Robertson Street Estate – on border with Lambeth. An area of high need with an active TRA. Has use of nearby facilities- Heathbrook Park and Heathbrook Youth Club
- Gideon Road Estate – just off Lavender Hill. An area with an active TRA needing support to improve their environment.
- The Shaftesbury Estate-schools and potential clubroom facilities in area [see later section on Community Clubrooms] - included because of the numbers of elderly isolated people in need if support
- Este Rd/ Wrayford St – low-rise 3 storey flats (also accessible via Falcon Grove) Batten St / Fowndes St – low rise with some 6 storey blocks. No other details but could be overlooked.
- Antrim House in Stormont Rd 5 storey flats with low rise nearby in Gowrie Rd. No other details- several facilities nearby but could be overlooked.
- Between Lombard Road and York Road are Badric Court and Totteridge Ho both multi storey block flats. There are some facilities nearby and pleasant open space with play and game facilities at Harroway Open Space and it is close to the Katherine Lowe Settlement. Badric Court has an active TRA but this is a 'cut off 'area likely to be overlooked. At foot of Badric Court is a potential community club facility [see later section on Community Clubrooms]
- St Johns Estate and East Hill and the old laundry development by Threshold Homes have been included as part of Section 67. Key Community Resources and Initiatives under the entry for John Morris House.

## **6. Key Community Resources**

Some of the following are important resources for their immediate locality while others have a wider impact- some beyond the study area and offering benefit for the whole of the borough. Apart from separating Resources (6a) from Initiatives (6b) the order is arbitrary.

### **LARA Community Centre**

LARA (Louvaine Area Residents Association) - up St John's Hill to the west of Clapham Junction was set up when the local area was threatened with extensive development and the properties were in a poor state. LARA was seen as a model of local resident participation and several studies of the area were made. The project is run from a church, now part of St Marks Church. The catchment of LARA covers approximately 2,000 local households but activities are open to a wider area if there is spare capacity. Current activities include daily Breakfast, After School, Latchkey clubs and a Day Nursery. Weekly sessions include senior Citizens Club, various age group children and youth clubs and through other partners worship is offered 3 times a week + keep fit sessions and children's dance sessions. Monthly legal advice sessions are also on offer. The main hall with bar is also available for hire. The centre works closely with the local school - High View Primary.

### **John Morris House Community Centre**

Further west up St John's Hill from LARA the Centre was set up from scratch 6 years ago by Servite Houses, the housing association with numerous properties in the area. As well as running its own activities the centre offers facilities for other groups and projects and endeavours to keep the letting rates at a reasonable level. This is partly made possible by using part of the premises for separate office space. Organisations currently using the centre include:

- Wandsworth Somali Society
- Busy Bees activity group for elders
- Homework Club (including children from LARA) using a Wandsworth Youth Worker;
- Narcotics Anon
- Battersea Support Project.

The Centre also runs its own activities e.g. Arts based puppet Workshop; Cookery classes for 8-14 year olds as part of the Battersea healthy Living Initiative. During the summer it also ran a successful programme of activities for children and young people and organised a free St John's Estate Fun Day. As with all community centres in the study area volunteering is promoted and encouraged. It is well placed to meet the needs of St Johns Estate and East Hill.

### **Garfield Community Centre**

This charity partly funded by Wandsworth Council was established in a large converted house in 1980. It is situated just off the Lavender Hill/ Cedars Road junction and aims to serve the residents of Shaftesbury ward. Its daily programme provides a Carer and toddler Group. Weekly programme includes Dance Classes, Battersea Chess Club, Lavender Club for older people and Friends and Neighbours for slightly less old over 50's, Children's art workshops, holiday activities for under 11's and music classes for under 5's. It also has spaces for hire. These are well used especially by Church groups.

### **Yvonne Carr Community Centre**

Situated on the Patmore Estate near Carey Gardens. A fairly new development named in tribute and memory of the lady who pioneered the need for such a facility in this part of Battersea. This Centre offers a wide range of services and is host to other projects. Current services include: Computer Training; ESOL & Language Classes; activities for Young People; Holiday and After School Clubs; Breakfast Club and it hosts CAB outreach sessions as part of the Battersea

Healthy Living Initiative and provides facilities for the Kulmiye Somali Organisation which, for a small organisation, runs an impressive range of activities for people of Somali origin across Wandsworth. Situated near the Wandsworth / Lambeth border the centre works with residents from both boroughs and does not restrict its services to people living in the immediate area.

