

AGE FRIENDLY MILES PLATTING

**Action Plan Findings
June 2017**

DRAFT

Age-Friendly Miles Platting Partnership

The Age-Friendly Miles Platting Partnership is run by a resident-led board working alongside institutional and third sector partners working to make the neighbourhood more Age-Friendly.

What is the Partnership?

The partnership is led by local residents and aims to make the area more age-friendly. They are working with older people and researchers in the Manchester Age Friendly Neighbourhood (MAFN) team to understand what the neighbourhood is like to live in now and how to improve it in the future. To do this we are creating an action plan to help make the area better for older people and we will be funding projects which benefit older people in the neighbourhood.

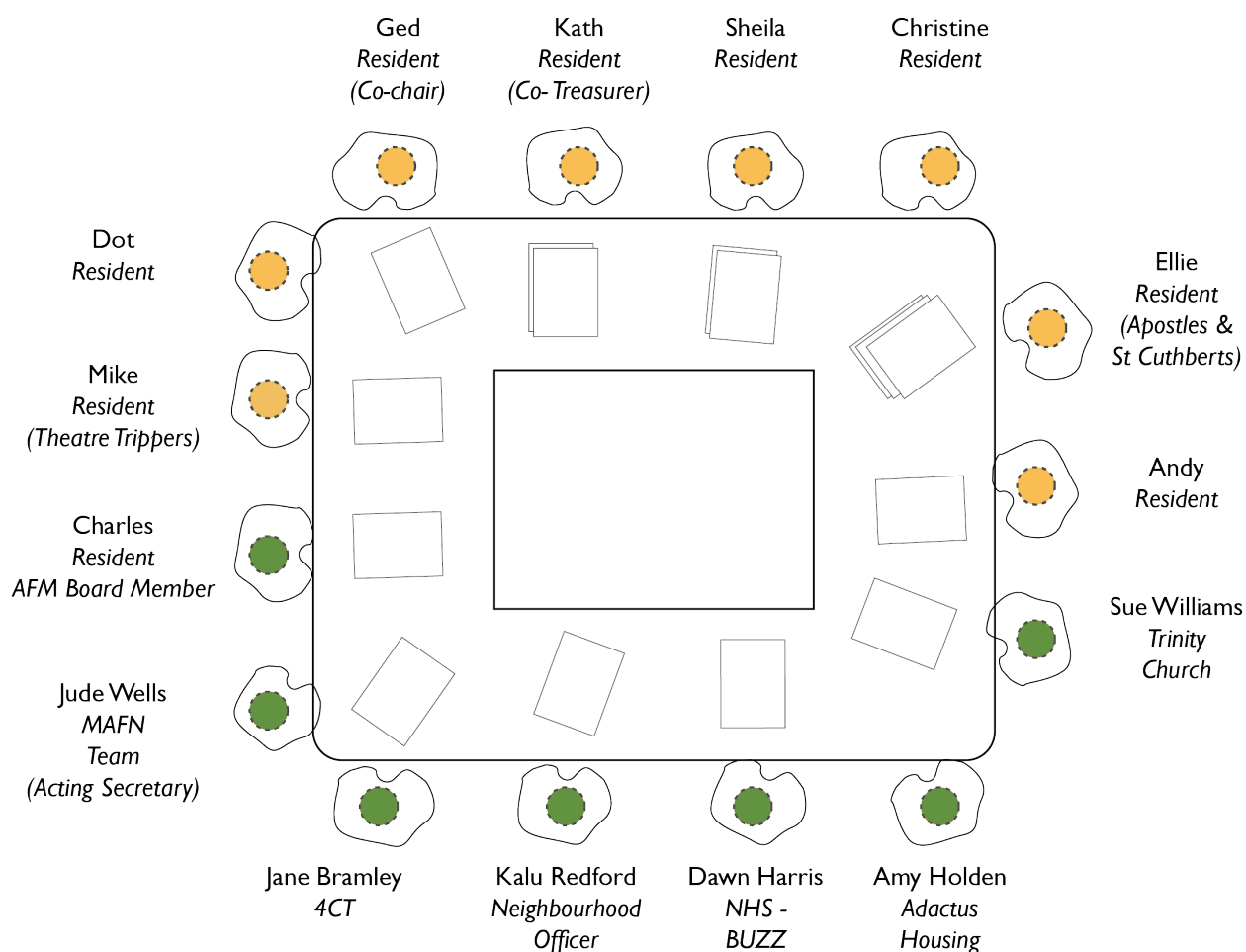
The partnership is governed by a resident-led board. This board is made up of local residents and representatives of local institutions and organisations which are active in the area. To be quorate, in order to make decisions on funding, 50% of people on the board must be residents of Miles Platting, 50% of those residents must be over 50 years old. There must be 5 institutions represented (e.g. NHS, CCG, housing association, police, Age Friendly Manchester etc.)

Ways you can contribute:

- » Talk with your neighbours friends and relatives about the project
- » Attend events / Take part in design and discovery activities
- » Provide local expertise by talking to investigators
- » Be a local investigator
- » Contribute to the partnership mapping and networking
- » Meet to evaluate and select projects
- » Help get to know harder to reach individuals
- » Be on the partnership champions board
- » Suggest or lead partnership projects
- » Support other projects initiated by your partnership
- » Help the Age-friendly neighbourhood team by joining the project board
- » Join the Age Friendly Manchester board
- » Help GMCVO, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations by being on their equalities board

