

# ST GILES PLACECHECK



## REPORT & ACTION PLAN

March 2006

*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.*

Contents	Page
Introduction	3
Results from walkabout	5
Ruskin Avenue and East	5
Lamb Gardens	7
Around Macaulay Drive	9
The Oval	10
Around Swift Gardens	11
Outer Circle Drive & Goldsmith Walk	15
King George Playing Field	17
Reducing anti-social behaviour	19
Addison / Chaucer	22
Green Areas	25
Issues to take forward	25
Issues, Priorities & Action	27
Working together	27
St Giles Community Groups	28
Reopening of Community Facilities	29
Dealing with Litter & Fly tipping	29
Crime & Anti-social behaviour	31
Activities for younger people	31
Traffic	33
Street Lighting	33
Investment in the area	33
Conclusion	34
Appendix	35

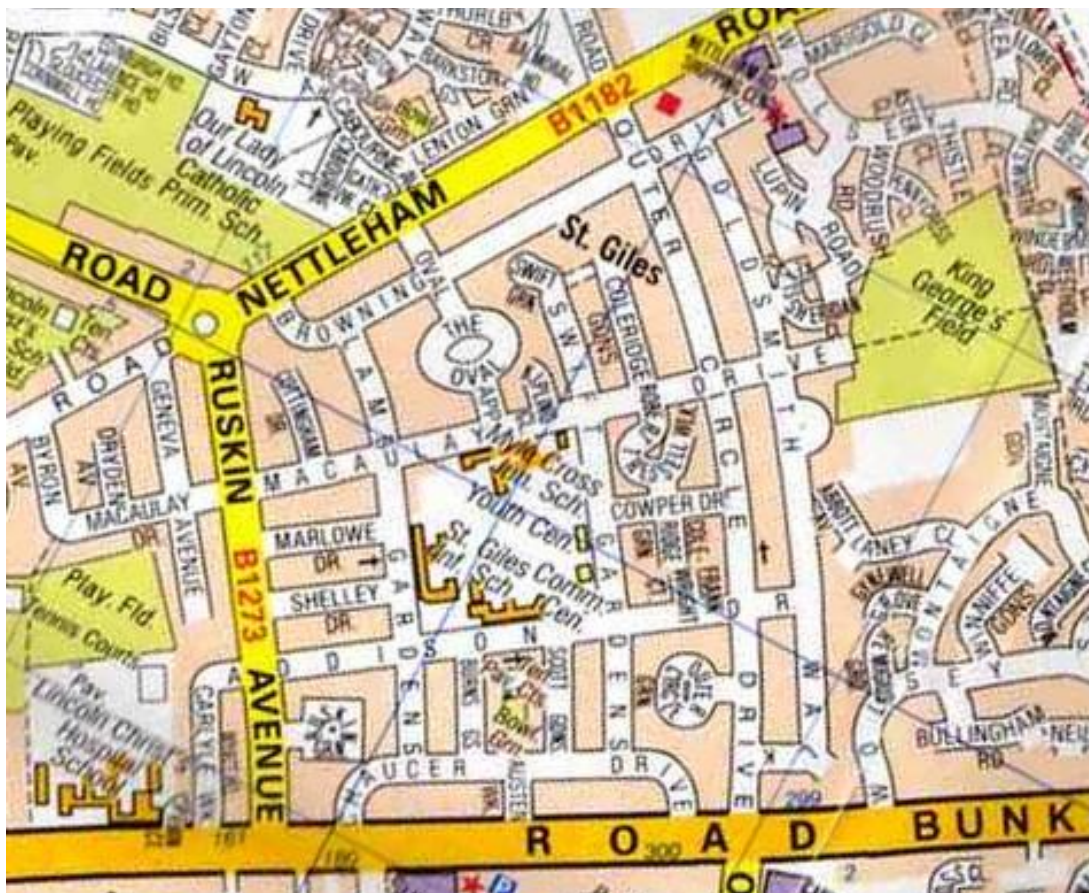
## **Introduction**

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.