### **The Katherine Low Settlement**

The Settlement has been an established, respected provider of support and services for the disadvantaged in Battersea for many years. The current premises have been in use since the 1930 and recently a purpose built Children's Centre has been added as part of the government's Sure Start initiative and KLS has been the hub for Sure Start activities across Battersea. Other projects run from the settlement include ones for Young Carers, Refugees, Lunch Club for housebound elderly and facilities for another elderly residents group- the Contact Club and a generic Youth Club.

### **St John's Hill Centre**

A facility on the Peabody Trust Clapham Estate run as part of their Support and Agency Services (Older Persons Services). At present it is an activity and support centre for frail elders. It has a centre based support worker providing help and advice with activities such as Tai Chi, chair based exercises and Line Dancing. Lunch is available each day. The centre has a minibus and provides transport within the Battersea area. This project is also part of the Battersea Healthy Living Initiative. This has been included under generic community services as the tenants' association is exploring ways of running a youth club at these premises.

### **Edward Wilson House**

Extensive modernised premises on the site of a former hospital on Prince of Wales Drive run a variety of services.

- Mental Health resource Centre
- Adult Counselling
- Young Persons Counselling- this is part of the Battersea Healthy Living Initiative
- Turning Point- working with people who experience problems associated with alcohol and substance misuse. This project funded by Wandsworth for Wandsworth residents also has a residential unit in Queenstown Road.

It is also the office bases for the following projects:

- FWA Newpin – a children and family service
- Westminster Pyramid Project – after school services
- Battersea Support Project – self help for members of the community (see also John Morris House)

The services are funded by Wandsworth Social Services and managed by the Family Welfare Association (FWA) except for the Battersea Support Project which is arranged by Wandsworth Council.

### **The Wand**

There are 9 youth clubs run or supported by the Borough Youth Work Service as well as small projects run by church groups. However this facility has to be mentioned in general community terms. Owned by Wandsworth Council with a 47-year lease this is managed by an independent board of trustees. It is run as a youth centre 3 nights a week offering specialist equipment and facilities for dance and Music/DJ production. Although other services do use the facility (e.g.

Youth Offending team- YOT) it seems to be an underused resource with good potential for extra use.

### **DRCA**

The Doddington and Rollo Community Association are based in extensive premises on the estate. It has two hall spaces for hire and works to support communities on the estate and in North Battersea generally. The facilities are in need of extensive refurbishment and reorder but represent a significant potential community resource. Part of the organisation are more than 30 business units managed via the DRCA Business Centre which supports a diverse range of business such as Arts, Catering, Computers, Construction, Design, Furniture, Hair Salon, Internet & Website Design, Joinery, Knitwear, Mini Cabs, Music, Plant Hire, Picture Hanging Systems, Soft Furnishing, and Upholstery and a number of professional music studios with full recording and production capabilities.

### **WCEN**

Wandsworth Community Empowerment Network is based in the DRCA premises. Funded by central government 3 years ago WCEN has a number of networks and forums to enable local communities and interest groups to have a voice on the local Strategic Partnership. The focus of their work has changed and WCEN is now funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government as part of the Connecting Communities plus programme to work specifically with BME/RAS/Multi Faith communities in Wandsworth (particularly Tooting, Balham, Battersea and Roehampton), to connect these communities with public service providers and increase the communities' confidence to enter into dialogue with individual members of Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership (WLSP) i.e. the Police, Health, and Departments within Wandsworth Council. An interesting project in partnership with STORM and the Metropolitan Police and centred around Battersea estates has been a series of anti gun and knife crime workshops for young people. WCEN also run a Neighbourhood Forum in Battersea where people living or working in the area can meet to raise areas of community concern and share information.

### **LOCAL NETWORK FUND for CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Local Network fund was established by the Department for Education and Skills in 2001 and aims to combat the effects of poverty and deprivation among children and young people by delivering small grants to local community and voluntary groups working with volunteers to address local issues. The criteria have recently been widened to match the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes. The Fund is presently delivered in Wandsworth by Peabody Trust. The Local Network Fund will come to an end in March 2008 when its responsibilities will pass to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership. Local Network Fund grants will have played an important role in supporting the work of local community groups within the most deprived parts of Wandsworth, including Battersea. Unless satisfactory arrangements are made for the post 2008 situation it is likely that many smaller groups working to help vulnerable children and young people may be unable to continue their work. This reduction in available funding could also have a knock on effect as local community buildings currently used by such groups could face cancellations and unforeseen vacancy rates which will effect their viability.