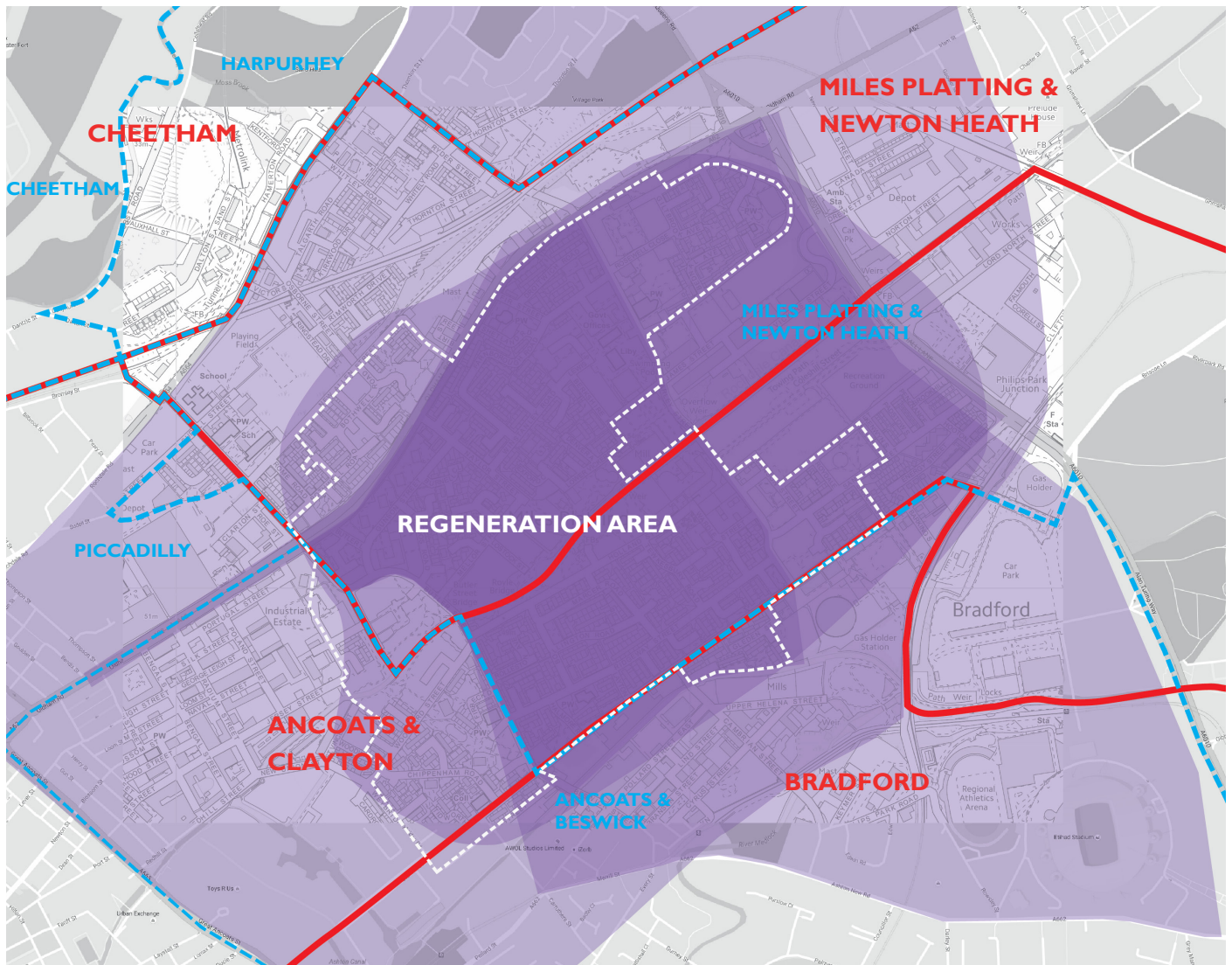


Images from Age Friendly Miles Platting Launch in September 2016







The Age Friendly Miles Platting Board 2017

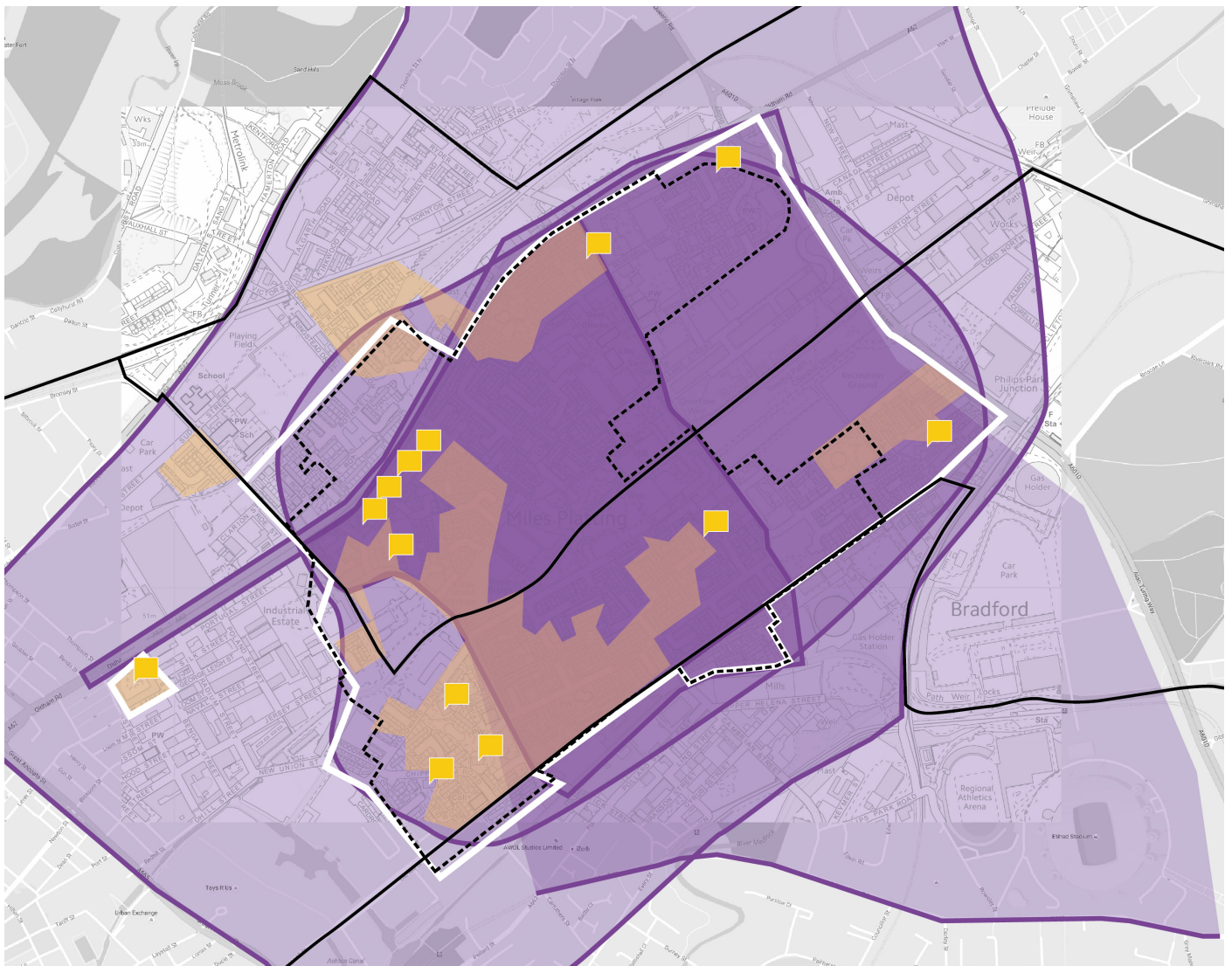
Defining A Research Boundary









KEY:

