

King's Heath

LOCAL ACTION PLAN

A Future for King's Heath

January 2006



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this Plan is to provide guidance for future development in King's Heath, which lies within the electoral wards of Moseley and King's Heath and Brandwood. It is a residential suburb located approximately 4 miles south of Birmingham city centre. The Action Plan will be used to guide land use and transport changes in the shopping area and the side streets off High Street and Alcester Road South.

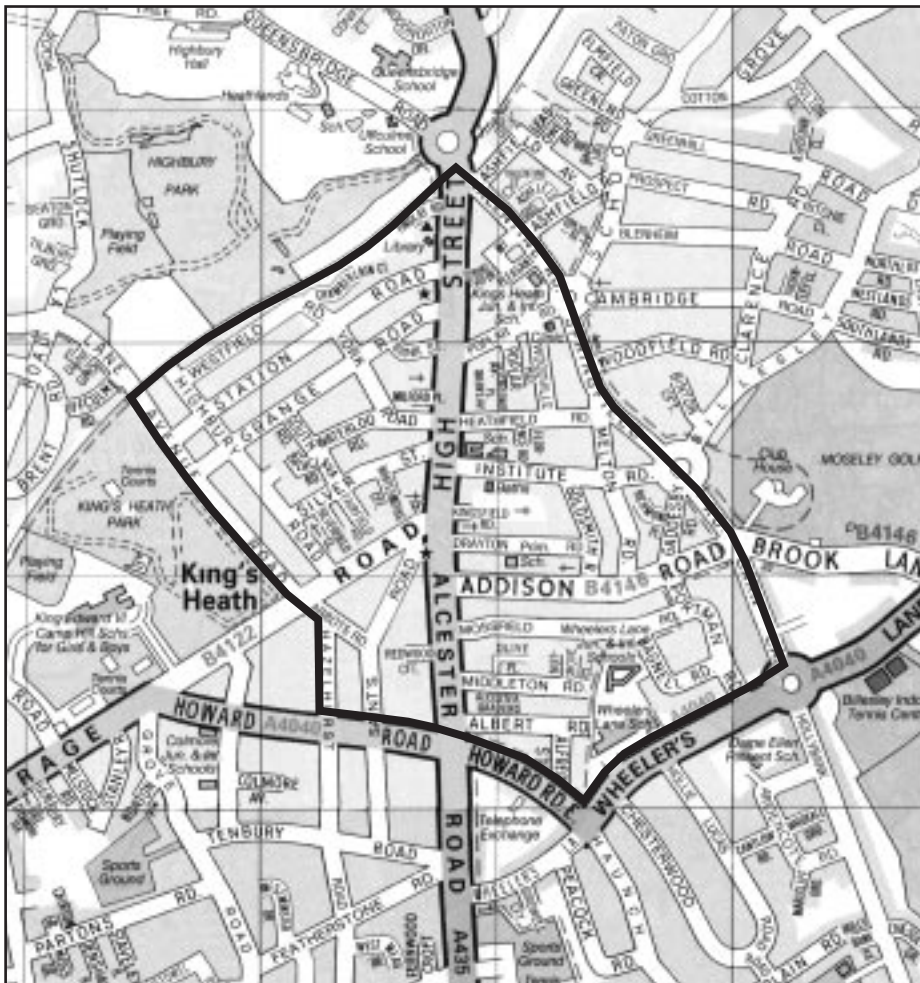
2 STATUS OF THE PLAN

2.1 The Local Action Plan has been prepared by Birmingham City Council in consultation with local residents, residents' groups, schools, community groups and the traders' group. The Plan has been prepared in response to requests from local residents and ward members and has been prepared within the context of The Birmingham Plan, the City Council's Birmingham Unitary Development Plan 2005. The Local Action Plan was adopted by the Cabinet of the City Council on 9th January 2006.

2.2 What can the Local Action Plan achieve?

The Local Action Plan is fundamentally a land use and transportation document providing planning guidance for future developers and it will be used in the determination of future planning applications. The plan identifies potential sites for redevelopment (see proposals map) and provides advice on transportation issues in order to encourage inward investment. The plan also seeks to address issues and concerns raised during the consultation exercise such as parking and traffic issues, and the overall environment of the area. The plan can also act as a tool for bidding for other funds.