## FAITH CENTRES

There are many faith centres in the area- the majority reflect the teachings of the Christian faith in one of several ways. On offer is a wide range of community support either through the congregation's own efforts or through an organisation providing services or paying rent. There are many facilities for parents and young children, nurseries and small groups supporting elderly or vulnerable people. Some faith centres have made a wide impact through the services they provide or host. In this study separate mention is made where appropriate. One centre is the base for such a wide range of support that it should be mentioned separately. **Battersea Methodist Mission** in York Road works in partnership with the following services:

- Sound Minds Music Project- working with people with severe mental health problems
- Cancer Resource Centre- supporting people across London
- The Imani Family Support Project- individual family support including outreach in 3 local schools
- Learning Ladder Children's Centre- - possibly the only nursery with a roof top play area!
- South West London Law Centre- working closely with the adjoining CAB

The prominent non-Christian faith centre providing services particularly for the younger Islamic community is the **Islamic Culture and Education Centre. The Peace Pagoda** at Battersea Park should also be noted

## SCHOOLS

Independent schools were noted on the 'walkabout' but not included in this report. There are 12 LEA primary schools (of which 5 are above the local authority average and 7 below at Key Stage 2 level) and one nursery, including 4 church schools (2 each C of E and RC) several of these schools run after school or holiday play schemes but this was not studied in depth. One of the schools (**Sir James Barrie**) which has a strong community focus in an area of high need (Patmore Estate) was visited.

There are 2 secondary schools. Salesian College (no sixth form, boys only) and **Battersea Technology College** (mixed with sixth form). The latter school was visited as part of the study. Salesian College takes 60% of its pupils from out with Wandsworth borough so the proportion of Battersea pupils may be quite small. OFSTED report that Salesian is an "effective" school. Battersea Technology College was on Special Measures as a "failing school" until 2004 but is now rated as "acceptable" although at their last inspection OFSTED noted some weaknesses and that a number of pupils fail to reach the standards of which they are capable.

Although there have been recent primary school closures in the area the spread seems even and accessible. Please refer to the map on this topic on page 9

## MEDICAL SURGERIES

There are 11 Practices of varying size with a good geographical spread in the area. The nearest Hospital, the Bolingbroke, is just outwith the study area although the future of this facility is now uncertain as proposals for the closure of the hospital have recently been published. There is considerable local opposition to this plan.

## **COMMUNITY CLUBROOMS**

During the exploration of the area several Community Clubrooms (and one or two undesignated buildings likely to have community benefit) were noted. Several of these looked to be in a poor state of repair and from notices often with 'old' telephone numbers they no longer appeared to be in use.

Often the clubrooms were on the larger estates or other housing developments where there were no other community facilities nearby. Although managed by the Council this arrangement is in transition as responsibility is being transferred from Community Services to Housing Services. The clubrooms fit for use are leased to a local management committee group for a peppercorn rent. The lease is fairly standard with the lessee required to insure their own property, keep to certain restrictions regarding times of use and avoiding potential noise nuisance to nearby residents. The council undertakes to keep the building in a reasonable state of maintenance and repair. Often a clubroom seems linked to an active TRA in the area- if the TRA ceases functioning the leased management of the facility ceases. Without naming particular examples the auditor learned of several instances in the past where particular residents turned the clubroom use for the preferred benefit of a 'closed set' of residents to the exclusion of other residents in the area. There were also instances of recently created facilities that seemed to be unused by local residents save for an occasional meeting. [APPENDIX 4 - Community Clubrooms in Battersea] summarises the position for all clubrooms in the area.

## **Key Community Initiatives**

### **BATTERSEA HEALTHY LIVING INITIATIVE (BHLI)**

This was set up in 2002 funded by the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to run for five years. Prior to grant application and award consultation took place and it was decided that BHLI should target 5 core wards in Battersea (identical to the ones covered by this audit). Then as now the wards were characterised by high levels of deprivation, high levels of mental health need, high teenage conception rates and high levels of 'at risk' older people. Additionally these wards have large proportions of diverse BME populations including a rising proportion of refugees and asylum seekers. As part of this initiative various projects (some in existence before 2002) operate from various locations across Battersea i.e.:

- CAB outreach for people on target estates. Two sessions per week at Battersea Park Library and one at Yvonne Carr Centre.
- A programme of physical activities at various local centres in partnership with Wandsworth PCT- a range of exercise classes for people not engaged with formal exercise opportunities and people at risk of coronary heart disease or undergoing cardiac rehabilitation
- Sound Minds- an arts and mental well being project aimed at people experiencing, or at risk of mental ill- health. This is based in Battersea Methodist Mission and offers visual and performing arts activities as well as a healthy diet via its café run for all users.
- St John's Hill Centre runs a healthy eating lunch club with activities and support for older people on Winstanley, Doddington & Rollo Estates. This operates 5 days a week and offers transport for people with health and mobility problems.

