

# STAMP END PLACECHECK



## FINAL REPORT

&

## ACTION PLAN

September 2004

*A placecheck is a survey carried out by local people. It asks what is good about the area that we live in, what is bad and how can things be made better. It is about working together for a joint purpose, not just local people but all agencies, authorities and businesses that have an interest in the local area. The best thing about a placecheck is that it works.*

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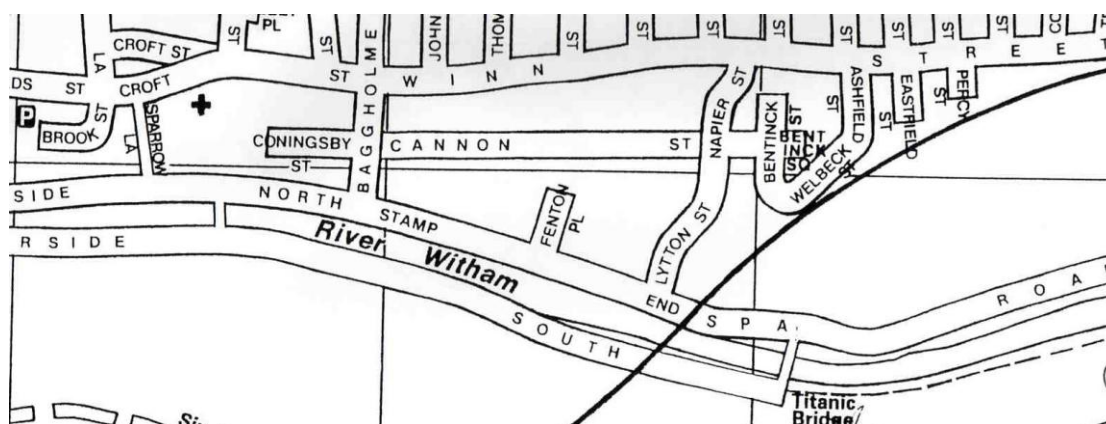
## **Introduction**

The Stamp End Placecheck is being carried out by the Stamp End Tenants and Residents Association with support from LCDP. A placecheck is a community planning tool where local residents attempt to measure their local environment through what they like and dislike, as well as how things can be improved, through working together. The aim is to involve all agencies who have a responsibility for how services and facilities operate, so that all decisions that need to be made are made.

Since the launch of the Monks Road Placecheck report in summer 2002, there has been a marked improvement of that area. Whilst some of the improvement schemes had already been planned ahead of the placecheck, there is no doubt that the findings of the report have had a significant influence on how different agencies and groups have worked together for the good of the area. This has encouraged the use of placechecks as Community Planning Tools in other parts of Lincoln.

## **Stamp End**

### **Geographical**



The Stamp End area is situated at the South end of the Abbey ward, next to the River Witham. For the purposes of this placecheck, Stamp End lies within the following boundaries: To the North are St Rumbold's Streets, Croft Street and Winn Street, with houses on the north side of these marking the Northern boundary; to the South is the river Witham; the Eastern boundary is the railway level crossing near the foot of Spa Street and the West is Broadgate between Waterside North and St Rumbold's Street. There are areas where there is a possible overlap with the Monks Road Neighbourhood Initiative but these can be addressed. After all, it is better to be overlapped than to be omitted.

## **Residential**

Stamp End contains a mixture of council and private properties, with a high percentage of multi-occupancy dwellings. Private terraced housing on St Rumbold's Street and Brook Street quickly lead onto the YMCA and council flats for the elderly. The former Wesleyan school on Rosemary Lane is being converted to over 40 luxury flats, which can only lift the area. All housing on the north side of Winn Street etc, are Victorian terraced. The council dwelling are made up by small blocks of flats – two, three and four floors; bungalows, and Shuttleworth House, a twenty storey tower block.

## **Commercial**

Stamp End has a very wide range of commercial properties - Industrial (Ovaline Oils), Discount (Tradex), Specialist repair (Starglaze), Office space (converted Methodist Chapel) and a call centre (St Rumbold's Street / Broadgate). None of these can be called a local employer, providing significant local employment in the way that previous industries had been. The County Council's Archive – the third largest tourist attraction in Lincoln – is on St Rumbold's street.

There are several small shops on Winn Street and Croft Street – an angling shop, general stores, newsagents, etc.

Towards the Western end, there are several car parks which give the area the appearance of temporary rather than permanent economic activity.

## **Consultation**

The findings in this report are based on comments and suggestions made by the local community and members of the Stamp End Tenants and Residents Association at meetings held on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. During February and March 2004, members of the community - adults and children - walked around their areas completing questionnaires, taking photographs and making observations as to what they saw.