PLAN OF STUDY AREA



2.3 The Vision

The aims of this Local Action Plan are:

- To maintain and strengthen the status of King's Heath as the largest local centre in south Birmingham.
- To improve the local environment and to make King's Heath more attractive and safer for all.
- To guide future investment and developments in the area in order to maintain its competitiveness.
- To combat the traffic congestion and its associated problems.

3 KING'S HEATH - THE PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE

3.1 The Place

The area is characterised by a linear shopping centre along the High Street and Alcester Road South (A435) with large residential areas consisting mainly of Victorian and Edwardian terraced properties to either side of the shopping area. The High Street forms the focal point of the community providing a range of shops and services. The total retail floorspace is over 24,000sqm with only a 4% vacancy rate (see para 7.3 for floorspace breakdown). King's Heath is easily accessible by public transport with the A435 being a frequent Bus Showcase route in and out of the City. There are two major parks located in King's Heath; Highbury Park and King's Heath Park, which provide important recreation and visual amenity value. Highbury Park is considered to be of high landscape value and as a result along with Highbury Hall it has been listed in the National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. King's Heath Park was awarded Green Flag status in 2005 by the Civic Trust.

3.2 The People

The community living within King's Heath Local Action Plan study area is mixed. The majority of residents come from White backgrounds (78%). Those from Asian backgrounds make up the second largest group (14%). Other ethnic groups make up the other 8% of the population. These figures are based on the 2001 census results.

The age structure of the local population is slightly older than that for the city as a whole. There are fewer people under the age of 16 (20% as opposed to the city average of 23%). The percentage of the population aged 60 or over is lower than that for the rest of the city. The largest proportion of the population is between 25 and 44 years (35.9% compared with a city average of 28.3%). This reflects the inward trend to King's Heath by young professionals and first time buyers. Unemployment in the area is below that in the city as a whole. The percentage of the population with qualifications to degree level or above is higher than Birmingham as a whole.

4 POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 The Action Plan has been prepared in the context of The Birmingham Plan - Birmingham's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which was adopted in July 1993 and is the sole statutory plan for the whole of the city and The Birmingham Plan - The Birmingham Unitary Development Plan 2005.

The Birmingham Plan guides development in the city and sets out an overall strategy for Birmingham. The following objectives have been established to achieve the strategy:

- Protect and enhance existing shopping centres as the focal point of community life.
- Protect and enhance what is good in the environment and improve what is less good.
- Provide good quality transport infrastructure to support economic revitalisation.
- Provide a variety of good quality housing to meet all needs.
- Maximise opportunities for new economic activity.
- Promote sustainable development and sustainable transport.

The Selly Oak Constituency Statement within The Birmingham Plan recognises in paragraph 20.42 that King's Heath is an important local centre for the southern suburbs and that its retail function has further scope for investment and improvement.

5 VIBRANT URBAN VILLAGES/LOCAL CENTRES STRATEGY

5.1 The City Council's Cabinet and Corporate Plan is committed to developing a city of vibrant urban villages. The City Council recognises the importance of local centres as the hub of community activity and their role in promoting urban regeneration, sustainability and social inclusion. The Corporate Plan sets out priorities for improving economic prosperity and creating thriving communities. In order to achieve this a Community Strategy has been prepared. This sets out a long term vision for Birmingham and identifies the main issues and objectives that are essential to achieving that vision.

5.2 The 'Vibrant Urban Villages' strategy seeks to maintain a network of attractive and accessible local centres across the city, which not only provide shopping facilities but also a variety of services, local employment and an identity for the local community. This strategy addresses environmental, economic and social issues together.

6 URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES

6.1 King's Heath is of mixed character however there is a strong Victorian influence with several Victorian properties fronting the high street, some of which are of particular architectural merit (see para 10.1). Any future developments affecting such buildings should seek to retain the existing Victorian character. The City Council has adopted urban design guidance 'Places for All' and, specifically for residential development, 'Places for Living'. All new developments will be required to comply with this guidance.

The Birmingham Plan identifies 5 main urban design principles. These are as follows:

- Encourage mixed use schemes.
- Provide and promote convenient safe routes.
- Define the public and private realm.
- Promote sustainability/ encourage buildings for the future.
- Build on local character.

All new development should be sensitive and compatible with its surroundings in terms of scale and design and should be accessible to people with disabilities and should provide natural surveillance to reduce opportunities for crime.

Additional design policy guidance for new residential development in mature suburbs with high quality environments is provided in 'Mature Suburbs - Residential Development Guidance (interim supplementary planning guidance - draft February 2005).