- 'Tune Up' at Generate is an exercise and healthy eating project aimed at people with mild to moderate learning activities. This combines a visit to a local leisure centre with a healthy cook and eat session (for a time at the Shaftesbury Christian Centre)
- Young Persons Counselling Project for young people aged 14- 24. This is based in the Family Welfare Association in Edward Wilson House
- Riverhaven (now Servite) 'Cook and Eat' aimed at children over 8 years of age living in St John's Hill area and based at John Morris House Community Centre
- 'Cook and Eat' at Sure Start. Based at the The Katherine Low Settlement- a similar scheme was aimed at Imani project users based in Battersea Methodist Mission
- One off events also took place. For example the PCT Infant feeding day based at Chatfield Medical Centre to encourage mothers to provide home cooked food suitable for infants

For all of these initiatives this particular funding runs out in June 2007 with a possible extension for the Youth Counselling Project, which started later than some of the other work.

### **60+ACTIVE DAYS PROJECT**

This project based at Age Concern Wandsworth and funded by Wandsworth Council was set up in response to consultation which demonstrated demand for greater focus on new, different and local activities for older people and joint-working between existing activity providers in the borough. The project aims to develop community partnership and intergenerational working. In the first phase of this project research was undertaken between June and September 2006 and although this had a borough wide focus one area covered in detail was Battersea. This provided a comprehensive mapping of activities and services available for 60+ citizens living in the area- more than 50 are described together with contact details. [APPENDIX 3 mapping- activities for 60+ in Battersea]

As a result of the research, which had a good questionnaire response level and perceptive feedback from community groups and projects working with older people a series of events and activities is planned for Battersea including:

- Drama Group
- Gardening
  - weekly at Doris Emmerton (monthly attended by Thrive gardening expert)
  - gardening group to volunteer at Thrive Battersea Park
- Drama group with kids (Imani)
- Somali older women's social & cooking group at Yvonne Carr Centre
- Line-dancing at Katherine Low Settlement
- Weekend film-watching Club at Hill Lodge
- Reading group at Doris Emmerton
- Reading group to be established at Hill Lodge
- Cooking/Reading group at York Gardens Library
- Asian Vegetarian cookery group at Atheldene Centre

## **YOUTH SERVICE SURVEY**

This comprehensive survey took place in mid 2006 with young people attending youth services across the borough encouraged to complete a detailed 25-section questionnaire. As well as seeking feedback about pastimes and preferred activities/likes and dislikes about youth clubs and barriers to accessing services the questionnaire asked for comment on future patterns of organising the service in the borough with 3 basic models:

1. 4 or 5 bigger youth centres and no smaller centres. Big centres to be conveniently located across the borough with more activities and wider range of equipment
2. Lots of smaller clubs rather than model 1 although they may not provide lots of activities
3. A mixture of 1 & 2

The results of this consultation are not available at the time of preparing this report

## **7. Miscellaneous - not covered in detail as part of the audit**

### **Battersea Youth Sports Centre & Battersea Park Millennium Arena**

Both these facilities are significant resources in the area- as is Battersea Park, which offers a huge range of incentives to enjoy riverside space in a recently renovated 'gem' amongst London's public parks.

### **Employment and Training**

The local authority, as evidenced in their recent innovative but unsuccessful bid for Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) funding sees the encouragement of local employment opportunities, localised skills training and fostering of entrepreneurship and local business as keys to addressing relatively high levels of deprivation in Battersea, Tooting and Roehampton..

The LEGI bid recognised the key role that the voluntary sector could play in addressing some of the issues connected with working to increase levels of skills, employability, entrepreneurship and the encouragement of local business initiatives and enterprise. It is to be hoped that this commitment will continue despite the failure to win LEGI funding in the shorter term.