There were consultations between City of Lincoln Council, the Youth Service and LCDP with young people as part of investigating the need for a replacement ball court on the Abbey Playing Field.

Also included is consultation between local tenants and the City of Lincoln Council via the Stamp End Tenants Forum.

## **Results from Walkabout**

If first impressions are important, then a visitor to Stamp End would not fall in love. There are two points of access from Broadgate, firstly by Waterside North, next to the River Witham.

### **The Riverside**



Because of Broadgate's layout, this is not the most common point of access to Stamp End on foot. Nevertheless, the globe has been 'borrowed' from the bridge. It would look nicer if this were replaced.

The former British Legion was supposed to have been converted to accommodation, but there appears to still be a lot of work to be done.

Comments from the walkabout show how unhappy local people feel about this part of the Riverside.



***"Unightly broken brick walls and fence"***

***"Broken glass on footpath."***

***"Riverside club – unsafe structure"***

***"Supposed to have been improved but it still looks unsafe."***

Stamp End's problems are perfectly summed up with the contrast between the smart railings on one side of Waterside North, and the crumbling car park wall on the other. It is a question of consistency.



***"Uneven path"***

***"Broken fencing and rubbish"***

***"No kerbing stones uneven"***

***"No grips on bridge steps"***





Further down Spa Road, the Environment Agency has fenced off its picnic area from the public, whilst a men's public toilet slowly falls to bits, next to the river. What a way to attract visitors or to encourage local optimism. And yet there is so much potential here.

***"Environment Agency gardens fenced off, should be available for all."***

***"Public toilets used as a meeting place for undesirables."***

***"Rubbish everywhere."***

***"Public toilet needs tidying up"***

***"Bad drainage."***

***"Not enough bins near the fish & chip shop means litter down by the river."***

Just yards further down, are these well maintained flats. Facing the river, with clean gardens and little heavy passing traffic, these should be the model for all properties in the area...



***"Walk down by the river is nice"***

***"Flats facing river are well kept and maintained"***

***"Improvement of River bank is important"***



...yet just across the road, a vandalised seat further shows the inconsistency of the area. Keeping the whole area clean and safe would make it more attractive to use and would encourage residents to keep it that way.

***"Seats broken"***

***"More litter bins needed at Stamp End"***

Now that the Spa Road power station has gone, people are in the mood for further positive developments.



***“Building next to Titanic bridge could have fishing pegs plus there could be a canoe for hire for all ages. Could be turned into something special, a picnic area from which to watch river craft”***

***“More benches for the riverbank”***

***“More dog waste bins”***

***“Make north side as attractive as the south side of the river”***

***“Develop the area”***

But some old fears still remain.

***“Site of former power station is a danger. Gate makes it too easy to get into”***

***“Close to the country side”***

***“Fencing around site is good”***



**The second entrance is via St Rumbold’s Street.**

***“O’Rourke’s needs a makeover”***

***“Unsafe and unsightly”***



This public house used to provide live music for local residents, until it closed and was boarded up.

***“Residents & their visitors unable to park in car parks”***

***“Bad road surface”***

***“Dangerous structures”***

***“St Rumbold’s St car park looks ugly”***

St Rumbold’s Street car park, one of the first sights to greet the visitor. This is mainly used by people who work in the City centre, and who leave in the evening, giving the impression of a temporary rather than permanent local economy. Its sorry state reflects on both its owners and the area as a whole.



***“The Archives look good”***

Across the road is Lincoln’s third largest tourist attraction, the County Council’s Archives. Could this important building be used as a lever to encourage the area to be improved? Consultation with both local authority and the private sector would be a step in the right direction.

The former Wesleyan School in Rosemary Lane is being converted into private flats. This could be a significant contribution to the regeneration of the area if contact is made with the developers, and then the new residents.







Outside the YMCA, there is evidence of how frequent and heavy the local traffic is...

***“Ruts in the road”***

...although some appearances can be misleading.

***“Why have buses stopped running?  
Elderly people need them”  
“Lack of public transport”***



Whether local residents attend them or not, places of worship seem to be appreciated. Perhaps this is because they represent a community themselves.

The recent improvements to Croft Street Community Centre have gone down well,

***“Like the recently upgraded boundary wall. Rear yard, gates and old building now need working on.”***



There are other physical improvements to the area required.

***“Uneven paving slabs”  
“Rubbish uncollected”  
“Graffiti”  
“Un kept garden areas”***

However, many see a need for social improvements as well as physical.

