

## **Community Profile for Growing Together operational area**

### **The physical environment**

#### ***Location***

The Growing Together operational area is located in the north-east of Northampton. It consists of four estates making up the former Lumbertubs electoral Ward. These are Blackthorn/Cherry Lodge, Goldings/Overstone Lodge, Lings and Lumbertubs. The Ward has since been broken up by the Boundaries Commission and the four estates fall between Brookside, Talavera and Rectory Farm Wards.

Like the rest of the Eastern District, the estates were originally developed on greenfield sites in the late 1960s/early 1970s to house a “London overspill” population. The countryside is never far away and many of the street names provide a direct link to the rural past: Old Barn Court, Great Meadow, the Paddocks etc. Some original farm buildings still stand: Lodge Farm Community Centre is one such in the operational area. This recent history does mean that there is often a sense of belonging that is unusual in an urban area. Older local residents from across the District are able to refer to a shared past of migration in the way that only BME and Irish communities might do elsewhere. The reverse side of this strong community identity is that the Eastern District continues to be stigmatised in the rest of Northampton as run-down and crime-ridden. The area has also become home to a sizeable number of BME residents and migrants from eastern and middle Europe.

The estates were developed as Council housing and Northampton Borough Council remains by far the largest landlord. The Right to Buy policies introduced in the 1980s, however, mean that well over half of the housing is now in owner-occupation or the private rented sector. Much of the area was developed according to now outmoded Radburn principles and the estates suffer from high “permeability”, limited vehicular access and a lack of “defensible space” around houses, all of which are now regarded as being conducive to criminal activity. The housing stock is seen by many as coming to the end of its expected life and in need of major capital investment.

#### ***Facilities and developments***

Generally speaking, facilities are provided on an estate by estate basis, with having its own school and local shopping centre (shared in the case of Lings and Lumbertubs). Usually this is restricted to a general store and newsagent and some fast food

outlets. There is, however, a major district retail centre at Weston Favell with a Tesco supermarket and branches of many other high street chain retailers, together with banking and library facilities. A pub once also formed a part of each estate's hub, but two of the three have since been closed down due to poor commercial viability and the focus they were providing for criminal activity. The Millwheel at the Lings/Lumbertubs centre is now a community centre with a fast food outlet and a hairdresser, while the decaying Silver Horse building on Goldings has recently been sold to a local entrepreneur for redevelopment. Only the Pig and Whistle at Blackthorn continues to trade as a licenced premises.

There is also a major leisure centre at Weston Favell, a multi-practice health centre, and the main church and other facilities offered by the Emmanuel Group of Churches. There is a District Police Station and a Catholic Church only a couple of minutes' walk from Weston Favell. In addition to the four GP practices in the centre at Weston Favell centre, there is also a Medical Centre on Tonmead Road, next to Lumbertubs Primary School.

Sure Start Children's Centres at Thorplands and Blackthorn provide a wide variety of facilities and support services to families with pre-school children, including play and child care, health and financial advice. Roughly speaking, Lings and Lumbertubs are in the catchment area for the Thorplands Centre, while Blackthorn and Goldings (plus the eastern part of Lings) are served by Blackthorn.

Four primary schools, principally, cover the area: Lumbertubs, Lings, Wood Vale and Blackthorn, with the majority of pupils continuing into secondary education at either Northampton Academy or Weston Favell. Others will go on to Northampton School for Girls, Northampton School for Boys or Thomas Becket RC School – or further afield still.

The only functioning Residents' Association in the area is Brookside Residents Council, which covers the Lings and Lumbertubs estates. Blackthorn Good Neighbours (BGN) run the Blackthorn Children's and Community Centre as well as being the Locally Trusted Organisation for Growing Together. The former Millwheel pub building is now Brookside Hall, a community centre hosting a wide variety of activities and funded by rent from a fast food outlet and a hairdresser.

### ***Population***

The total population of the former electoral Ward was 9,067 people in June 2010.

There are 4,751 households, as follows. For comparison, the numbers of households by estate consulted from this Plan are also detailed.

<b>Estate</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
Blackthorn/Cherry Lodge	1814	38.74%	28.15%
Lings	1193	25.11%	33.06%
Goldings/Overstone Lodge	910	19.15%	14.02%
Lumbertubs	834	17.55%	24.12%

The principal source of population profiling data is, of course, the 21011 Census. However, Census data is no longer collated or published by electoral ward, but by Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), subdivided into Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The Growing Together area falls with eight SOAs.

- The majority of the area is covered by the Northampton 007 MSOA. This MSOA falls entirely within the Growing Together Area and comprises 5,901 residents (i.e. 65% approx. of the total population). It does not include Goldings or Lumbertubs.
- SOA 004A covers Lumbertubs, against falling entirely within the Growing Together area. It has a population of 1,575 (17.37 of the total).
- Goldings falls within LSOA 005E, which also includes a significant part of Southfields. LSOA 005E has 1,854 residents.
- Shadowfax Drive and the streets running off it are included in Rectory Farm. They are not considered here as they form so small a part of that SOA.