Several agencies were visited as part of the audit to determine opportunities for training and employment in the area. This is a study in its own right as it would be necessary to track the progress made since the publication of the report 'Education, training and skills audit for Battersea Power Station travel to work area' - London Central Learning And Skills Council - March 2005 '

This is an important report for despite uncertainties surrounding the Battersea Power Station development it does address training and employment strategies needed in the area as a whole and not just connected with the Power Station. Interviews were held with the following agencies:

- Peabody Trust- Employment, Training & Community Regeneration Manager
- The Power Station job Shop – Partnership Manager
- STRIVE- Informal Economy Project – Manager and Outreach Team

- Connexions- Team Manager Battersea
- South Thames College – Marketing Officer (Youth)

Encouragingly one of the recommendations about closer working partnerships between the Training and Employment agencies does seem to have made good headway. Hopefully this joint action will have a positive impact on the area- particularly in Queenstown and Latchmere wards and the part of St Mary's ward covered by Surrey Lanes estate as these were determined the hotspots for low training and qualifications, high unemployment and greater incidence of worklessness or informal economy possibly lacking legitimacy.

A good example of this joined together approach was the well-attended event held at the Wilditch Centre in August the day after GSE results were published. Young people, many of whom had not gained their anticipated grades were invited to attend an 'Education, Training & Development Exhibition and meet with colleges offering further training, possible employers and other agencies working in the training skills and employment areas.

## EVIDENCE FROM REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS WITH AUDITOR

### 1. Reports

The following reports were available:

- 'An Evaluation of Battersea Healthy Living Initiative'
- 'Reaching the Isolated- improving access to vulnerable women and children- lessons from a Battersea case study'
- 'Health Needs Assessment for Wandsworth'
- 'Research Report in to Activities that older people want in Wandsworth' 'Transport Manifesto'
- Time Bank for Battersea?
- Youth Consultation Patmore, Carey Gardens and Savona
- 'Education, training & skills audit for Battersea Power Station travel to work area'

### 2. Particular evidence arising from reports.

#### **'An Evaluation of Battersea Healthy Living Initiative' – Wandsworth Primary Care Research centre- March 2006**

This is an extensive evaluation with lots of evidence of the positive impact on the lives of many vulnerable groups living in Battersea. . Published in March 2006 it may understate the urgent need for sustainability planning. *'Sustainability planning should begin well before year four of five...'* This recommendation was made half way through year four. BHLI Board has implemented a SWOT analysis for various projects within the initiative. There is a consortium bid (including BHLI) by Ealing PCT under consideration by the lottery but it would seem that if successful this would only provide part of the funding needed for this initiative to continue.

#### **'Reaching the Isolated- improving access to vulnerable women and children- lessons from a Battersea case study' –St George's University of London – July 2006**

A key report- part of ongoing research. *'The findings indicate that many statutory organisations are failing to provide equal access to families with limited English ...the report provides recommendations for improving access and*

*inclusion of isolated mothers for consideration by community services, both statutory and non statutory, and also for local government community strategies'* The key findings and recommendations and the ones to follow will be critical if the needs of some of the most vulnerable people living in Battersea are to be met by the **statutory services and the voluntary sector working together.**

**'Health Needs Assessment for Wandsworth' - Department of Public Health Primary Care Trust - February 2004**

This provides extensive Socio Demographic, Social and Economic Activity, Births, Mortality & Morbidity data for the area. Possibly the data is best summarised by the Evaluation of Battersea Healthy Living Initiative '... five core wards within Battersea, namely Latchmere, Queenstown, St John, Shaftesbury and St Mary's Park, especially residents of the Doddington, Winstanley, Surrey Lane and Patmore estates. They are characterised by high levels of deprivation, high levels of mental health need, high teenage conception rates, and high levels of 'at risk' older people. In addition, these wards have large proportions of diverse ethnic minority populations including a rising proportion of refugees and asylum seekers'

**'Research Report in to Activities that older people want in Wandsworth' - Age Concern Wandsworth - October 2006**

This report provides evidence from wide consultation of need and support for a range of activities, some existing, some new for older people. It does raise the issue of concern about transport and mobility issues preventing people from attending activities. Also many small groups struggle to keep their members because they cannot provide transport for those who become less mobile. NB. During audit interviews concerns about transport were raised several times with people working on elderly projects.

What services are there for older people as they become less mobile? This is not to detract from this excellent initiative – but the needs of the frail elderly confined to their homes or in need of appropriate transport are in danger of being overlooked.