***“Shops selling alcohol in the early mornings”***  
***“Alcoholics drinking outside the Baptist church”***



Behind the Community Centre, Coningsby Street and the nearby garages are highlighted for all the wrong reasons.

***“Rubbish dumped at the garages.”***  
***“Needles and empty alcohol bottles in the bushes.”***

This area takes as its boundaries Winn Street to the North, Stamp End to the south, with Baggholme Road and Napier Street on its flanks.

Why do people like living there?

***“Good shops in the area”***  
***“Being near to town”***  
***“Grass is cut during summer”***  
***“Most people are okay and friendly”***  
***“Would like to see more flowers in the area.”***  
***“Some residents have lovely window displays”***

There are plenty of small green areas on Stamp End and a lot of potential for growing a whole range of flowers. Why not start a gardening project? Or offer to tend the gardens of those who aren't able to?



Of course, nature can have its down side.

***“Trees are nice but no-one cleans up the leaves”***  
***Cleaning up leaves and rubbish – place looks and feels like a tip”***

***“Badly laid slabs, dangerous. This is typical of the area.”***

***“Cars driving down Cannon Street break the slabs and mess up the grass.”***

***“Loose paving slabs”***

It is bad enough simply having to walk on this paving, especially when it is wet and small jets of water shoot upwards – imagine pushing a pram or using a wheelchair on this surface.



## **Litter**

Nothing blights a community more than litter and on some days, the Cannon Street area seems to be drowning in it.



“Rubbish must not be dumped in this area”. Warning signs are no good unless they are enforced.

Note the green refuse bags: will Cory take them? If not, how long will they just be left there?

People are clearly fed up with the situation

***“Litter and broken glass are bad around here.”***

***“Used needles”***

***“Rubbish is attracting rats”***

***“Bin bags are put out too early”***

***“Households should put out rubbish in black bin liners”***

***“More bins needed near chip shop”***

***“Rubbish needs collecting more often.”***

***“Pigeons flock here because there is so much food in all the litter.”***

Even where an amenity is provided, there is abuse of the system.

***“Rubbish around the recycle bins”***

***“The bottle bank is surrounded by rubbish”***



However, possible solutions have been suggested.

***“Move bottle banks from Cannon Street flats to Bentinck Square garages and away from homes”***

***“A recycling bin for plastic is needed”***

***“Bottle banks need something for plastic & clothes”***

And it's not just humans who cause problems (although they must take some responsibility as well)

***“Dog fouling”***

***“Dog waste bins need emptying more often”***

Irresponsible owners can be fined up to £1000, but only if the dog warden is given the right information to pass onto the magistrate.



Who does this?

How is this dealt with?

Clearly, the current provisions for dealing with litter are not working. Be it the number of bins, collections, the chain of command at City Council for dealing with fly-tipping, the wording of Cory's contracts which means that items and some bags are left behind – the bottom line is that people are having to live in litter strewn streets and that has to change.



## **Anti-Social behaviour**



At the beginning of the research for this placecheck, a caravan was dumped in Shuttleworth House car park.

By the next day.....



As with litter, the local community has plenty to say about anti-social behaviour.

***“Unsuitable tenants who indulge in anti-social behaviour. Council knew about their past yet still put them here – gives the feeling of the area being a dumping ground”***

***“Caravan etc just dumped and torched”***

***“Some residents just don’t care”***

***“Dumped vehicles need to be removed quicker”***

***“Drug users and alcoholics”***

***“Gangs are intimidating”***

***“Gangs of youths racing motorbikes and cars around the car park.”*** (Are all groups of younger people viewed as ‘gangs’?)

***“No control of late night revellers on Cannon Street, Baggholme Road and Winn Street.”***



Property damage also features

***“Flats 15-37 Napier Street – door boarded up”***

***“Vents on stairwells are all smashed up”***

***“Boarded up doors and windows”***

***“More locks on communal doors”***



All of this happens because of one main reason – it is *allowed* to happen. Only a minority of people participate in anti-social activities, yet it is the majority who not only suffer, but allow it to continue. Why is this? Because not every incident is reported by the public. Not every council official properly vets who is allowed to move into a council property. Not every housing association is as firm on their tenants' behaviour as they should be. Shops knowingly sell alcohol to people who will just drink it on the streets.

New laws have come in to help local communities. Anti-Social behaviour Orders (ASBOs) give the police new powers. Councils can evict those who do not treat their property or neighbourhood with sufficient respect. But these laws can only be used if the authorities are informed of incidents and also if they have the correct procedures to ensure that the right action is taken at the right time.