The following table shows the Census information for gender, disability, age, ethnicity and language from these SOAs. All numbers are percentages. The table also shows the profile of first stage consultees for this Community Plan. It should be noted that the data for age only include people from 13 upwards as younger children were not included in the consultation at this stage.

Numbers will not add up to 100% due to rounding; within the languages data, only information about selected major language is given.

	<b>MSOA 007</b>	<b>LSOA 005E</b>	<b>LSOA 004A</b>	<b>Northampton</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	48.36	46.44	50.92	49.11	32.54
Female	51.36	53.55	49.07	50.88	66.4
<b>Reporting a disability</b>	18.3	14.77	16.57	19.18	18.25

<b>Age</b>					
Teens	13.81	13.73	18.3	10.39	8.46
20s	18.06	20.45	19.6	18.44	19.57
30s	18.39	21.42	20.51	18.26	19.57
40s	15.98	17.19	17.54	17.36	14.02
50s	14.63	12.69	12.12	13.56	14.02
60s	12.16	8.66	8.23	11.39	14.28
70s	5.22	4.02	2.97	6.72	6.61
80s	1.82	1.8	0.68	3.83	0.79
<b>Ethnicity</b>					
White (British)	65.85	72.79	59.74	76.55	74.6
White (Other)	7.04	7.87	11.23	7.96	7.67
Mixed	4.42	4.09	5.84	3.22	1.32
Asian (Indian sub-continent)	9.71	3.12	7.61	5.68	4.49
Black/Black British	11.16	10.78	13.26	5.06	8.99
Other	1.79	1.34	2.28	1.51	0.26
<i>A number of consultation respondents did not provide ethnicity information.</i>					
<b>Main language spoken</b>					
English	81.83	89.32	83.17	89.92	Not asked
Other European language	4.05	5.54	8.27	4.66	Not asked
of which, Polish	1.96	2.97	2.42	2.67	Not asked
Russian	0.45	0.05	0.6	0.36	Not asked
South Asian languages	4.79	0.81	3.36	2.21	Not asked
African languages	1.71	2.68	2.89	0.96	Not asked
of which, Somali	0.47	1.28	0.87	0.32	Not asked
<b>Not able to speak English well or at all</b>	3.21	1.75	3.55	2.32	Not asked



Lumbertubs estate	12	19.24	13.6	14.65	10.91	0.8	56.3	33.35
East Lings	26.85	22.75	35.32	40.45	14.51	4.45	81.66	59.85
Cherry Lodge	29.89	22.44	33.09	36.28	15.99	13.51	73.66	81.9
West Lings	11.45	14	10.73	9.78	9.06	5.13	64.21	52.15
Blackthorn	8.17	3.97	16.74	15.04	2.2	6.05	73.86	61.71
Goldings	13.84	16.35	27.88	21.82	3.18	2.26	54.5	37.18

Other than pockets of relative affluence in Cherry Lodge and the eastern part of Lings (predominantly the privately owned Paddocks and Priors Courts), the general picture is of an overall deprivation position ranging from 13.84% in the case Goldings to 8.17% for Blackthorn. Lumbertubs, west Lings, Blackthorn and Golding are all in the bottom 15%, with Blackthorn in the bottom 10% nationally. Some of these overall scores mask considerable differences. Cherry Lodge includes the relatively deprived Maidencastle area as well as much more affluent streets on the other side of xxx, while Goldings includes a number of recent private housing developments as well as the highly deprived areas around Dryley's, Crestline and Prentice Courts and the xxx flats.

Looking at the specific domains, a different picture emerges:

- the very low scores under the crime domain, common across most of the Eastern District, stand out. Lumbertubs estate falls in the bottom 1% nationally
- income deprivation in Blackthorn and the level of skills and qualifications in Blackthorn and Goldings are of real concern
- generally low scores for educational attainment across the area do not bode well for the social mobility of future generations
- environmental quality is fairly high, reflecting the green spaces and proximity to open countryside
- barriers to services and housing (a measure of homelessness, access to housing, housing conditions and distance from essential services) is likewise reasonably good
- health and disability scores are good, other than on Lumbertubs and part of the Lings estate, perhaps reflecting the relatively young age profile of the area.

It is also of concern that the very large majority of scores have declined since the previous (2007) Indices. Some of these declines, especially in Goldings (Health & Disability and Employment) have been quite dramatic.

These statistical findings are reflected in the high priority given by residents to tackling crime and making the area feels safer and the need to invest in opportunities for children and teenagers.

### ***Comparison of Community Profile and Growing Together consultees***

Broadly speaking, the consultation respondent profile matches the community profile. The one major imbalance is in gender proportions, with male respondents well below profile. This is a product of undertaking the consultation through door-knocking when men are more likely to be at work and at children focused events. No remedial action is proposed.

Further door-knocking will be focused on Blackthorn and Goldings to balance up a slight mismatch there.

Teenagers are under-represented slightly but this will be rectified through a Survey Monkey questionnaire currently being promoted by the various youth projects working in the area.

Slight under-representation of households from the Indian sub-continent is noted. No remedial action is proposed.