**'Transport Manifesto' - Wandsworth Access Association - September 2005**

This links with the above questions about the need for dependable transport support if a disabled or isolated elderly person is to access services. The manifesto sets out a series of service assessments by Wandsworth Access Association followed by comments by individual service providers and suggestions for service improvement. Participating service providers were: Capital Call; Taxi Card; Dial- a- Ride; Wandsworth Community Transport and Council Contract Transport. It also conducted a desktop review of the Council's draft Local Transport Plan and Mainstream Public transport. Although invited the PCT did not participate in this exercise.

**'A Time Bank for Battersea? - The Battersea Society July 2006**

This feasibility study commissioned by The Battersea Society makes key recommendations for setting up a Time Bank in Battersea and identifies key local people who may take this work forward. This would be a powerful asset for Battersea residents. Possibly it needs to start small on an estate-by-estate basis to have an initial, manageable impact.

### **Youth Consultation Patmore, Carey Gardens and Savona- Yvonne Carr Centre – April 2006**

Not to be confused with the Youth Service Survey (see earlier section 6b of this report) this provided young people aged 10-17 living on the three estates with an opportunity to comment on existing facilities in the area and their preferences for future activities. Preferred choices were: More facilities, Sports, music and keep fit activities, crime reduction programmes. 37 out of 40 thought they would benefit from more provision. Although a small sample engaging with an even smaller sample of disengaged youth this locality based work is key if young people are to become positively engaged.

### **'Education, training and skills audit for Battersea Power Station travel to work area' - London Central Learning and Skills Council - March 2005**

As far as this audit is concerned this report is simply mentioned as a valuable resource.

### **3. Particular evidence arising from interviews**

Following 44 direct interviews more than 20 telephone calls / e-mail correspondence and informal discussions with more than 40 people around and about Battersea and at 7 'community events' the information received is vast in quantity but falls into a few basic themes- some affecting a particular age or interest group some fairly universal.

By the sheer nature of Thames Community Foundation's objectives many interviewees saw this as an opportunity to stake their claim for support. This was not discouraged as this gave a good insight into many unmet needs in Battersea.

#### **TERRITORIALITY**

Often raised but not always in accord were the problems faced by people accessing services not in their immediate neighbourhood. For many this is a real, practical issue. Many people do not have access to their own transport. For many of the more vulnerable and disadvantaged public transport is the only option and from observation this is often used on a ticket-by-ticket basis for people who do not find the Oyster Card requirements straightforward. Also although living in an area with possibly one of the highest concentrations of railway lines and several stations many local people do not use trains and would be unlikely to. For older frail or otherwise incapacitated people the need for a community transport system is paramount.

Often interviewees would say that young people have a fear of leaving their neighbourhood, as the perceived threat from gangs on other estates was too great. Several instances were given of young people being the victims of crime when leaving their estate- particularly at night. From young people met during this study many were only accessing local facilities (if any were on offer) - for others territoriality was not an issue. Possibly as one worker commented 'Young people will travel if something is good' In contrast others saw access to far off services and events only being possible if an outreach system of 'accompanied visits' was part of the deal.

Interestingly a group of older people at Busy Bees did not see getting out and about during the day time as a problem and felt unthreatened. However they did not venture far in the evening.

This is a complex issue. Possibly it needs to be addressed on a project-by-project basis. As far as young people accessing services through 'accompanied visits' this would be a huge issue for the present Youth Outreach Team in the area (1 person) and would require extra staffing capacity. It can be a barrier. Nevertheless I encountered many people for whom this was not the case- either on grounds of travel arrangements or fears about visiting an area out of their home patch.

**CORE FUNDING**

A common request from the voluntary sector and one not always favoured by funders is for basic funding to keep the doors of an organisation open and deliver basic services. Funders often prefer project-based funding- with funds tied to measurable outcomes.

However, in Battersea there are some key community resources that may need an element of core funding to support the impact they can exert on the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in their immediate catchment area or across Battersea/ Wandsworth as a whole.

**FEEDBACK FROM TENANT AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS, HOUSING CO-OPS and other people on Estates**

On Council run estates TRA's are supported by the Housing Department with a small annual grant and a Participation Officer. A member of the Housing Department also attends TRA meetings. From the one meeting attended by the auditor (and from a separate comment below) this seems to be a very good system with good feedback and all the tenants (reasonable) concerns being addressed in detail by the officer. 3 TRA's provided feedback about conditions on their estate. Although some of the issues are beyond the scope of this report it is useful to summarise individual TRA's concerns and wishes for their area and what they like about living in Battersea.