***“A youth club for older children is needed”***  
***“Why not turn Lytton Square car park into a children’s play area?”***

Not everything however, has to be a type of punishment. There are some local activities for young people to keep them from drifting into anti-social behaviour, but there needs to be more. Why not set up a local youth club? Are any local buildings large enough to host activities?



Could the vandalised ball court on Monks Abbey playing field not be repaired?

***“More CCTV is needed at street level.”***  
***“Too many trees that block out lights”***  
***“Better lighting and cameras near the shop and on Cannon street”***  
***“Better lighting for Cannon Street and car park”***  
***“More lighting needed around Fenton Place garages”***

How much of this is a fear of crime? Certainly if the Cannon Street area received better street lighting, as the renewal area has recently received, then this could well reduce people's fears. But how to go about it?

## **Around Bentinck Square**

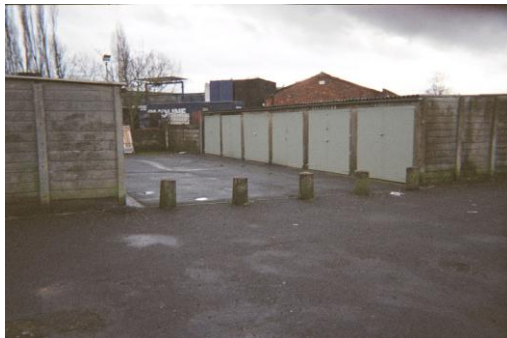
There are flooding problems around Bentinck Street and Welbeck Street.

***“Paving was damaged due to flooding when drainage failed. This needs replacing.”***  
***“Flooding even after drainage work”***



Communities do not like their streets becoming racetracks for inconsiderate drivers. Here's one solution.

***“Close off Welbeck Street from Bentinck Square. Continue alongside Ovaline Oil to Napier Street. This would prevent a lot of rat run traffic which is a danger to children.”***



***“Garages need repairing or rebuilding”***

***“Wall smashed up near garage”***

There are other housekeeping issues for Bentinck Square

***“A grit bin is needed for icy roads.”***  
***“Leaves from trees are left to rot”***

Seemingly small things but they all add up.

## **Winn Street**

Recent building improvements down Winn Street, by both the City Council and private investment, have brought praise from local residents. This new wall runs between Ashfield and Napier Street

***“Boundary Wall Scheme is attractive”***



At the bottom of Oakfield Street, formerly derelict shops are being turned back into living buildings.

***“Old fish shop is untidy”***

***“Run down shop converted into a house”***



Local businesses positively add to the bustle of a community.

***“Budget Print & Design –a local business. This is good for the area”***

On the corner of Winn and Ashfield Street.

***“The old Chapman’s bookmakers -, greatly improved since makeover”***



People will improve their buildings’ appearances if they are confident that there will be no vandalism or damage, and this is bearing out. As a result, Winn Street is vastly improving.



Of course, as with nearly all areas of the City, there is still work to be done.

***“Stable garage is dangerous”***

At the foot of Coleby Street, a long term eyesore has just gone on the property market.

***“Unoccupied house boarded up”***



## **Transport**

On week days, Stamp End is full of parked cars, the vast majority of which are owned by non-residents who work in the City Centre. As a result, local people or their visitors have nowhere to park themselves. Also, people who don't live in the area are less likely to respect it, hence cars parking on verges.



***“Car parking for residents and visitors only”***

***“Non locals parking on the roads”***

***“Car noise”***

A residents' parking scheme, similar to that on Monks Road would be a good solution. Not only would it give local people greater access to their own roads, it would also make the place cleaner and would look tidier.

The standard of driving is another concern. Some drivers believe that 90 degree corners are a challenge to be met at full speed and junctions are there for ploughing straight over, with no regard to other drivers.

***“Speeding traffic – Baggholme Road is a dangerous Junction”***

***“Dangerous driving”***

***“Enforce the speed limit”***



A spot of traffic calming would go down very well with those who wish to travel safely.



For cyclists, the future developments down by the Witham offer enormous potential.

***“What about a cycle track  
along the Riverside to town?”***

***“Better cycling provision”***



Public transport has now been removed from the area for several years. One reason given is that the roads are not wide enough to take buses. If Heavy Goods Vehicles can access Ovaline Oil, then surely smaller buses can make it. There is certainly the demand for transport, especially amongst older people. If the site of the former power station is developed for residential usage, this would further increase the potential. There are developments in the pipeline which could result in more mothers of young children needing to visit the Stamp End area. They will need transport. There could be other similar developments which would lead to more people having to drop into the area. Spa Road could be seeing a major upgrading which would make it very suitable for buses. Clearly, the bus companies need to look again at the area – if one could be persuaded to put on an experimental service, local residents should take it up en masse.