In 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) commissioned the Indices of Deprivation, which measured the following: Income deprivation, Employment deprivation, Health deprivation and disability, Education, Skills and training deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, living environment deprivation, and Crime. Whereas previous indices measured down to Ward level, the 2004 Index concentrated at even smaller levels, known as 'Super Output Areas' (SOAs), thus eliminating the old problem of results being skewed where an affluent areas lay in the same ward as a deprived estate. The two most deprived SOAs in Lincoln are in St Giles and Moorland.

## **St Giles**

### **Geographical**



The St Giles council estate was built in the 1930s, as part of the old City Corporation's provision of better housing. The majority of houses have three bedrooms, with both front and rear gardens. The post-war years saw the building of temporary single storey pre-fabs on Outer Circle Drive. There was some additional building from the 1980s and 90s in the middle of the estate on Robert Tressell Walk and Kipling Close, with the majority of the neighbouring Glebe also being built around that time.

## **Commercial**

Both Wragby and Nettleham Roads boast large supermarkets, and the Glebe has a smaller one. Between them, the Glebe and Wragby Road have newsagents, fresh and take away food shops, off licences and a good range of other local stores, hairdressers etc. By contrast, St Giles has two Convenience stores, three take away food shops, a community shop and a hairdresser – all huddled together on Lamb Gardens. Shops which once stood on Swift Gardens have been replaced with social care facilities – formerly run by NCH and Sure Start.

St Giles also has a high concentration of educational and community orientated facilities in the centre of the estate, all based in a square. There is a multi-use centre within the church hall on Lamb Gardens, opposite the St Giles Family Centre and the SOVA building. There is a community centre on Swift gardens, the St Giles youth club and a City Council housing office. Further up Swift gardens are the

The area also contains four schools – one infant, two junior and a comprehensive, with accompanying playing fields.

## **Consultation**

The findings in this report are based on comments and suggestions made by members of the St Giles Community. The principles of the placecheck were explained at public meetings on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2006. During February and March 2006, members of the community - adults and children - walked around their areas completing questionnaires, taking photographs and making observations as to what they saw.

Pupils at Lincoln Christ Hospital School also took part in a placecheck walkabout.

## **Results from walkabout**

The walkabout began on one of the two main roads passing through St Giles, Ruskin Avenue.

### **Ruskin Avenue and East**

As part of the Community Travel Zone, St Giles has benefited from consultation with the authorities before a scheme is implemented. This could be a good precedent. Recent traffic calming measures on and around Ruskin Avenue have been well received.



**“We like the pedestrian crossing”**

**“New speed bumps”**



Although some of the pavements could be improved



**“Dryden Avenue – paths uneven”**



From Dryden Avenue, the cinder path leads down to Wragby Road, the school on one side and Claytons sports field on the other. A supposed green area yet it is an absolute mess.



**“Litter on the cinder path near school”**

**“Keep litter / rubbish off the streets”**

There are no litter bins on the path.

At the Wragby Road end of the path, a sign about dog fouling but there is little evidence of enforcement and certainly no dogbins.

**“Report dog fouling to dog warden”**

**“We don’t see any dog mess bins”**

**“Need more dog bins”**



Signs are no good without backup and an alternative for dog walkers to use.

Would the sign be more effective if it had the dog warden’s contact number on it? Or if there was a dog mess bin on hand?



Lincoln Christ Hospital School is an overlooked resource. It is affected by what goes on around it, a lot of its pupils live on St Giles and the Headteacher is keen to get involved in projects that will benefit both the school and the wider area.

## **Lamb Gardens**

With the only shops on the estate, plus the church, the multi use centre and other community facilities, Lamb Gardens is a well appreciated hub of activity.



**“Good selection of shops”**

There are some local concerns...



**“Cars parking on paths, difficult to get by – local traffics, taxis, work vans”**

**“Youths gathering in street and riding bikes without care of pedestrians, especially outside the Lamb Gardens shops.”**

**“Litter outside shops”**

**“Pavements at junction of Lamb and Macaulay outside the shops need improving”**

...but just having the shops themselves competing with two nearby supermarkets is no mean achievement. Not only are they locally based businesses, they are their own community with their own aspirations. Effort need to be made that these businesses remain in the area and that they prosper.