TRA	LIKES	DISLIKES/ISSUES	WISHES
GIDEON RD	Public transport access to all areas	Issues connected with installation of new windows	Visible police presence on foot
	Near shops and supermarkets	Rats from cracked drains	Better estate cleaning.
	Access to Battersea Park and Clapham common	Recycling collections Fly tipping, Cleaning	
BADRIC COURT	Affordable council tax	Too many fast food outlets in area	Extend rail link
	Reasonable social housing	Helicopter noise	
	Resident participation, communication, decision making by LA	Too many tall buildings under construction	

DODDINGTON WEST	Improved cleaning-requests listened to	Anti Social Behaviour by young people	Resident education about recycling
		Dogs-weapon or pet?	
		drugs	
		Gun crime by incoming young people 13-14 yrs	
		High service charges for leaseholders	
		Street lighting defects not attended to	
		Not enough rubbish collection	

Normally an area run by a housing co-operative has its own structure for involving tenants and does not have a TRA. Two Co-ops were visited.

### COMMUNITY CLUBROOMS

Although the Community Centres ( See page 21) are excellent 'hubs' for community projects many people interviewed were keen to see community space at another even more local level. For many communities, not always the main estates, this could be through use of a community clubroom in their local area. This would be particularly useful for TRA's and other small local groups. Several interviewees were critical of the way in which some clubrooms had run into disuse and disrepair. Several people discussed alternative ways in which Community Clubrooms could be managed. [APPENDIX 4 Community Clubrooms in Battersea]

### INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Individual comments around the estates were not so positive – this may result from people feeling removed and powerless to do anything about their situation.

3 people asked at the DRCA Summer Fair about living on the estate expressed a wish to move elsewhere. One resident wished that the old system of providing workshop facilities for people living in flats or houses with restricted space could be reintroduced- Residents on Savona Estate felt abandoned on a sink estate.

Members of Busy Bees- a group based at John Morris House Community Centre activity were critical of the 'posh flat' along the riverside and felt this trend made it impossible for young families to make a first property purchase in the area. Many had families who had moved out of the area unable to afford Battersea house prices. They noted the absence of Community Police Officers but the proliferation of Traffic Wardens. The 'Watch Alarm' system for single elderly was praised – many not on benefits wished they could be offered this system. Not all care workers visiting their less robust neighbours came in for praise. Most of the group came from Battersea and most felt safe where they lived and travelled to during the daytime.

A group of young people attending a summer activity at Providence House gave an interesting list of likes/ dislikes/ wishes for Battersea (some slightly paraphrased)

LIKES	DISLIKES	WISHES
We all get along	Police 'suss' x 2	Everyone to care for the community
We all look out for one another	Litter/ dirty streets x 2	More places for young people to go to
Plenty of friendly shops x 3	Gangsters at night/ guns x 2	Resources at youth clubs
Local youth centres x 4	drugs	Make Winstanley a better place
Good community spirit	Dog's mess x 2	A safe place for children to meet up and have fun
Big buildings	Unkempt gardens	
The people	Rude/ bad people/ bullies x 2	
Being near my family	Neighbours	
Local parks / adventure playground x 2	Games pens	
Easy to get around	Winstanley Estate	

### **BATTERSEA HEALTHY LIVING INITIATIVE**

A recent update (end of October) revealed that the funding situation remains much as described. Even with a positive outcome from the consortium bid all of projects that form part of this initiative will suffer as a result of the reduced funds indeed some services may have to be curtailed. This is particularly serious for the following projects:

- CAB outreach for people on target estates. At present this amounts to two sessions per week at Battersea Park Library and one at Yvonne Carr Centre. CAB would not have sufficient resources to continue this outreach work. This would be a great loss to communities in deprived areas. This has been a high demand service. The annual target was 500 advice contacts including home visits to housebound clients. Over the past year the number of contacts have been 875 (including 546 who had never used CAB before + 12 home visits) Further this advice is not constrained by the 'time per client' limit imposed by Wandsworth Council for other CAB work.
- Sound Minds- an arts and mental well being project aimed at people experiencing, or at risk of mental ill- health. This is based in Battersea Methodist Mission and offers visual and performing arts activities as well as a healthy diet via its café run for all users. Although this project has funding from other sources the project mangers salary has not been secured.
- St John's Hill Centre runs a healthy eating lunch club with activities and support for older people on Winstanley, Doddington & Rollo Estates. This operates 5 days a week and offers transport for people with health and mobility problems. Peabody Trust provides major funding support for this facility. Loss of the BHLI funding will mean the withdrawal of a minibus to pick up the less mobile elderly members. Alongside Wandsworth Council's decision not to support some elderly lunch clubs and concentrate their resources on activities for the 'Active Elderly' this will have serious implications for the more isolated elderly.
- Young Persons Counselling Project for young people aged 14- 24.This is based in the Family Welfare Association in Edward Wilson House. During the course

of this project it has been heavily subscribed and the part time worker has not been able to fulfil her outreach work targets. Several agencies working with young people noted the absence or paucity of services for young people with mental health problems. Even if FWA were able to support this work in some way it fills a much needed gap in services and needs additional funding.