### **Issues to take forward**

#### **Co-operation –**

Working together better. Get rid of ‘us and them’ and the ‘blame’ mentality.

#### **Stamp End Tenants and Resident Association –**

Consultation with this community group should be compulsory for any authority or organisation that has development plans affecting the Stamp End area.

#### **Empowering local residents –**

Give local people more of a say in how the area is run. Give them more responsibilities as well.

#### **Crime and anti-social behaviour –**

How to beat it. Make sure that everyone has the will to win and recognises the seriousness of the situation.



### **Street Lighting –**

Evidence from Renewal area of its effectiveness in reducing both crime and the fear of crime.

### **Activities for younger people –**

This requires venues, organisation and resources.

### **Transport –**

Introduce resident's parking. Improve the transport infrastructure to make roads safer. Get public transport back in the area.

### **Traffic –**

Stop the area becoming a car park for those who work in the City centre.

### **Litter / tipping –**

Get all parties working together on this and clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each organisation, with contact details of responsible individuals made available.

### **Beautification of natural resources -**

e.g. River Witham. Use this natural infrastructure.

### **Some developments affecting the Stamp End Area have already planned or are still being discussed –**

- Spa Road: (proposed) Both residential and retail development on the site of the former power station
- Rosemary Lane: (current) About 40 luxury flats are being developed behind the former Wesleyan school at the foot of Rosemary Lane
- YMCA: (proposed) development of current YMCA site to include a 'wellbeing' centre and child care facilities
- Eastern Bypass: (proposed) The improvement and development of Spa Road as a feeder road for the bypass, will benefit the area as a whole.
- Abbey Ball Court : (proposed) the replacement of the vandalised ball court with a new multi games play area, based on consultation with young people

- Rivercare (current ): Project for cleaning up the River Witham and its banks – through local community, supported by Anglian Water, Encams and others.

The planned investment is going to be very significant and will certainly improve parts of the Stamp End area. As with all investment, it will gradually improve some aspects of the area as a whole, but this alone will not solve the problems highlighted by the community.

How can we link in?

## **Issues, Priorities and Action to be taken**

Obviously, it will not be possible to change everything overnight. Whilst some initiatives can be introduced relatively quickly, others will require greater planning and resources. Accordingly, priorities have been divided into short, medium and long term (where relevant) to reflect a realistic timescale.

### **Priority: Working Together**

#### ***Short Term Goal:***

Get residents, City Council, Police, County Council, Cory - all agencies working together better. Get rid of the 'us and them' and the 'blame' mentality. Quite often, the council gets blamed over events for which it has no responsibility whatsoever.

#### ***Action:***

- Draw up a list of names and contacts (by agency) that identifies who is responsible for dealing with different incidents in the local area e.g. litter, vandalism, flooding at Bentinck Street.
- Ensure that all the local community is aware of and has access to this list (via the local newsletter?) and who to report incidents to. Get agreement from all parties that the responsible named persons will take the correct action to alleviate the incident. If local residents are responsible for the incidents, ensure that they are dealt with solely by the correct authorities.
- Erect a large information board showing a map of the area showing streets, businesses, local information, contact details for different authorities etc. (Similar to that in the Arboretum) Make this sign vandal proof and ensure that it is protected and maintained. Look for funding through local grants.

### ***Short Term Goal***

Work with the Monks Road Neighbourhood Initiative (MRNI) to ensure there is neither overlapping nor duplication. Learn from them as to how they have achieved their goals.

#### **Action:**

- MRNI and Stamp End Tenants and Residents Association to invite each other to their meetings.

### **Priority - Development of the Stamp End Tenants and Residents Association (SETRA)**

#### ***Short Term Goal***

Consultation with this community group should be compulsory for any authority or organisation that has development plans affecting the Stamp End area. SETRA should (and will) be given as much support as possible through funding, training etc. All members of the local community are very welcome to join.

#### **Action:**

- SETRA to include other organisations on its newsletter circulation.
- SETRA to hold public meetings similar to Monks Road Neighbourhood Initiative and representatives of the City Council, Police etc will be invited to speak on relevant issues.
- SETRA to investigate whether the former lock keeper's office on Stamp End is available for community use.
- SETRA to receive training on applying for grants and similar ways of improving the local community.

### **Priority - Empowering local residents**

#### ***Short Term Goal:***

Give local people more of a say in how the area is run.  
Give them more responsibilities as well.