King's Heath - existing Victorian character



7 SHOPPING/ECONOMY

7.1 King's Heath is the largest shopping centre in the south of the city and is ranked 3rd largest in the city in terms of retail floorspace, with only the city centre and Sutton Coldfield having greater. The shopping centre has benefited from a large catchment area attracting people from all over south Birmingham. This is due to its range of convenience and comparison shops with several key retailers located within the centre. It includes a sizeable proportion of durable goods floorspace. There are several national retailers located within the centre and a market hall. However, local residents' and traders' perceptions are that the shopping centre is beginning to suffer from competition from other centres such as Shirley and Solihull, and that the range of shops has decreased. Public consultation revealed that many King's Heath residents travel to other centres such as Shirley for more specialist goods. There is therefore evidence to suggest that there is a market for more specialist shops such as a delicatessen, fishmongers, health food shops and cafes rather than takeaways. The Action Plan seeks to retain the existing trade and improve the facilities to prevent any further loss of trade.

7.2 King's Heath shopping centre is identified in The Birmingham Plan as a centre within which a Primary Retail Frontage policy may be appropriate, however a policy has not yet been prepared.



King's Heath High Street

There is no significant concentration of non-retail uses along the High Street and the City Council does not consider that a primary retail frontage policy is necessary at this time.

7.3 A retail survey undertaken in 1998 identified that: 11% of shops were convenience shops and 52% comparison shops; (63% of units in A1 use). A land use survey carried out in July 2003 revealed that there are 9 vacant shops out of a total of 202 retail units; 28 A3 Hot food takeaway, cafe and restaurant uses; 26 A2 financial and professional service uses mainly Banks, Estate Agents, Travel Agents; and a few Betting Offices. The most recent survey undertaken in 2004 indicated there were 162 (58.06%) A1 retail uses, 39 (13.98%) A2 uses, 25 (8.96%) A3 uses and 26 (9.32%) vacant shops. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of charity shops and discount shops. When assessed against the indicators for measuring vitality and viability in town centres provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note 6, King's Heath proves to be a healthy,

vibrant shopping centre offering a range of goods and services to a wide catchment area.

7.4 The Moseley Ward Development Plan (2001) recognises the success of the farmers' market in Moseley Village and is encouraging discussions between the City Council, King's Heath Business Association and the Neighbourhood Forum for the provision of a farmers' market in King's Heath. This could ideally be held on the new public square which will be created as part of the All Saints Church community development (see paragraph 9.2).

7.5 One of the key aims of The Birmingham Plan is to maintain and enhance existing centres and provide shops, services, community and other facilities in centres to meet local needs. Existing centres will continue to be the focus for new retail development. It is therefore important that local centres are easily accessible by all modes of transport including public transport. A sustainable land use pattern should therefore be encouraged.

7.6 Given the size of King’s Heath and its extensive catchment area, it is vital that the existing key retailers are retained and new investment is encouraged. The appointment of a Town Centre Manager could aid King’s Heath in maximising its potential and provide a key link between the City Council, retailers and the local community. The appointment of a Town Centre manager will be investigated further.

7.7 In accordance with policies in The Birmingham Plan and PPG6 new retail development should be concentrated within or, where this is not possible, on the edge of the existing shopping centre. In addition main entrances and windows should front on to the High Street and Alcester Road South with active window displays.

7.8 Policies

S1- To encourage continued investment in retail in King’s Heath, either through new/ redevelopment or investment in existing shop premises. There are opportunities for small scale retail and mixed use development within the centre for example on York Road.

S2- Any future redevelopment opportunities within King’s Heath should encourage mixed use with retail on the ground floor and appropriate uses of upper floors e.g. residential or office accommodation.

S3- To encourage investment from specialist retailers currently not in the centre.

S4- General improvements to the shopping environment to attract quality retailing.

S5- To encourage café uses with pavement seating particularly in areas benefiting from wider pavements.

S6- Support the Moseley Ward Development Plan’s proposals for a farmers’ market.

S7- Redevelopment schemes that improve the shopping function and further upgrade and enhance the centre will be encouraged.

S8- To encourage the appointment of a Town Centre Manager.

8 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

8.1 King’s Heath is a key shopping centre attracting trade from all over south Birmingham. It straddles a main highway route into the city centre and it benefits from frequent bus services. As with many other shopping centres within the city there can be congestion and there is a lack of sufficient off street parking.