The former St Giles church hall is now the Multi Use Centre and is very popular with the local community.

**“Good community facilities”**

**“Availability of community space”**



The church itself has an attractive community garden, which needs a bit of help in restoring it.

Parts of St Giles church itself originate from a different building formerly at St Peters at Arches in the City Centre. St Giles itself was a classic model of a housing estate when it was first built. There is local interest in the estate’s history and certainly a lot of people have both memories and old photographs of the area.

**“Set up and support small community groups e.g. a local history group”**

Across the road are a couple of buildings run by different agencies



St Giles Family Centre



The SOVA volunteer centre



These are key resources because although not everyone locally will use them or will have access to their services, they show that the authorities have the confidence in the area to locate them here.

**“Get all groups and agencies to work together”**

### **Around Macaulay Drive**

As with much of the area, a lot of problems are down to the basics.



**“Remove litter, shopping trolleys etc”**

**“All types of rubbish bins needed”**

**“Pavements cracked”**

**“Invest in better pavements”**



## The Oval



A large green area, circled with semi detached houses and six tree lined footpaths leading to a plinth. This should be a huge asset and yet it looks uncared for, unloved. The Oval needs a lift

Why can't this plinth be turned back into a nice feature? After all, that is why it was built. It wouldn't take a great deal of time and money and if the local residents could get involved in the scheme, they are more likely to help maintain it.



**“Start community projects to revive areas such as the Oval”**

**“Help people take pride in their area”**

As with the cinder path, there are signs forbidding dog fouling but no dog bins. Also, the footpaths are buried beneath the leaves.



**“Get urban rangers to visit area more”**

**“Regular clean ups”**

**“More litter bins”**

**“More dog bins”**

The Oval doesn't need lots of money throwing at it, just a little bit of love and care from the local residents with some support in taking the rubbish away and getting the plinth looking good again.

## Around Swift Gardens



On the corner of Macaulay and Swift is a Community Garden, with seats and the remains of two mosaic projects involving young people – a wall and a totem pole.

Despite the neglect and vandalism, both have survived and the garden remains in reasonably good condition. Could this be repeated on other parts of the estate?



Such schemes are definitely popular.

**“Community gardens”**

**“Picnic areas”**

The fenced-off fields and buildings in the centre of the estate represents St Giles’ division. There is a widespread feeling that living on the Swift Gardens side of this divide is to live in the worst part of the area.

**“Try to overcome the divide on the estate – the school field is seen as a dividing line with the Swift Gardens side coming out worst.”**

There are no shops, and where there used to be retail outlets are now several boarded up or barely used buildings – symbolic of a lack of joined up thinking between different agencies. The general opinion of people is ‘what an absolute waste of resources?’





**“Former Sure Start building”**

**“Empty former Markham House”**

Unsurprisingly, local people want these buildings open and available to use.

**“Why are they boarded up instead of being used?”**

**“Boarded up buildings should be used for community projects rather than being left empty, this just encourages vandalism.”**

**“Community buildings lying empty, these could be used to help community groups”**



There are suggestions as to their potential use

**“Improve local facilities and have drop-in sessions”**

**“Flexi-learning, including evening classes”**

**“Hold ‘chick flick’ nights”**

**“Improve local facilities and have drop-in sessions”**



Next door are more underused facilities.



**“Disused ball court “**

**“St Giles Youth Centre – ball court is in a bad shape”**

The ball court is often a target for glass beer bottles. The ground surface is hard and unfriendly. The surrounding fence is broken and dangerous - people have to duck under sharp wire to enter. It needs repairing or replacing.