#### **Action:**

- There are various organisations where the local community can air their views and have an impact on the area: The City Council

Tenant's forum, The Lincoln Community Forum and decision making initiatives such as "The Future of Council Housing in Lincoln." These are set up for local people to become involved in decision making and, as such, participation should be encouraged as much as possible.

## **Priority - Crime and anti-social behaviour**

### ***Short Term Goal:***

How to beat it. Make sure that everyone has the will to win and recognises the seriousness of the situation.

### ***Action:***

- People to report *all* incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Community to work closely with the Council's Nuisance Neighbour unit.
- Ensure that people know the local police officers' and the Anti social behaviour co-ordinator's contact numbers by printing them in the newsletter.
- Establish a community incident report book to be available for both police and City Council to view.
- City Council to provide more locks on communal doors where identified by the community.
- Community to work with Police and City Council to help enforce Anti Social Behaviour Orders on persistent trouble makers where necessary.

### ***Short Term Goal:***

Get rid of drinking alcohol in public

### ***Action:***

- Work with local shops that sell alcohol in order that they do not serve customers who are either drunk, or who are known to be street drinkers.
- Liaise with the City Centre Partnership who are looking at the problem in the High Street and get it extended to include all areas of Lincoln.

- Work with the City Council to link street drinking with anti-social behaviour, with its implications for tenants who commit anti-social behaviour.

## **Priority: Street Lighting**

### ***Medium Term Goal:***

- Obtain evidence from the Neighbourhood Renewal area of the new street lighting's effectiveness in reducing both crime itself and the fear of crime. Get improved street lighting for all of the Stamp End area so it covers both residential areas e.g. Cannon Street and more remote spots e.g. leading to Titanic bridge.

### ***Action:***

- The report on the impact of street lighting on crime from Lincolnshire Development shows improved street lighting makes people feel safer. Ensure that copies of the summary report are available for the local community.
- SETRA to carry out a survey of local residents about their views of street lighting. The survey's findings will be fed back to the City Council for their response.

## **Priority - Activities for younger people**

### ***Short Term Goal:***

To sort out venues, organisation and resources for activities for younger people.

### ***Action:***

- Plans are under way for the vandalised Monks Abbey Ball Court to be rebuilt as a multi sports games area.
- Investigate what local indoor facilities are available e.g. the basketball court inside the Baptist church building, and how they can be used.



## **Priority - Transport**

### ***Medium Term Goal:***

Get public transport back in the area. Roadcar withdrew all buses several years ago and it has been difficult to persuade any bus company to return, despite there being a clear local need for transport.

### ***Action:***

- Local planned developments could possibly include some form of child care provision. Parents will require some form of transport to and from this centre. Find out the projected numbers and put the argument to the bus companies.
- The proposed development of the YMCA could also possibly include some form of health care provision. As with the proposed child care service, patients would require transport to and from the surgery, which could be provided by a bus. Again, find out the projected numbers and put the argument to the bus companies.
- As with the YMCA development, the proposed new housing coming to the area will increase the demand for public transport. Again, get the numbers and present them to the bus companies.

### ***Long Term Goal:***

Improve the transport infrastructure to make roads safer. As part of the Eastern Bypass development Stamp End falls under the Lincoln eastern Growth Corridor, where there are a lot of transport improvements planned. These include significant changes to Spa Road which will not only improve it, but could also reduce some of the traffic on Winn Street and Croft Street.

### ***Action:***

- SETRA to be involved in the Eastern Bypass consultation process regarding changes affecting Stamp End.

## **Priority – Traffic**

### ***Medium Term Goal:***

Stop certain streets being turned into 'rat-runs'.

**Action:**

- Close off Welbeck Street from Bentinck Square.
- Introduce traffic calming measures onto Winn Street and Croft Street.

**Long Term Goal:**

Stop the area becoming a car park for those who live outside the area but who work in the City Centre.  
Look at the possibility of residents parking

**Action:**

- SETRA to consult with the local community and, if there is enough support, present a petition to the City Council requesting that residents parking be introduced to some areas of Stamp End.

**Priority - Litter / tipping / Graffiti**

**Short Term Goal:**

Get all parties working together on this and clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each agency and organisation, with contact details of responsible individuals made available.

**Action:**

- Contact all agencies involved and get a written commitment to improving the area, with clear standards that have to be met.
- Ensure that the local community are aware of household waste collection dates and that they do not put their bags out early. Also ensure that they use the correct bags and have enough of these to use.
- Abolish the current practice of ripped bin liners not being collected as this leaves the area looking dirty.