8.2 The Local Action Plan recognises the importance of maintaining and improving the existing transport infrastructure and aims:

- To reduce the impact of traffic through King’s Heath centre and adjoining residential areas.
- To improve access for public transport, pedestrians, cyclists and car borne users.
- To address environmental and safety concerns.

8.3 Overview

The A435 forms part of the City’s Strategic Highway Network connecting Birmingham and Redditch/M42. This forms an important transport route into the city centre and provides a proportion of passing trade for King’s Heath shopping centre. The A4040 forms part of the outer circle route (a district distributor road) which forms an important route for east to west communication. Vicarage Road and Addison Road are B roads at present, however their function is as local distributor roads.

Short Term Action	Timescale	Directorate
1) Investigate the appointment of a Town Centre Manager (S8)	6 months	Development Directorate
2) Identify ways in which to encourage investment into the centre eg. set up Promotional Forum	12 months	Development Directorate

King's Heath is accessible by public transport with the No 50 and the No.11 Outer Circle bus showcase routes using Vicarage Road and Addison Road. Many other important bus routes also pass through the centre. The Local Action Plan supports further improvements to public transport such as modifications to facilitate better interchange and information and the review of routes and location of bus stops.

The Camp Hill Railway Line lies on the boundary of the Action Plan area and currently provides for freight and limited through passenger trains. The Birmingham Plan contains a principal objective to reserve the opportunity to open up the line for passengers in the future, although this will require new passenger stations to be provided.

There is limited available off-street parking. King's Heath relies heavily on on-street parking which compounds the problem in the residential areas. There are opportunities to improve the layout and circulation of several car parks within the study area, including the Lidl/Neighbourhood Office car park in Silver Street. Land at the rear of the parade would also have potential for parking uses.

There continues to be a safety issue along the High Street with a mix of pedestrian and through traffic and there are a number of schools within the study area where the school run adds to the congestion and on-street parking problems.

The following table contains results of an accident survey undertaken over the last five years for the High Street and Alcester Road between its junctions with Queensbridge and Howard Road. 78% of accidents took place in daylight hours and 68% in dry road conditions.

	Accident by Severity	Casualty by Severity
Fatal	2	4
Serious	10	10
Slight	116	143
Total	128	157

The large volumes of traffic passing through the centre and pressure for parking from shoppers, residents and local traders, particularly at peak times, are creating a number of problems including:

- Congestion on the High Street.
- 'Rat running' through residential areas.
- Conflict between local residents and school traffic, particularly in the Wheelers Lane, Bagnell Road, Portman Road area.
- In All Saints Road, conflict with buses, residents and shoppers.

8.4 Cycling Facilities

There are no designated cycling routes within the study area despite King's Heath and Moseley having one of the highest levels of cycling in the city. There is a signed route passing through the action plan area from the Rea Valley along

Dad's Lane, Avenue Road, and Grange Road to King's Heath High Street. This route is supported by the Action Plan.

8.5 Actions already undertaken

Action has been undertaken to improve safety and accessibility. This has included:

- A number of road safety improvements have been implemented within the study area including build outs, road junction narrowing and traffic calming measures in the side roads.
- Avenue Road - Zebra Crossing near to Grange Road crossing to park.
- Dad's Lane - Puffin Crossing and Zebra Crossing.
- Bus Showcase Scheme routes on 50 and No.11 (under way) including new shelters, build outs, road junction narrowing, traffic calming on surrounding roads and amended Traffic Regulation Orders.
- Local Safety Scheme - Restricted entry to Grange Road and Station Road and the introduction of one-way restrictions in Bank Street.
- Safer Routes to School Scheme - Wheelers Lane Primary School. One-way restrictions in Bagnell Road with parking restrictions.
- New roundabout at junction of Howard Road and Wheelers Lane.
- Ring and Ride - Installation of new bus stops and information point in Alcester Road South near to Mossfield Road.

- Cycling Facilities - Installation of cycle stands at various locations in High Street and Heathfield Road.

8.6 Policies

T1- To explore additional off street parking facilities. Increase safe parking and reinvestigate a controlled parking zone within the area (this will be subject to separate public consultation).

T2- To develop further traffic management proposals for the area addressing the issues of loading, limited street parking, safety signage and condition of footways. Review on-street and off-street parking arrangements. Improve delivery and service access including looking at restriction times.

T3- To review safety issues within the High Street.

T4- To review with bus operators and Centro present routes, bus interchange arrangements and improved access and investigate park and ride to serve the corridor to reduce through traffic levels.