-  Resident Drawn Boundaries for the neighbourhood
-  Administrative Ward Boundaries (from 2002-2018)
-  Administrative Ward Boundaries (from 2018)
-  Regeneration Boundary (set in 2006)

In order to define a suitable research boundary for this project several different analysis of the area have been undertaken. The first was to ask residents to draw the boundary of their neighbourhood. We also looked at how the administrative boundaries have changed over the last 20 years as well as the boundary that was defined for regeneration purposes. These have been overlaid on the map above.



KEY:

-  Resident Drawn Boundaries for the neighbourhood
-  Administrative Ward Boundaries (from 2002-2018)
-  Regeneration Boundary (set in 2006)
-  Research Boundary
-  Areas of Older People
-  Specialist Housing Accommodation

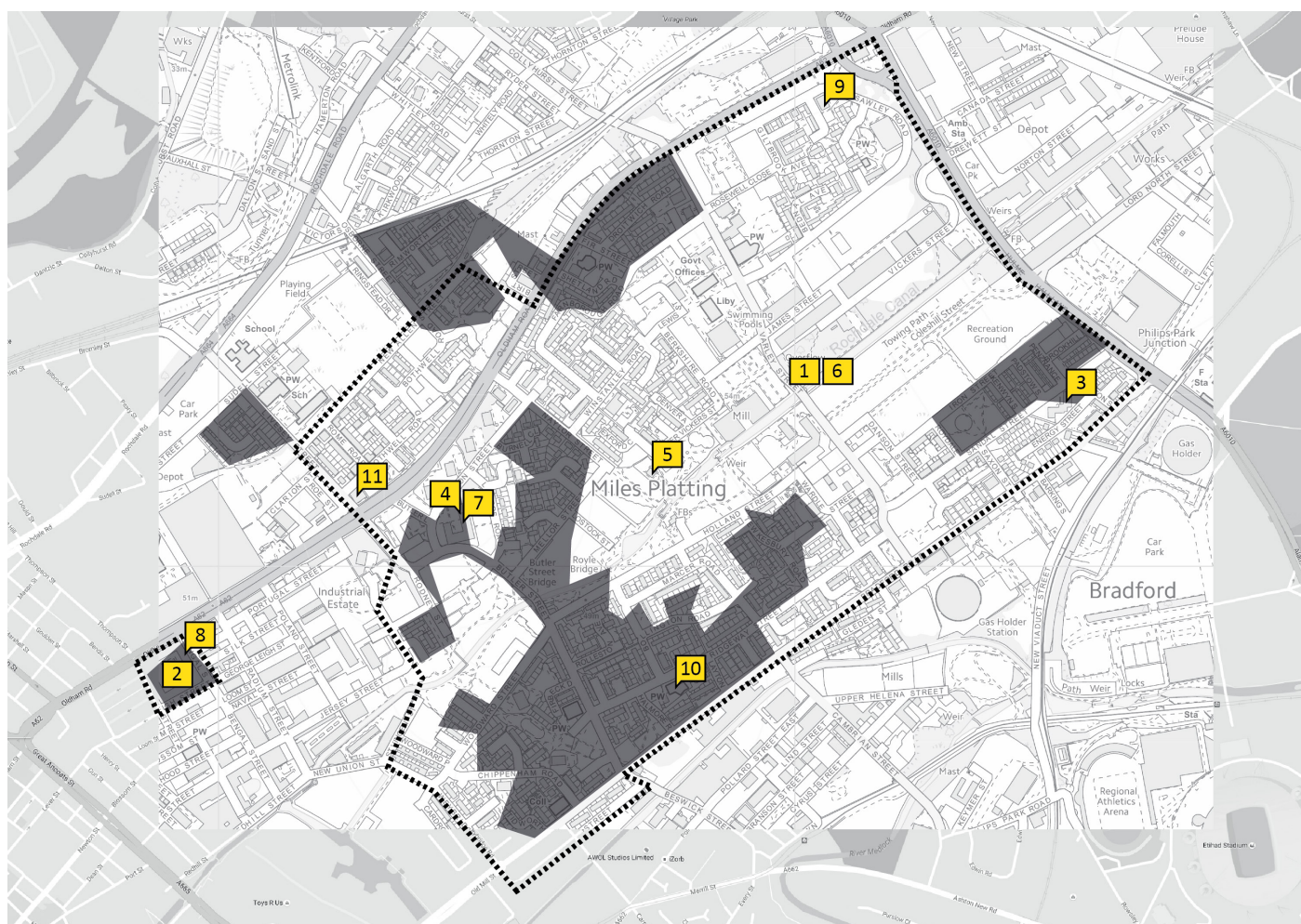
The next was to look at the spatial data to identify where the higher percentages of older people are living. This indicated several significant pockets which correlate to specialist housing provision. The neighbourhood is located right on the edge of the city centre boundary and one specialist accommodation (Victoria Square) which is stuck between Miles Platting and the city centre apartments would also benefit from inclusion in this study.

Age-Friendly Miles Platting Funded Projects

The Partnership board have a community fund to provide financial support to resident-led projects. The funding is intended to be used on projects which cost under £2000 that aim to tackle the risk factors of social isolation amongst over 50 year olds. Projects are initiated, developed and run by older people in partnership with local organisations and institutions. These projects are developed in response to the findings of the Age-Friendly Action Plan, and the learning from these projects is used to inform future activities developed by residents.