Without these individual projects some of the most vulnerable young people, people living with mental health problems, isolated elderly and refugee and asylum seekers living in Battersea will lose out.

### **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT REQUESTS**

These were as follows the order is not preference simply in order of visit:

- Ethelburga Community Clubroom (the most successful club room visited) - capital funding for disabled facilities.
- Garfield Community Centre- in addition to core funding costs – capital funding to revamp an underused art facility
- Battersea Christian Centre – IT equipment to support a homework club
- STORM – needs revenue funding for a member of staff (at present this project is entirely volunteer run)
- Providence House – investment in a wide range of facilities and activities including extra staffing.
- Shaftesbury Christian Centre- Funding for a Theatre school project. Also matched funding for a debt advice project. [A frequently mentioned need throughout the audit]. NB Possibility of combining resources with St Mark's where the Christians against Poverty (CAP) Wandsworth centre is based. In partnership these two facilities would offer and extend a much needed service across some of the estates where debt is an increasing problem. Possibly a three way partnership with Wandsworth CAB who also encounter many clients experiencing debt problems.
- Mi Hippo- funding to support outreach work
- St John's Hill centre- to support their plans to increase youth provision on the Clapham Estate
- Kulmiye Somali Organisation- needs revenue funding for a member of staff (at present this project is entirely volunteer run). Possible partnership work with ASWAC based at the WCEN offices?
- St Mark's Church- particularly to support the work of CAP Wandsworth, which is based here. NB Also see Shaftesbury Christian Centre above- possible partner + Wandsworth CAB.
- DRCA- need for capital funding to improve the community facilities. Need to strengthen the existing management structure

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recent demographic changes in Battersea may be leading to the emergence of polarised communities defined by differing patterns of income, lifestyle, property occupation, aspiration, health and educational attainment. There is a need for properly funded and effective community and voluntary sector activity that seeks to reduce deprivation, disadvantage and exclusion.
- there is a need for more readily accessible core funding for existing, effective umbrella organisations such as the Katherine Low Settlement and the Yvonne Carr Centre
- there is a need for project funding for smaller grass root community organisations which are often unable to access other sources of income but who carry out invaluable work locally. There is some evidence that the total available funding for such groups is in decline at present.
- there is a need for continuation funding for important initiatives aimed at youth deprivation and disadvantage funded by income streams that are now coming to an end, such as Local Network Fund.
- there is a need for continuation funding after July 2007 for the important Battersea Healthy Living Initiative aimed at health related issues in the 5 core wards in Battersea (identical to the ones covered by this audit). These wards have been characterised by high levels of deprivation, high levels of mental health need, high teenage conception rates and high levels of 'at risk' older people. Additionally these wards have large proportions of diverse BME populations including a rising proportion of refugees and asylum seekers.
- there is some evidence that Community and Voluntary organisations in Wandsworth as a whole may not be as successful in obtaining funding from national and pan London funders compared to the inward investment seen in

neighbouring boroughs from such funding sources. It is unclear at this stage whether this reflects the strength and capacity of the voluntary sector or misplaced priorities among funders. It serves to highlight the need for a well resourced Community Foundation presence in the borough to provide much needed independent seed-corn funding to local community organisations. The work carried out by the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency to help smaller groups access funding is recognised and clearly needs to continue if inward investment into the community and voluntary sector is to begin to match the levels obtained elsewhere.

- Readily available grant funding, particularly to smaller start up groups, could be a catalyst to help overcome the limited ethos of self help/ improvement within some of these local communities. The greater availability of such grant funding could help to bring about changes in attitude and may also encourage the growth of local grass root groups set up to deal with specific issues.
- It is evident from the study that the area is relatively rich in community buildings and sports courts and that many of these assets appear to be underused or in a state of disrepair. There is a need to look at the stock of existing community property /building resources to see how they can best be used for the benefit of the community.