T5- To consider whether the present pedestrian facilities, pedestrian crossing, footpaths and disability access are appropriate, seek ways to reduce clutter and excessive signage. Promote a co-ordinated design of street furniture and other improvements.

T6- To increase cycling facilities both through and around the centre. Develop with interested groups improved cycling access and review the option of providing a safer route parallel to the High Street.

T7- To support the re-introduction of local passenger rail services on the Camp Hill railway line and ensure that any future development does not prejudice this from being provided in the future.

T8- To review the present traffic calming arrangements and consider the needs of schools and other services.

T9- To explore traffic calming measures on All Saints Road or re-routing of the buses.

T10- To continue to promote the 'Safe Routes to Schools' initiative by working with schools on school travel plans.

Short Term Action	Timescale	Directorate
1) Review the work undertaken on the High Street	Surveys to be undertaken within 6 months	Development Directorate (Transportation Strategy)
2) Rationalise existing signage and provision of new pedestrian signage	12 months	Development Directorate (Transportation Strategy)
3) Promote walking and cycling and school travel plans as part of the 'Safe Routes to School' initiative	Contact to be made with local schools within 6 months	Development Directorate (Transportation Strategy)

9 ENVIRONMENT

9.1 There is a general feeling amongst residents and users of King's Heath that the general street scene could be improved. The quality of the area can be a major contributing factor in attracting new investment. Major retailers are more likely to locate to an attractive vibrant centre with a positive image. Many factors can contribute to the feeling of decline of a centre such as congestion, inadequate pedestrian facilities, graffiti, litter and vacant land. Public consultation revealed that many residents perceive the quality of the environment in King's Heath to be poor compared with neighbouring local centres such as Moseley. A particular area of concern was the land off All Saints Road/rear of 230 Alcester Road/Sainsburys. The action plan will seek to make environmental enhancements.

9.2 All Saints Church

All Saints' Church is a Grade II Listed Building, which along with its green spacious setting provides an important focal point for King's Heath. The church is proposing to expand the existing facilities and create a new community centre within the church grounds. This will comprise the relocation of the existing doctors surgery at 1 Vicarage Road, pharmacy, elderly persons and youth facility, café and a new vicarage. This will involve the demolition of the existing vicarage and church hall. Planning permission for the development was granted in January 2005.



All Saints' Church



The Parade, High Street

The new developments will be focused around a new community square and could provide a setting for a variety of activities from formal church events to a farmers' market. The new square will serve the wider community and it will be essential to safeguard the provision of public toilet facilities. The proposals will also include improvements to the road junction for pedestrians and also the bus showcase route. The City Council supports the principle of this community project and is in active discussions with the Church and development partners to secure its implementation.

9.3 There are a number of Environmental Initiatives that have been launched recently and funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. These include:

‘Enough is Enough’

This initiative identifies a number of different areas where improvements can be made, these are as follows:

- ‘Bin 2 Win’ was originally set up for Moseley but has recently been extended to King’s Heath High Street. This scheme encourages people to put their litter from takeaway food outlets in the bin by providing a prize draw if people put their contact details on their rubbish and put it in the bin.
- Thirty new litterbins are being provided across the ward.
- An Environmental Enforcement Warden has been appointed.
- A phone line has been set up which is dedicated to receiving referrals about environmental matters.
- Regular rubbish removals.

In addition to the ‘Enough is Enough’ scheme, ‘Run a Muck’ is a community composting scheme, which involves the collection of garden waste.

9.4 Community Safety

Perceptions of safety can have an impact on the vitality of a shopping centre. People have a tendency to shop in an environment where they feel safe in terms of both crime and road safety. With regards to tackling crime, in May 2001 a Crime Fighting Team (West Midlands

Police) was set up, part funded by the government. This provides a team of 10 constables and 1 sergeant who are permanently on foot patrol in the High Street between the hours of 10:00am and 10:00pm Monday to Saturday. As a result crime has been reduced by 76% on the High Street in the last 2 years.

In addition King’s Heath Business Association was established and has raised money towards Christmas lights and supported the CCTV scheme. The King’s Heath Business Association have also raised money through advertising in their Directory and provided 2 retail radios and one mobile phone.

The King’s Heath Community Safety Partnership (including Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police, King’s Heath Business Association, Centro and King’s Heath Neighbourhood Forum) was established to take advantage of the Government’s Home Office funds to develop a

CCTV system to cover the retail area. With additional financial support for the City Council, Centro and businesses this scheme is now fully operational and includes 14 cameras covering the High Street and side streets. Further assistance would be required in generating the revenue element on an annual basis.