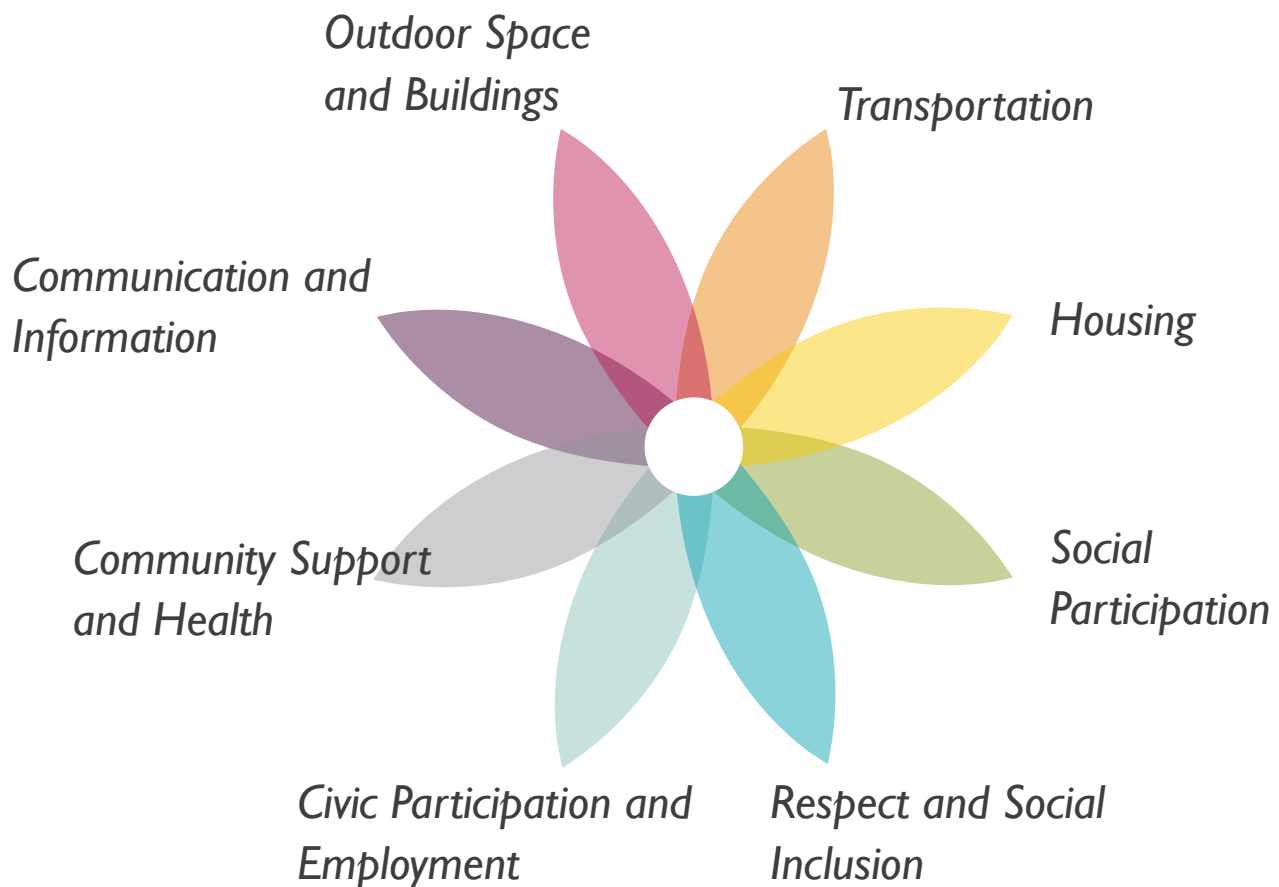
Project's Funded So Far...

1. Theatre Trippers (project covers neighbourhood)
2. Golden Oldies Disco
3. Sycamore Surfers
4. Time for Tai Chi
5. Creative Connections Action Research Team
6. Vintage FM (project covers neighbourhood)
7. Butler Court Film Club
8. Victoria Varieties
9. Nelson Court Resident's Sports Association
10. Friday Fun Fellowship
11. St George's Old Genes Project



Action Plan Findings

In the following pages, are the most up to date current findings of the Action Plan. We continue to develop findings which cover all the WHO domains with residents and stakeholders in the neighbourhood.



Outdoor Space and Buildings

There is a significant amount of green space in the area but there are barriers to access and so are less used by older residents.

There are many play spaces and large areas of green space across the neighbourhood.
(Urban Design Analysis)

The play spaces and green spaces are underused. *(Interpersonal Research)*

“Nope I don’t use any of those green spaces, I’ve been to Philips Park a couple of times but because it was quiet space and I needed a space to think.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

Penzance Street Garden - I never use it – “not meant to be used” there are no benches – you’d get people going in.
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

“We did have a walking group, but we couldn’t keep it going. People who would have volunteered in the past – those ones under 65, who are fit and able – they don’t volunteer any more as they’ll be seen as fit to work and don’t want to have to look for jobs”
(Residential Scheme Manager)

Several new community garden have been created by local residents in recent years but they are suffering from anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
(Interpersonal Research)

“The PFI promised us lots of new facilities like swimming baths and a new library but its failed us we are being pushed out of the area-the yuppies jog around the canals these days” *(Female)*

Adactus used to cut the grass but now they don’t. Everyone has their own gardens – so they do their own.
(Focus Group - everyone agreed)

“There is a park that gets used behind the new houses alongside the canal. Joggers use the park and there are some canal boats.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“I walk down the canal every Sunday it’s my exercise regime”
(Male, 60s Mar 2017)

“Plenty of green spaces to work and play but not ready for any projects”
(Male, 50s, March 2017)

Impact

- » As one of the assets of the area, the fact that older people are reporting to not use the formal green space in the area shows a lost opportunity.
- » Miles Platting is one place with green space in the area so can be used by many different communities.
- » Opportunities for exercise and leisure are there but are not being used by older people.
- » Lower use of green space continues low use and creates a feeling that the parks are “unsafe”.