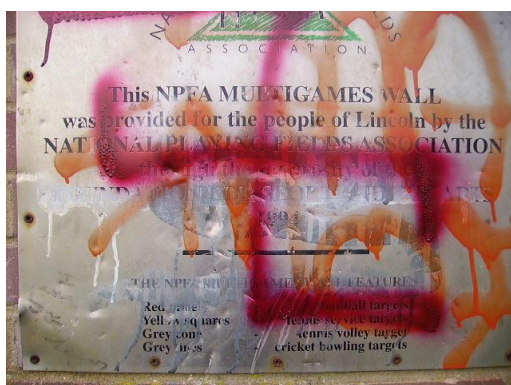
### **“Games wall in Youth Centre grounds”**

This games wall was supposed to cater for football, cricket, tennis and basketball. Not one of those sports has been played on it for a long time and so it just stands there neglected, covered in paint.



One suggestion appears to have been already answered, albeit unwittingly.

### **“Put up a graffiti wall for young people”**



The wall's vandalised plaque is a monument to the attempts by various agencies to provide facilities without consulting people as to what they actually want.

Next door is the youth club. Again, a facility not as widely used as it could be.



**“Nothing for youths to do in evenings”**

**“No clubs or activities for teens and adults”**



A peek inside proves that not all local artwork is graffiti.

Then there is the local Community Centre.



There can be no excuse for not providing activities for local people – most other parts of Lincoln would turn green with envy at having so many community facilities.

**“Encourage people / businesses to use the empty buildings”**

**“Involving people in the future of their own community gives them confidence to face change”**

The City Council has a presence on the estate which is a very useful base on which to build. The local estate officer has a good relationship with the local community as well.



**“City Council Housing Office”**

There needs to be more community projects such as the current one on Coleridge Gardens.



## **Outer Circle Drive & Goldsmith Walk**

Outer Circle is the main thoroughfare for traffic passing through the estate and is wide enough to attract dangerous driving. Although there have been recent attempt to restrict this, local feeling is that it doesn't go far enough



**“Traffic speeding on Outer Circle Drive”**

**“Lack of traffic calming measures on Outer Circle Drive”**

**“Where are the proposed cycle lanes?”**

**“Cars parked on grass verges”**



If there was an outlet for young people’s expressions on other parts of the estate, perhaps anti social behaviour could be reduced.



**“Clean graffiti up”**

**“Report anti social behaviour”**

If Goldsmith Walk does have a reputation of sorts, it is not solely down to some of the residents.

This was once a car park, then it was leased to builders. When the lease ended, responsibility for it appears to have ended.





People are rightly sick of having to live close to such a horrendous site.



**“Stop fly-tipping”**

**“Remove litter, shopping trolleys etc”**

**“Keep litter / rubbish off the streets”**

As with the Cinder path, litter on the rest of the estate has to be tackled in a positive and robust way.

**“All types of rubbish bins needed”**

**“Length of time it takes for rubbish to be collected makes matters worse”**

**“Location of litter public bins is wrong”**

**“Shopping trolleys dumped everywhere”**

**“Coleridge Gardens sub station needs a fence to prevent rubbish dumping”**

## **King George Playing Field**

The King George playing field is huge. There is no doubt as to its potential – although it has two full sized football pitches, these barely cover one quarter of the total area. Ideas about how to use this potential vary.

**“Put some swings on park”**

**“Build a Skate park”**

**“Need play areas for children under 7 years”**



Currently, there are no teams bearing the name St Giles using the football pitches. Given the rich history of football on the estate, this is just so wrong. How can an area retain its pride if it cannot retain its name?



**“The only local football team is called Scampton Hawks and is run by someone living in Reepham. St Giles needs to have its own teams.”**

The changing room looks more like an old Mexican jail than a community facility. If it was given a lick of paint and more activities for young people were available, perhaps the vandalism would cease.



Yet another of Lincoln’s wonderful green spaces is blighted through neglect.



**“Look after the parks better”**

**“King George’s playing field and community garden needs more care and litterpicking”**

**“Get urban rangers to visit area more”**

Outside of daylight hours, there is a local reluctance to use the field.

**“Field needs much better lighting”**

**“Better lighting reduces fear of crime”**

**“Better lighting needed to help overcome fear of crime”**



Even where there is light, there is an obstacle to people enjoying themselves in safety.