9.5 Non-Conforming Uses

The areas to the east and west of the main High Street are characterised by residential terraced properties. However, there are several long established industrial uses located within the residential neighbourhoods. Whilst there is no immediate action that can be taken to remove these non-conforming uses, the redevelopment of these sites for more appropriate, preferably residential, uses will be encouraged as and when the sites become available for redevelopment. Any future proposals for non-conforming uses will be discouraged.

CCTV in King’s Heath



9.6 Policies

E1- Environmental improvements including new street furniture, bins, seating, paving, tree planting, hanging baskets and lighting will be investigated. A coordinated approach to the design of such facilities will be promoted.

E2- Support further community safety initiatives within the shopping centre and in particular the revenue elements of the CCTV system.

E3- Environmental improvements to the rear of Sainsbury's i.e. planting, improved landscaping and better lighting will be investigated.

E4- General shopfront improvements to enhance the overall appearance of the main shopping area will be encouraged and must be in accordance with the City Council's adopted Shopfronts Design Guide.

E5- Owners are encouraged to bring vacant properties back into appropriate use.

E6- Any future proposals for non-conforming uses in residential areas will be discouraged.

Removal of existing non-conforming uses and replacement with residential uses will be encouraged as and when they come forward for development.

E7- Improve the pavements in the area and remove unnecessary clutter such as illegal advertisement boards and provide fingerposts at junctions.

E8- Remove fly posting and graffiti.

E9- Support the All Saints Community Development Project to create a new public square, community facilities and re-located doctors surgery.

E10- Support the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund projects 'Enough is Enough', 'Run a Muck' and 'Empty Properties' schemes.

10 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

10.1 There are no designated Conservation Areas within the plan area, however there are some Listed Buildings. These include the Hare and Hounds Public House at the junction of High Street and York Road and All Saints' Church, which are both statutory Grade II Listed. Number 37 Avenue Road, which was a former button factory, is locally listed. Proposals which would adversely affect listed buildings and their settings within the plan area will not normally be allowed.



King's Heath Baptist Church

10.2 There are two known archaeological sites within the Local Action Plan. These are the Hare and Hounds Moated Site on York Road which dates back to the Medieval period and a site where Roman Coins were found on All Saints Road (see proposals map appendix 2). Green Hill Road Medieval Moat site immediately adjoins the Local Action Plan boundary.

Short Term Action	Timescale	Directorate
1) Explore opportunity to erect hanging baskets in the High Street. Contact to be made with Horticultural College(E1)	6 months	Local Services Directorate (Leisure Services)
2) Investigate possibility of King's Heath having its own Street Wardens	6 months	Local Services Directorate (Environmental/Consumer Services)
3) Removal of A-boards/Sandwich Boards: Explore alternatives and set up meeting with Business Association to discuss sponsorship of new fingerposts (E8)	6 months	Local Services Directorate (Regulatory Services)



141 High Street

10.3 There are a number of buildings of architectural merit along the High Street, which are being considered for the Local List or even Statutory Listing. These include King's Heath Baptist Church, HSBC, 96 High Street and Select Clothing at 141 High Street.

10.4 Policies

HE1- Retain existing buildings of architectural merit. There are some fine examples of Victorian Architecture e.g. HSBC, Hare and Hounds PH, Hedges Building (1-9 Alcester Road South), and Select Clothing at 141 High Street.

HE2- Any new development should build on the character of the remaining Victorian buildings.

HE3- Protect archaeological remains.

11 HOUSING

11.1 Other than the main High Street shopping area, the study area is predominantly residential and is characterised by pre-1919 Victorian and Edwardian terraced houses with the majority of houses in private ownership. There has been very little new housing built within the plan area with the majority of new housing being built on previously developed land and providing for the removal of existing non-conforming uses.

11.2 During the plan preparation consultation process many respondents commented that there are too many empty properties in King's Heath. In July 2003 there were approx. 120 empty properties recorded within the study area boundary, with the highest concentration being in Station Road, Grange Road and York Road. Although many of these properties are in private ownership and there is limited action that the City Council can take, this plan supports the City Council's 'Empty Homes Strategy'. Through this strategy the Council seeks to encourage owners to bring empty dwellings back into use or as a last resort by using Compulsory Purchase Powers.