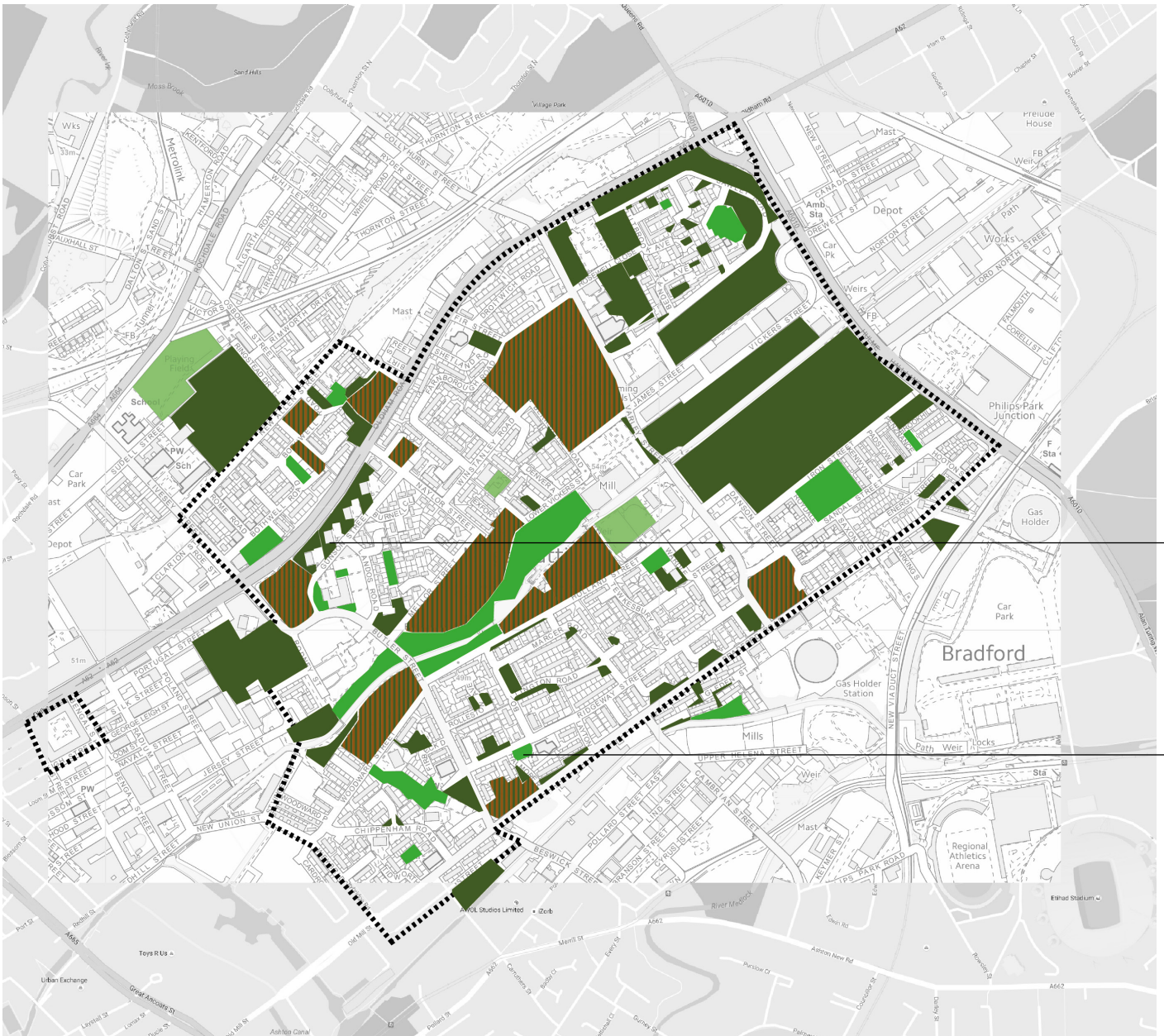
Ideas

- » Encourage projects which make better use of the outdoor space.
- » Collaborate with neighbourhood officers to take on board comments and improve the perception of parks.
- » Coordinate with PCSO if the parks are being used in anti-social ways.,
- » Coordinate with Parks Strategy to look at how age-friendly the green spaces are.
- » Audits of the green space





Projects

- » Walks for Health project in partnership with Age UK and Parks team (MCC)
- » New walk leader for Plodders
- » Green spaces being used by Adactus for their events.

Outdoor Space and Buildings



KEY:

-  Amenity: Public Park, Community Park
-  Amenity: School Playing Fields/ Playground
-  Ambiguous: Development Site (waiting for construction as part of PFI masterplan)
-  Ambiguous: Open Space with no clear ownership or use. (Demolished buildings/ potential future development site - not included in PFI plan)

“The path stops up here, it is a longer walk to get to the bus route, still yet to see plans for it.”

This green space has been cleared and is ready for planting. Potential for food growing and follow on projects.

Outdoor Space and Buildings

2 A number of public buildings have been knocked down or boarded up, including shops and community venues. Residents feel there is a lack of communication about the building work happening in the area

“The PFI promised us lots of new facilities like swimming baths and a new library but its failed us we are being pushed out of the area”
(Female)

“ I go to other areas to do my shopping-the local shops are really expensive and don't sell fresh fruit or vegetables-I have to get a taxi to Asda”
(Female)

Buildings which have been demolished or boarded up in recent years include Miles Platting Leisure Centre, Miles Platting Library (now houses in former youth club, which was also closed), council offices, an Age Concern day centre and numerous shops
(Urban Design Analysis)

“The steering group has lottery funding but the Apostle Church doesn't have funding and it is disheartening.”
(Board residents, Jan. 2017)

“We have no shops –we had to fight to keep the chemist open-they've let us down”
(Male)

“This place has “died” used to be lots of shops and amenities now there is nothing”
(Male)

“The library is closed now...(advised there is a library) well I didn't know that.Where is it?”
(Female)

Few older people have access to a car, and access to next nearest leisure centre in Beswick is limited on public transport
(Spatial Data, Urban Design Analysis)

In the north of the neighbourhood, the only food shop has a very steep step outside an outward swinging door, making it difficult for older people to access the shop. It has been reported informally that there have been a number of falls at this location.
(Urban Design Analysis, Interpersonal Research)

“They could turn the boarded up shops easily into houses for older people.This would save money – unless there is something drastically wrong with them.When you see open space you could easily build on this.You often find if units are built for older people, they are then taken by younger generation.”
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

Impact

- » Older people need to go out of the area to use amenities such as swimming baths and shops.
- » Residents forced to use high cost convenience stores due to lack of alternatives.
- » Empty and boarded up buildings reinforce perceptions of decline.
- » Increased distrust of local institutions, whom some in the community feel have let them down.