**Short Term Goal:**

Clean up the area and keep it clean.

**Action:**

- Litter picks have been introduced on a regular basis. Local residents can partake in litter picks with specialist equipment provided.

- Request more litter bins and locate them at places where litter is frequently dropped. Ensure that they are sturdy and fireproof.
- Move the bottle banks to Bentinck Square away from the flats.
- Install more fireproof litter bins, situated in appropriate places, e.g. along the Riverside.
- Install more dog waste bins and ensure that they are regularly emptied.
- Report *all* incidents of irresponsible dog fouling to the Dog Warden.
- Work closely with the agencies responsible for dealing with litter. Have regular walkabouts to identify where the hotspots are and also to monitor how the area is being kept clean.

***Short Term Goal:***

Hit fly-tippers hard and fast

***Action:***

- Where a sign states that an area is being monitored, make sure that it is monitored regularly. Put the sites on the Urban Rangers' regular route.
- Get public clarification for which agency is responsible for the removal of such litter depending on where it has been found. Publish a list of named contacts in the Community Newsletter.
- Work closely with the Anti-social behaviour co-ordinator to associate tipping with anti-social behaviour in the public's view.

***Medium Term Goal:***

SETRA to have a greater involvement in the process of litter collection.

***Action:***

- Community groups city-wide to be consulted on the awarding of the City Council's cleaning contract. This will ensure that local opinions are listened to.

**Medium Term Goal:**

Concentrate on the sites where tipping occurs most frequently.

**Action:**

- Work with Railtrack to have the grass banks next to the Railway cleared and clean the graffiti off the Titanic bridge.
- Clear public areas where tipping occurs (e.g. River Witham banks) of over grown vegetation which discourages the public from using them. If these areas are kept clean, and the local community are encouraged to use them more often, then tipping is less likely to occur.

**Priority:**                    **Beautification of natural resources**

**Short Term Goal:**

Make full use of the River Witham and the close proximity of the countryside. Reclaim the local green areas.

**Action:**

- Continue with the Rivercare scheme, where the local community helps to clear up rubbish from the river with support from various organisations.
- Launch a local gardening club, look for grant aid for funding.
- Encourage more people to use window boxes and hanging baskets.
- Link in with Sustrans who promote alternate modes of transport to the car and who have created a cycle track on the south side of the River Witham.
- Investigate possibility of a Green Roofs scheme (where roofs are used as gardens) in the area.

**Short Term Goal:**

Make the green areas a nice place to relax and enjoy.

**Action:**

- Put out more park benches in green areas.

## **Priority: Investment in Stamp End**

### **Goal:**

As already mentioned, there is a considerable level of investment heading Stamp End's way, developing local transport, health and social care and private sector accommodation. All efforts should be made to direct as much investment as possible towards the existing community's needs.

Action: SETRA have to be part of the consultation process involving both City and County Councils and private sector investors.

### **Conclusion**

For several years, the Stamp End area has suffered from the economic downturn of the Abbey Ward and has not felt the full effect of years of Urban Renewal that has lifted the area around Monks Road. It is easy for people who live there to feel that they have been forgotten, that their views are ignored, or at best tolerated rather than listened to and acted upon. It used to be the home to the workers who made the goods that made the rest of the City rich and now that the industry's gone, it feels as if the City has turned its back the place

Yet this area has one of the City's most outstanding assets in the River Witham and its lush green (though littered) banks. New developments on the fringe of the area will bring luxury apartments to both Rosemary Lane and the old Thorngate house. New houses are earmarked on the former Spa Road Power Station site. Spa Road itself has been designated as a major link in the proposed Eastern bypass. This all means that a lot of money is to be invested on the edge of the Stamp End area but none of it has been targeted towards the local community – yet.

Stamp End now has the opportunity to become a better place to live. This will not just be down to the local community themselves, it should also be the responsibility of every public authority and private enterprise that will get involved in the new developments. If the area and local people are ignored – if investment only extends to the new proposals and no consideration is given to the then the current problems that it faces will simply extend onto the new developments and investors will get a poor return for their efforts.

As the placecheck shows, the local community are not asking for much, just to live in a clean, decent, crime free area. If the Placecheck recommendations are carried out by all parties concerned, then this will be achieved.

APPENDIX 1 – The placecheck asked a further 15 questions in greater detail. These are the answers that local people gave.