**“Basketball court behind changing rooms, out of sight and safety of field’s gates”**

So, King George’s field has both a lot of potential but also a lot of work needed – and that requires working with and listening to local people rather than imposing schemes and ideas on them.

## **Reducing Anti Social Behaviour**

Local people clearly appreciate the value of policing in fighting anti social behaviour.

**“Help local Community Police Officer”**

**“We rarely see any police presence on Outer Circle Drive”**

**“Criminals know that if there are no police around, they will get away with crime”**

But the police are going to need the local community's support. Local initiatives between the police and the community work when all sides pull together. There are good initiatives being carried out on other parts of Lincoln, such as the junior warden scheme where young people are rewarded for good behaviour and positive help with community projects. Why not try them here?

People have to report all incidents of anti social behaviour, as well as reporting fly tipping and dog fouling to the City Council. The Dog Wardens do prosecute owners whose dogs foul but they need evidence. That is where the local community can help.



The authorities cannot deal with incidents that they don't know about. But people need to know who to contact and incidents do need to be cleared up to give people the confidence to report.



**“Get urban rangers to visit area more”**

The problem will not go away overnight but working together will make a big difference.

### **Activities for young people**

**“Young people need things to do”**

Giving young people things to do also reduces anti-social activities. As has already been shown, there are plenty of local facilities that can be used. What is needed as much as these buildings and fields is to involve young people themselves in the provision of activities. Why not actually ask them what activities they want to take part in?



**“Many outlets through which to communicate with young people:**

- 1. School**
- 2. SOVA**
- 3. Youth Club**
- 4. Chatting on street**
- 5. Through local Community Police Officer – Darren”**

The King George field can offer far more than just the football pitches, good as they are. The field is large enough to host a whole range of outdoor activities for young people. Find out which ones they want.



Encourage young people to be creative. There are various arts and music projects in place for people of all ages all over Lincoln. Why not bring them to St Giles?

### **Street Lighting**

Often, the fear of crime is as bad a problem as the actual level of crime itself. Because of the number of trees on the estate, the area is sometimes not as well lit as people would like. The fear of the dark or the semi-lit makes people uneasy about going outdoors. Brighter street lighting may be needed.

**“Reduce people’s fear of crime”**

**“Carry out a lighting survey”**

In other parts of Lincoln, a lighting survey has shown the local attitudes towards the fear of crime and has helped bring in modern and brighter street lights, which has in turn given people more confidence to go out in the evening. If such a survey were carried out on St Giles, this could improve people’s lives immeasurably.

## **Addison / Chaucer**

Coming up Chaucer Drive, there is a nice variety of housing and the streets appear to be well looked after.

This is how all 'No dog fouling' signs should look, with a contact number on it for people to report offenders.



When everything is kept clean, the results are quite attractive.

It is sometimes easy to highlight an area's problems, to give the impression that all is doom and gloom. The fact is with neat gardens, no litter on the street and a little sunshine, most places can feel welcoming. It also helps to have a well built and attractively laid out estate.

**“Local housing is solidly built and durable”**

However, just a little further down Addison...

Leaving these phone wires to hang loose outside a school shows great irresponsibility not only by the vandal but also whoever should be fixing this problem.



The plans to merge two local schools brought out a huge show of local unity, not just on Addison Drive but from around the entire estate and beyond.



**“Stop the school merger”**

**“Schools merger has brought people together”**

**“Good community spirit”**



Photographs cannot always convey what local people know in their hearts. Despite the negative aspects, there is still a lot of positive feeling towards the area.

**“Community Spirit”**

**“Most people are good”**

**“People helping each other”**

There are strong local roots and pride

**“People on the estate have an identity”**

**“We’re ‘St Gillies’ – wouldn’t leave the area”**

**“Good local knowledge of the estate’s history”**

So how the local community find out what is going on locally? Or, more to the point, how can they get their views known to a wider audience?

**“Set up a local newsletter”**

**“Newsletter needed – make it age / item specific”**

Newsletters work superbly in other parts of Lincoln. Even better, a lot University students have to help put together community newsletters as part of their studies.