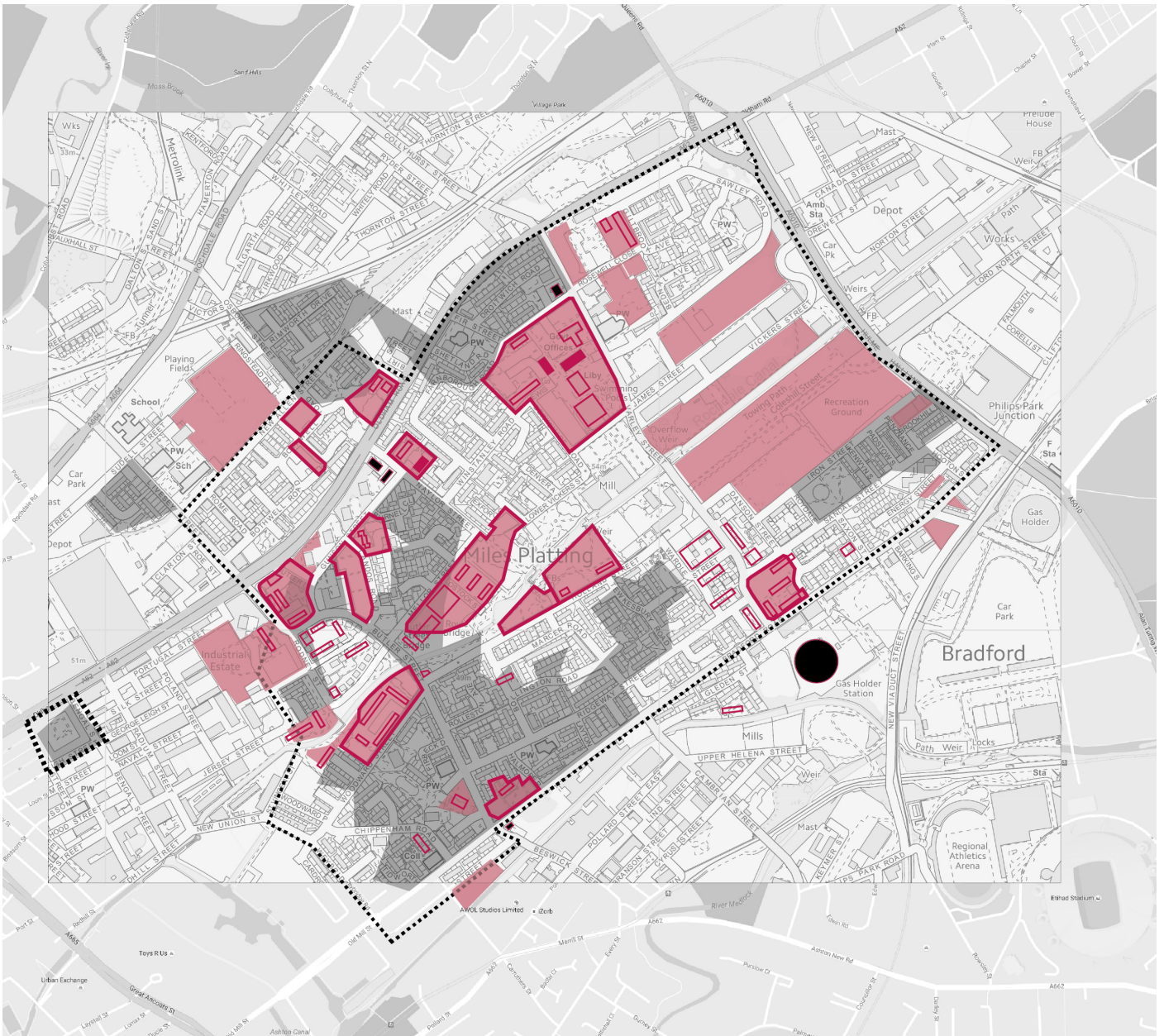
Ideas

- » Improve access to community resources in neighbouring areas
- » Mobile fruit and vegetable shop
- » Contact PFI staff to improve communications about building work and changes occurring in the area.

Projects

- » Adactus are helping to improve communications with their events and activities.

Outdoor Space and Buildings



KEY:

- Areas of Older People (spatial data and interpersonal research)
- Development Site as part of PFI (urban design analysis)
- Potential Development Site, not part of PFI
- Site of Demolished Building as part of PFI (urban design analysis)
- Building due to be Demolished as part of PFI (urban design analysis)
- Boarded up/ Unused Building (not part of PFI)

Transportation

Public transport routes are limited to main roads on the boundary of the area.

Cannot get to the supermarket, the new leisure centre, North Manchester General Hospital
(Reported in various Focus Groups and conversations)

Few older people have access to a car, and access to next nearest leisure centre in Beswick is limited on public transport
(Spatial Data, Urban Design Analysis)

The crossings are terrible (near Victoria Square/ Oldham Road near Butler Court and Bradford St by the bus stop)
(Reported in various Focus Groups and conversations)

Cannot use Ring and Ride anymore as it is only for over 75s and limited to 6 miles. *(Female)*

“I know all the bus routes and we (Plodders) go out on public transport all the time our bus passes mean we can go everywhere”
(Female)

“The 76 bus is an asset” lives off Sandal St near the bus stop *(Female)*

“I can’t use the buses as I have a wheelchair I have to pay £8 for a taxi to go to Asda”
(Female)

“53 bus to Beswick baths is unreliable”
(Male - Goes to Huddersfield on direct bus)

“I struggle to get to the job centre it’s in Newton Heath and I need to go every week to sign on-I don’t have a free bus pass so it costs me a lot of money in fares”
(Male, 60s Mar 2017)

“I don’t get the buses, I can’t really walk long distances, I tend to get taxis to pick me up from the door to the destination!”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“I didn’t realise there was a bus to Huddersfield from Miles Platting!”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“I work shifts, and it is difficult to get the buses on a Sunday. It takes about 1.5 hours. If a bus is late it means you miss the next one, it has made me late for work sometimes.”
(Female, 50s, March 2017)

Impact

- » People find accessing services to the East of the area very difficult as all bus routes run to city centre and northwards.
- » Most people need to travel outside the area on public transport to reach shops and other amenities
- » People who have limited mobility have to pay for taxis to get to services.