1. Who needs to be involved in changing the place for the better?

- Local police
- Shops in Winn Street & Baggholme Road
- Local tenants
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Police
- City Council
- County Council
- SETRA members
- Children and school
- Community Groups
- Environment Agency
- Landlords
- Shop keepers
- Councillors

2. What resources are available locally to help people get involved?

- Abbey Renewal Office
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Croft street community centre
- Placewatch group
- This placecheck
- Grants
- Abbey Access Centre
- YMCA

3. What other methods might we use to develop our ideas about how to improve the place?

- Persuading people to report problems to the relevant authorities
- Council property upgrading
- Council to encourage improvements to private property
- More community involvement
- More information about what is going on through posters in the shops
- Places where people go to visits and talk about what is going on in the neighbourhood.
- Volunteers to help clean up



4. How can we make the most of other programmes and resources?

- Make sure that everyone knows who is responsible for what and that clear means of communication are both published and adhered to
- Get local people and the council together
- Advertise in local newspaper
- Get people involved in what is going on
- Talk to people about what you have heard
- Improve information between various parties

5. How can we raise our sights?

- Try to think how it used to be down Stamp End
- Try to get it back to that condition
- Making residents aware of existing projects and programmes (Res. Assoc, newsletters, etc)
- Invest in the area
- Use the site of the old power station
- Get a newsletter going
- Have belief in what you're doing

6. What other initiatives could improve the place?

- Cleaner streets.
- Mend Cannon Street lights
- More lights around Fenton St Garages
- Repair big holes in Fenton Street
- Stop cars from parking on the paths around Fenton garages.
- More litter bins (heavy duty types) - these are needed by the riverside
- Care of 'green areas'
- Landscape improvements around existing and proposed properties
- Cut out vandalism and crime
- Set up an incident report hotline with quick response.
- Get the community working together
- Crack down hard on litter

7. How can we make this a more special place?

- Place for youngsters to play
- Get residents to clean their front & garden
- Have a summer garden fete
- Planting trees and shrubs in green areas (as mentioned above)
- Attract more activities to the area
- Lowering crime and vandalism

- Arrange more events in the Arboretum, dramas, music, picnics etc.
8. How can we make this a greener place?
- Spend on the environment, rubbish to be collected
  - Warden to keep an eye around Stamp End and the waterside
  - Pick up litter and keep it a tidy place
  - Enforcement of law regarding dog fouling
  - Improve paved areas on Cannon Street
  - Encourage gardening on all properties – set up a gardening club
  - Voluntary planting and tending
  - Collect garden rubbish
  - Better use of wasteland
  - Develop riverside walks on both sides of the river.
  - Introduce a warden patrol along the river to ensure safety
  - Keep the green areas green
9. How can the streets and other public spaces be made safer and more pleasant for people on foot?
- Better lighting in dark places e.g. Fenton St garages
  - Paths and the road need to be looked at, as some are not in very good condition
  - Stop cyclists riding on footpaths down Cannon St
  - Get police to walk around here more regularly
  - Residents to be more vigilant
  - Get the dog mess problem sorted out
  - Get rid of drug users and alcoholics
10. How else can public spaces be improved?
- Additional and more substantial street lighting
  - Vandalism to be looked at
  - Keep the place looking tidy
  - Get more seats to sit on
  - More public seating particularly by the waterside
  - Desperate for litter bins around fish shop, Select & Save, Waterside, Stamp End, Cannon St, Winn St.
  - Reduce vandalism
  - Make people feel safe
  - Park keepers for the Arboretum
  - Create a green space and get the Urban rangers to patrol it

11. How can the place be made welcoming and easier for people to find their way around?

- Vandal proof notice board to include map of area and space for public information
- Notice boards and direction signs
- Map of area giving the number of houses
- 'Clear Streets' signs
- Get residents involved with where they live

12. How can the place be made adaptable to change in the future?

- Government funding
- Have regular meetings
- Try to get buses to come this way
- Make grass river bank into a car park

13. How can better use be made of resources?

- Fun days in the park
- Increased publicity about available grants
- Information needs to be available and interesting and brought to local community centres.
- Have a written vote at meetings about what is needed in the area.
- Publicise various grants that are available

14. What can be done to make the most of public transport?

- Try to get the buses back to the area. So many elderly people and student live here
- so it would be good
- Get the hospital bus back
- Information regarding routes and times of bus services on notice boards
- Directions to the train station
- Taxi phone numbers (and also local businesses) on notice board

15. Any further comments

- Not everyone is fit and strong so why not see if you can help your neighbour by going to the shop for them, or giving people a lift like it used to be a few years ago
- Let's have a general clean up
- Would love to see the area get back to what it was a few years ago – safe to go out at night, clean and a nice place to live.