**“Use University Students”**

There are also other ways of getting information both to and from the local community.

**“Get schools and young people involved”**

**“Better Communicating of what facilities are already set up”**

**“Community notice boards”**

**“Put up street maps showing the estate”**

...and to a wider audience?

**“St Giles Community Forum”**

Here is clear concrete evidence that the community is prepared to get involved, to make a stand in order to improve where they live. Positive changes have been made in other parts of the City – so if they can work there, they can work on St Giles as well.

**“Look at other areas of Lincoln that have been regenerated”**

**“Accept past mistakes and learn from them”**



## **Green Areas**

### **St Giles Garden Club**

There are a lot of green areas on St Giles, with a lot of potentially wonderful gardens.



**“House proudness – some gardens kept very nice”**

**“Local history of having ‘cracking gardens’**

**“Help people take pride in their area”**

**“Give support for a garden club and help people make their gardens look better”**

There are several large DIY and garden centres on Outer Circle Road. Could these not help to sponsor a garden club? It would be so easy to get started – a lot of local people were born with green fingers and love gardening.

If there were greater community involvement with the two large fields – behind the schools and King George – that could lead to them being looked after better.

**“Hold activities on them”**

Involving local people is easy, just talk to them and listen...

## **Issues to take forward**

### **Working together**

All parties – local community, City of Lincoln Council, County Council, Police etc – need to work together.

### **Community Facilities**

Re-open community facilities that are currently boarded up.  
Maximise the community’s use of local facilities.

## **Community Activities**

Local community need to take some responsibility for how the area is run. Local people also need to be given more opportunities to help manage the area.

## **Litter & fly 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 for specifically stated areas. There is a need for people to go the extra mile to tackle this problem.

## **Green Areas**

Reclaim these and turn them back into areas of beauty. Encourage the local community to get involved in beautifying their own gardens.

## **Crime & Anti-social behaviour**

Make sure that everyone has the will to beat this and that the gravity of the problem is fully recognised and acted upon. Target young people with activities to keep them out of trouble. There is a need for people to go the extra mile to tackle this problem.

## **Activities for young people**

Make full use of all local venues plus any additional resources and some imaginative thinking. Plus, asking young people themselves what they want to do rather than deciding on their behalf.

## **Street Lighting**

Evidence is needed of the effectiveness of street lighting in other areas of Lincoln on both crime and the fear of crime.

## **Traffic / Transport**

The recent Community Travel Zone has undoubtedly improved traffic in the area but there are still some concerns about the speeds reached on Outer Circle Drive.

## **Investment in the area**

The Safer and Secure Communities investment planned for the Super output area will have a significant effect on the St Giles area as a whole.

How can we get involved?

## **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. However, it is possible to identify some priorities from the placecheck to aim for.

### **Priority - Working Together**

#### **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.
- Ensure that all the local community is aware of and has access to this list (via a 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. Make this sign vandal proof and ensure that it is protected and maintained. Look for funding through local grants.
- Start up a newsletter for St Giles which will include all the above mentioned contact points as well as other community information.
- Involve all St Giles Community Groups and organisations from both sides of the 'dividing' field.

## **Priority – St Giles Community Groups**

### **Goal**

In order to fully benefit from resources being made available, local residents need to form constituted community groups which can attract both funding and support from other organisations.

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

- Support the St Giles Community Forum
- Consultation with this community group should be compulsory for any authority or organisation that has development plans affecting the St Giles area.
- All community groups should be given as much support as possible through funding, training etc. All members of the local community are very welcome to join.

### **Goal**

There is already considerable interest in setting up a St Giles History Group.

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

- Help local people to set one up.
- Provide relevant training for anyone wanting to act as Secretary, Treasurer etc.
- Seek small pots of money to start the group off, find a place to meet, provide admin and IT support.
- Make contact with Lincoln University to see how local people can access University history resources.
- Identify local sources of historical information, e.g. Lincolnshire Archives.