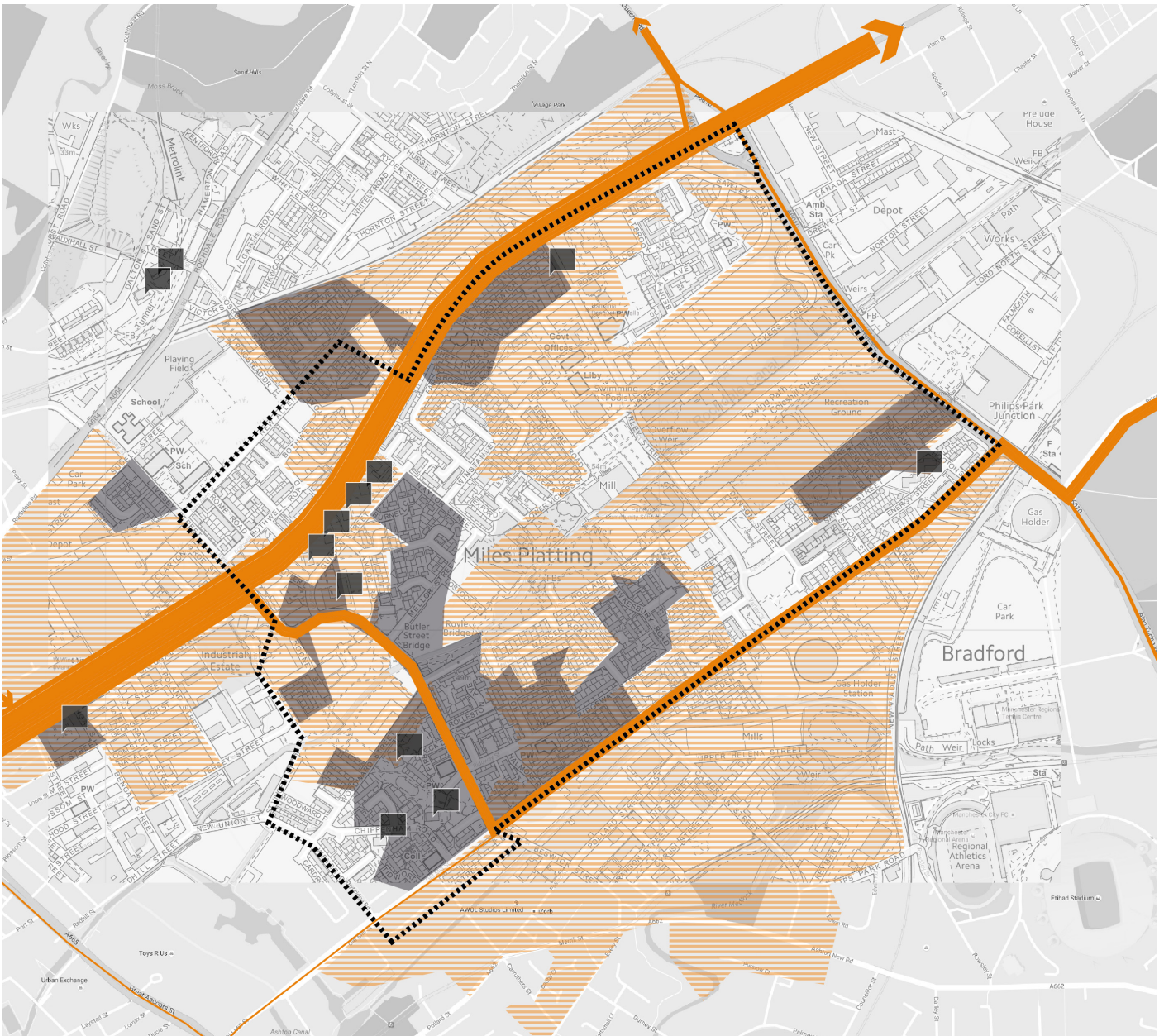
Ideas

- » Suggestion to develop a route guide “on the buses” using local peoples knowledge to share with other residents
- » Weekly visits to different locations only using public transport from local retirement flats/ care homes to increase confidence in using the routes.






Projects

- » Need to consider transport for any project
- » Resident-led resources created to assist others in getting out and going on trips for free using their bus passes.

Transportation



KEY:

-  Areas of Older People (spatial data and interpersonal research)
-  Specialist Housing provision (urban design analysis and interpersonal research)
-  Bus Routes (urban design analysis)
-  Bus Stops (urban design analysis)
-  Older People with no access to a private vehicle (spatial data)

Housing

There are a number of 50+ residential units with many older people reporting no or limited access to activities and events.

“ I didn’t know Sycamore Court was there – I haven’t ever visited”
(Community Worker, September 2016)

There is a fortnightly lunch at Sycamore Court which residents can help out at.
(Interpersonal Research observations)

There is little collaboration between the 3 sheltered schemes in the neighbourhood. Wardens for the schemes met for the first time at the Age Friendly partnership meeting.
(Interpersonal Research Observations, Dec 2017)

“There is a family room [at Sycamore Court] – but its not that well used. We used to have dinners in there 3 times a week, but not anymore. Nobody bothered coming down. We did take some dinners up, but we’ve stopped.”
(Female, 70s, Nov 2016)

“I don’t really come down here (to the community room); I just usually stay in my flat, there isn’t much going on down here.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“I live in Nelson Court and its okay. Caretaker is very helpful but nosey. However, no activities in local area for older people.”
(Male, 55, March 2017)

Due to the PFI regeneration in the neighbourhood, there is a significant amount of new builds in the area (Lovell homes) This has created a changed in the neighbourhood with mixed tenure and increasing numbers of owner occupiers (many first time buyers from BME community.)
(Urban Design Analysis, 2016)