11.3 Policies

H1- Improve the condition of the existing stock.

H2- Bring empty properties back into use by supporting the City Council's 'Empty Homes Strategy'.

H3- Promote the 'Living Above The Shop' initiative.

H4- Housing Department to explore the possibility of implementing an Equity Release Scheme in the King's Heath area.

12 EDUCATION

12.1 King's Heath benefits from a range of schools from pre-school to senior school and further education level. Several of the schools provide additional services to the wider community. The following schools are located within the study area:

NURSERY - Wheelers Lane.

JUNIOR and INFANT - Wheelers Lane, St Dunstons RC, King's Heath Junior, Infant and Nursery.

SECONDARY - Wheelers Lane Boys, Bishop Challoner Catholic School, Queensbridge School.

FURTHER EDUCATION - Bishop Challoner Sixth Form.

12.2 Recent Developments

A new Sports Centre for school and community use at Bishop Challoner Catholic School has recently been completed. Although primarily a school facility, the sports hall will be open to the public in the evenings and at weekends as part of the planning agreement (refer to Policy L2). The planning approval also includes a condition for 26 parking spaces to be provided for shopper's between 09:00 and 17:00 hours.

12.3 Future Developments

The Local Education Authority is proposing the re-development of the entire Wheelers Lane School campus incorporating the nursery, junior and infant and secondary schools into a new primary school and technical college. This will be a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and is known as 'PPP2 - Schools'. It is hoped the new schools will be built and occupied by Summer 2007. It is proposed that the re-building programme will be carried out in phases in order to allow the school to remain open during the construction period. This is likely to include temporary classroom accommodation.

Any redevelopment should address the parking/traffic and access situation. The opportunity for the whole campus to be accessed off Wheelers Lane to deter school traffic through the residential areas of Bagnell Road should be explored. Redevelopment of this site should comply with City Council policy to promote walking to school under the 'Safe Routes to School Initiative'.

The 'Safe Routes to School Initiative' should be promoted throughout the plan area and all schools should explore initiatives such as 'Walking Buses' and safe crossing points (see Transport Policy T8 and T10).

13 LEISURE

13.1 The Action Plan area abuts the boundary of two of the City's finest parks: King's Heath Park and Highbury Park. These are recognised within the Birmingham Plan for their landscape value with Highbury Hall and Park listed in the National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The Local Action Plan seeks to reinforce this and maintain its status. Not only do these two parks provide an important recreational asset to the area but they also contribute to the local economy. An annual gardeners' festival and flower show is held in King's Heath Park, which also attracts visitors from outside the area. There is also a Horticultural College within the grounds of King's Heath Park.

13.2 There is an additional children's playground within the Local Action Plan boundary at the corner of Alcester Road South, Howard Road East and Albert Road. The residential streets to the east of the High Street adjoining Valentine Road and Springfield Road are a considerable distance from children's play facilities. Should any suitable sites come forward, the action plan will encourage the development of play facilities in this area.

13.3 There are no allotments within the Local Action Plan boundary, however there are several on the fringes. King's Heath and Moseley are one of the areas within the City with the highest demand for allotments. However, the turnover for allotment allocations is low as people wish to retain their plots. As allotments become occupied very quickly there is always a waiting list.

Short Term Action	Timescale	Directorate
1) Start dialogue between Bishop Challenor School and Leisure Services on community access to new sports hall and pricing	6 months	Selly Oak District Manager
2) Discuss how Section 106 monies from Reddings Lane development is to be spent in Highbury Park. Discussions to take place between Leisure Services, Friends of Highbury Park and Neighbourhood Forum	6 months	Local Services Directorate (Leisure Services)

13.4 As a result of the Golf Course development, two thirds of the allotments at Billesley Lane will be lost. The Action Plan seeks to retain the remaining allotments within the vicinity and will be looking to increase the existing stock as and when suitable sites become available.

13.5 Policies

L1- Support the implementation of play facilities in King's Heath Park.

L2- Ensure the new sports hall at Bishop Challoner School is available for use by the wider community.

L3- Support the City Council's Allotment Strategy. As there are no allotments within the study area, every effort should be made to protect sites close to the area. Should suitable land become available it should be considered for allotment use.

L4- Explore opportunities for funding for investment in Highbury Park.

L5- Encourage appropriate tree planting and landscaping within any new development.

L6- Explore funding opportunities for replacing tennis facilities in King's Heath Park.

L7- Encourage the provision of play facilities in the residential areas to the east of the High Street.