### **Goal**

Rejuvenate the Oval

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

- Consult with local residents and offer support with removing litter
- Seek funding for restoration of the plinth



## **Priority – Reopening of community facilities:**

### **Goal**

There are several community facilities currently boarded up in a key part of St Giles that need to be both opened up and used effectively.

### **Action**

- Identify which agencies are responsible for which building and make this knowledge publicly available.
- Seek funding and support for community groups to operate within at least one of these facilities. The focus should be on provision rather than revenue.
- St Giles Community Forum to consult with the local community and identify different uses that the building could be put to.
- Ensure full communication between agencies and community groups to prevent duplication of facilities.
- Seek funding for improving the King George Field changing room.

## **Priority - Dealing with Litter and Fly Tipping:**

### **Goal**

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 for specifically stated areas.

### **Action:**

- Clear list of responsible parties and direct contact numbers to be printed in the St Giles newsletter. All agencies are to contribute to this and to update any changes.

### **Goal**

Clear the former car park on Goldsmith Walk backing onto King George Field.

### **Action:**

- Get rid of the dumped rubbish.
- Work with the local community to keep it clear of litter and dumping.
- Open the car park up to the public for active use as a facility.

## **Goal**

Clear the King George playing field

### ***Action:***

- Work with the local community to keep it clear of litter and dumping.
- Consult with local community groups as to what activities to hold on the field and support these activities.
- Install better lighting on the field.
- Get St Giles based football teams using the pitches.
- Look at building a young person's play area.

## **Goal**

Reduce the opportunity for people to fly tip anonymously and make sure that fly tippers are caught and fined.

### ***Action:***

- Give local people the confidence to report fly tippers.
- Make sure that reported incidents are acted upon.
- Forge links between local community and CORY to give better appreciation about how refuse collection and recycling works.
- Better street lighting and on green areas to reduce opportunity of fly tipping without being seen.

## **Goal**

Clean St Giles up and keep it clean.

### ***Action:***

- Install more litter bins and put them in appropriate places following consultation with the local community.
- Install more dog waste bins and put them in appropriate places following consultation with the local community.
- Purchase litterpickers, bags, gloves etc to be available for the local community to use. Local community and City Council to identify and tackle rubbish hot spots.

- Community to report people who dump rubbish. City council can fine these people heavily under new legislation.
- Ensure the contact details of how to report both litter dumpers and dog fouling are widely available and that reported incidents are acted upon.
- Get as many local green areas as possible on the Urban Ranger list of sites to visit.

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

### **Goal**

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; therefore people have to feel confident about reporting incidents, without the fear of reprisals.
- 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. Community to work with Police and City Council to enforce Anti Social Behaviour Orders on persistent trouble makers where necessary.
- Better security for homes - clampdown on persistent troublemakers etc.
- Encourage local people to join the Community Police Forums.

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

### **Goal**

Make the King George Field more attractive to play on.

### **Action:**

- Introduce better lighting to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Get a St Giles football team using the pitches

- Improve the changing room
- Improve the basketball area
- Work with the local community to remove litter and dumping
- Work with local community and police to reduce anti-social behaviour on the Field.
- Look at a young person's play area

**Goal:**

Make more use of local facilities

**Action:**

- Look at improving existing open play areas
- Clean up the Swift Garden ball court
- Work with the local community to remove litter and dumping from fields
- Consult with young people as to what activities they would like.
- Make the Community Centre more accessible

**Goal**

Give young people an outlet for creative / artistic expression

**Action:**

- Look at artistic projects that have run in other parts of Lincoln.
- Consult with young people through schools and youth clubs as to what they want to participate in.
- Work with local Parent / Teachers Associations to bid for funding.
- Look for suitable local premises from which projects could be run.

**Goal**

Consult with young people

**Action:**

- Consult through school councils
- Encourage young people to get involved with local Community groups or get involve in youth activities.



## **Priority - Traffic:**

### **Goal**

Reduce speeding on Goldsmith Walk

### **Action:**

- Look introducing at traffic calming measures

## **Priority - Street lighting:**

### **Goal**

Improve lighting in the area to a level where local people no longer feel afraid to venture out after dark. Also to discourage anti social activity, fly tipping.

### **Action:**

- Carry out a survey of local residents about their views of street lighting. The survey's findings will be fed back to City of Lincoln Council and Lincolnshire County Council for their response.
- An evaluation carried out in the Abbey Neighbourhood Renewal area showed the impact of improved lighting on local people's fear of crime as well as crime itself. This could act as a good template for bringing improved lighting to St Giles.

## **Priority - Investment in the area:**

### **Goal**

Where there have been schemes in other parts of Lincoln to improve specific area, one knock on effect is that other agencies, both public and private sector have also invested additional resources into the same area.

### **Action:**

- Aim to attract other investment in the area by advertising current and planned improvements and approaching possible future partners.
- Include *all* of the estate in consultation and improvements.

## Conclusion

In the past, when attempts have been made to improve St Giles, its geographical location, next to a more affluent area, made it difficult to attract the right money. When money was put into the area, it was often a case of a 'new building here' and a 'facility there', with no real joined up thinking between agencies and local people, as to how everything could compliment each other. Resources were seen as money and materials that came from outside the area.

Now there is a new approach to tackling the local problems; that is to use the local resources – the people, the buildings, the green areas – as well as investment from outside.

The placecheck shows that despite having to live amongst some very unsavoury aspects of life, many local people can see a better way ahead. They have ideas for improving their community and are willing to get involved in varying ways to do so.

What local people need, in order to achieve this, is for the powers that be to both listen to them and work with them. They are not asking for streets of gold, just clean and safe ones to walk on. There is a strong local community that feels frustrated by litter, anti social behaviour, crime and lack of opportunity. This is a great opportunity for all concerned to work together and get rid of those frustrations.

## **Appendix 1**

### **St Giles Placecheck responses based upon next 15 questions**

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

- City Council
- Volunteers
- Local community
- Church
- Young people
- County Council
- Schools
- SOVA

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

- Local schools
- Sure Start
- Access Centre
- Multi use Centre
- COLC housing office
- Empty but solid buildings
- Green fields
- St Giles Family Centre
- St Giles Community Centre

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

- Set up a local newsletter
- Get schools and young people involved

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

- Need committed people / staff
- Encourage people to have a positive outlook
- Ensure all agencies are working together
- Stop the school merger

5. How can we raise our sights?

- Focus on positive things
- Look at other areas of Lincoln that have been regenerated
- Accept past mistakes and learn from them

6. What other initiatives could improve the place?
  - Set up and support small community groups e.g. a local history group
7. How can we make this a more special place?
  - Keep litter / rubbish off the streets
  - Clean graffiti up
8. How can we make this a greener place?
  - Help people take pride in their area
  - Give support for a garden club and help people make their gardens look better
  - Look after the parks better
9. How can the streets and other public spaces be made safer and more pleasant for people on foot?
  - More litter bins or skips
  - We don't see any dog mess bins
  - Local Police and Community support officers
  - Report anti social behaviour
  - Report dog fouling to dog warden
  - Invest in better pavements
  - Get urban rangers to visit area more
  - Carry out a lighting survey
  - Better lighting reduces fear of crime
  - Stop fly-tipping
10. How else can public spaces be improved?
  - Keep them clean and tidy
  - Keep vehicles off
  - Regular clean ups
  - More litter bins
  - More dog bins
  - Hold activities on them
  - Community projects to revive spots such as the Oval
  - Stop fly-tipping
11. How can the place be made welcoming and easier for people to find their way around?
  - Keeping fronts of houses tidier
  - Remove litter, shopping trolleys etc
  - Have street maps on sign board



- Remove graffiti and fly-tipping

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

- Encourage investment
- Encourage people / businesses to use the empty buildings
- Involving people in the future of their own community gives them confidence to face change

13. How can better use be made of resources?

- Get all groups and agencies to work together
- Get rid of the 'us and them' attitude
- Try to overcome the divide on the estate – the school field is seen as a dividing line with the Swift Gardens side coming out worst.

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

15. Any further comments