14 THE WAY FORWARD

14.1 The Local Action Plan has been prepared by Birmingham City Council in partnership with local residents, community groups, the traders' association, local ward members and King's Heath Neighbourhood Forum. The policies and proposals set out in the plan represent the views and aspirations of the local community.

14.2 The objective of the Local Action Plan is to maintain King's Heath's role as a major district centre in the south of Birmingham with shops and other key services providing a focal point for the local community by retaining key retailers and attracting new investors and to improve the environment and the shopping experience for those visiting the centre.

14.3 The City Council recognises that many of the proposals set out in the Local Action Plan may take a number of years to be realised. However there are a

number of proposals which through continued partnership can be achieved in the shorter term.

14.4 The policies and proposals set out in the Action Plan will now form the basis of discussion with landowners, businesses, relevant Council departments and other agencies in order to achieve their implementation. The plan will be used to bid for new resources.

14.5 There will be development opportunities that will arise outside the Local Action Plan boundary that will have potential to generate significant benefits for the plan area. Where such opportunities do arise, all effort will be made to maximise linkages to and benefits for the plan area. Examples of nearby developments where such benefits will be explored include proposed improvements at Queensbridge School and any proposals that come forward for Chamberlain House within Highbury Park.

Childrens play area, King's Heath Park



15 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 PROPOSALS MAP



Key				Open Space	
	Local Action Plan Boundary		Future Developments		Public Open Space
	Kings Heath Retail Core		Proposed Redevelopment Of School Campuses		Public Playing Field
	Opportunity For Carparking		Alteners		Private Playing Field
	Opportunity For Retail		Statutory Listed Building		Educational Playing Field
	Environmental Enhancements / Rationalisation Of Parking		Locally Listed Building		Golf Courses
	Residential Developments		Building Of Architectural Merit		
			Archaeological Site		Rationalisation Of Site
			All Saints Church - Grade II Listed		Recent Approval For Sports Hall
			Explore Improvements To Junction		Recent Approval For Flats
			Traffic Calming		Recent Approval For Retail Unit
			Neighbourhood Office		Childrens Play Facilities

Appendix 2 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

16.1 King's Heath is a densely built up area with limited land availability for development. However, there are a number of sites where recent planning approvals have been granted or where preliminary discussions have taken place between the City Council and developers.

16.2 Land at Rear of 51-67 High Street (The Parade)

This site situated between the rear of 51-67 High Street and King's Heath Junior and Infant School is vacant. There have been previous planning approvals for the use of this site for a car park and also erection of a B1 factory unit and ancillary warehousing. Neither of these schemes have been implemented, although the approval for the B1 unit does not expire until March 2006.

Should the B1 Unit not be developed, the site would have potential for parking.

16.3 9-27 Heathfield Road

Planning permission has recently been granted for the conversion of the existing shops and offices into residential accommodation and the erection of a new brick-built warehouse building in the rear yard. This will involve the demolition of several of the existing buildings at the rear and improvements to the parking, circulation and storage areas.

Should the scheme not proceed there would be the opportunity to consider a more comprehensive residential development.

16.4 York Road

There are several properties which lie within the retail core which would benefit from investment/ improvement.

16.5 Findlay Road

This site comprises three large retail/warehouse units and ancillary car parking. The unit at the rear of the site has been vacant for some time and presents an investment opportunity. There has been a recent planning approval for change of use to an indoor children's play facility. In the longer term, the Unitary Development Plan reserves the possibility of re-opening the Camp Hill railway line for local passengers. Should development proposals for this area come forward the opportunity for of re-providing a train station at King's Heath and associated car parking should be safeguarded.

USEFUL DOCUMENTS

The Birmingham Plan

Birmingham Unitary
Development Plan 2005

Mature Suburbs

Residential Development
Guidelines (interim
Supplementary Planning
Guidance) Draft February 2005

Archaeological Strategy

Supplementary Planning
Guidance February 2004

The Birmingham Plan

Birmingham Unitary
Development Plan Adopted July
1993

The Birmingham Plan

Alterations and Environmental
Appraisal Deposit Draft 2001

Shopping in Birmingham

Places for All

Supplementary Planning
Guidance November 2001

Places for Living

Supplementary Planning
Guidance March 2001

Shopfront Design Guide

Supplementary Planning
Guidance April 1996

Moseley Ward Development Plan

2001

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King's Heath

LOCAL ACTION PLAN

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