There are no communal facilities in the multi storey blocks just a caretakers office. Nelson Court has a 50+ letting policy – many people have lived there since it was built in 1968.
(Interpersonal Research Observations, Dec 2017)

“They’ve cut down all the trees and will build houses. We are going to lose the chemist and greenery. People can’t get to shops out of the area.”
(Male, 60s, Jan. 2017)

“There is no consideration [of activities and services] for new families and kids.”
(Male, 60s, Jan. 2017)

Impact

- » There are little connections across the various housing schemes and no sharing of resources or activities. Many people are isolated even in when living in a communal setting.
- » Changes in letting policy at care homes in the area has changed the age range and social capacity of resident meaning a change in social patterns e.g. common room use decreasing in popularity.
- » Lack of collaboration and physical space to meet up decreases the ease and likelihood of collaboration between Sheltered Accommodation schemes/ Tower-blocks. Alongside this warden roles have changed and where there are the resources/ space, activities and use is dependant on the wardens attitude and enthusiasm meaning people are not benefiting from communal areas in schemes.

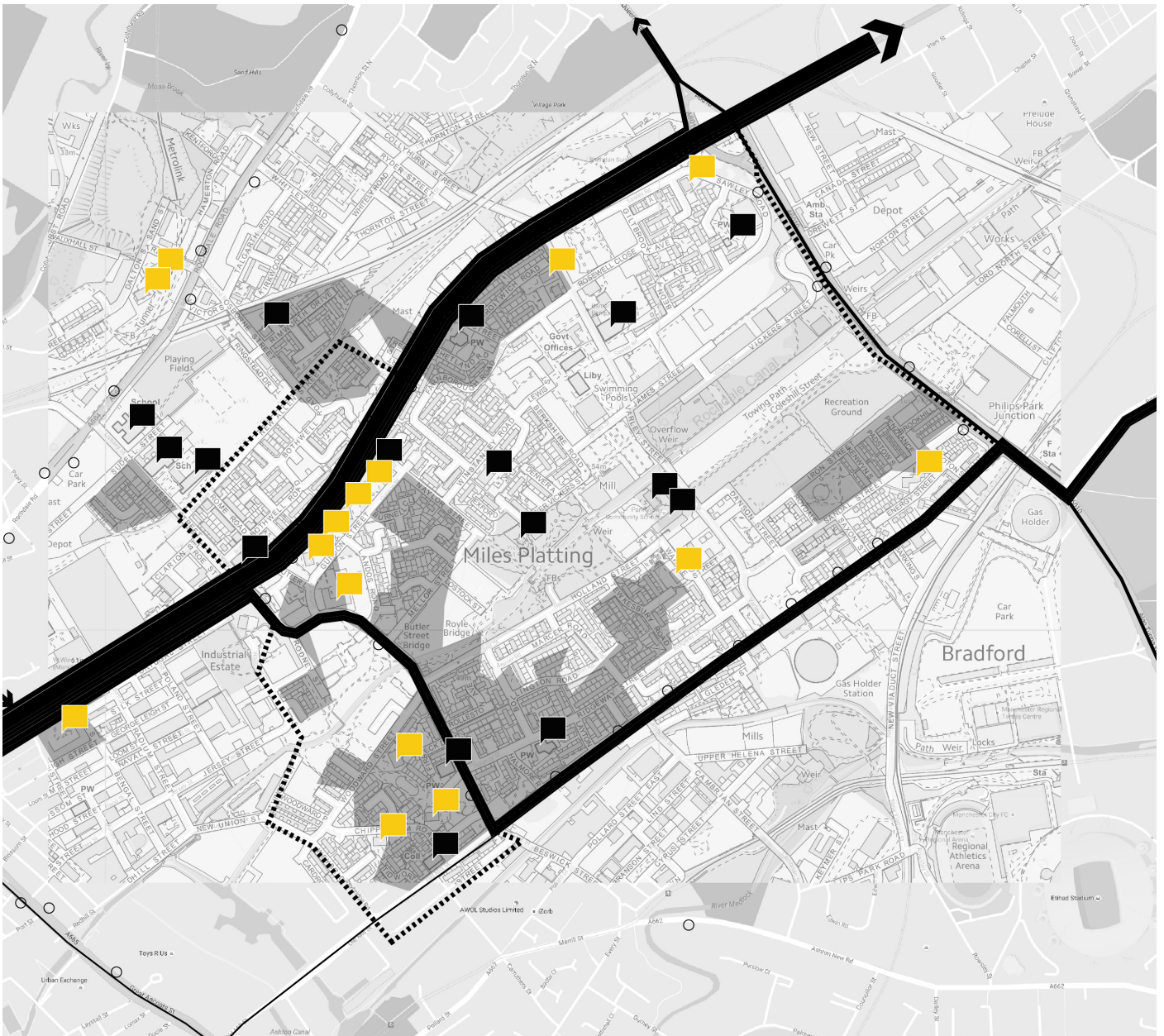
Ideas

- » Encourage collaborative working.
- » Share events with each other.
- » Encourage residents to use and occupy the communal areas on a more regular basis.
- » Use mini-buses that have disabled access.
- » Break down personal barriers that people use to stop going out through one to one work and getting down to the root of the fear.





Projects

- » Targeted funding for projects in sheltered accommodation to increase events in Sycamore Court and Butler Court.
- » Partnership working with Adactus and Arawak housing to deliver IT training to residents.
- » Targeted funding to increase social activity of older men in Nelson Court
- » Two new luncheon clubs in the neighbourhood and inspired Sycamore court to continue this themselves.
- » Tai Chi and Yoga classes on at Victoria Square.

Housing



KEY:

-  Areas of Older People (spatial data and interpersonal research)
-  Specialist Housing provision (urban design analysis and interpersonal research)
-  Locations of Age Friendly Activities (interpersonal research and urban design analysis)
-  Bus Routes (urban design analysis)

2 There is a lack of housing choices for people over 50 wanting to downsize and stay in the neighbourhood.

“It’s hard to get a tenancy in the area there is a 5 year waiting list there is nothing for us tenants”
(Male)

“We did see the plans a few years ago in the library, but for us older people, there are no 1 or 2 bedroom properties. I would like to stay in my area but there isn’t any suitable properties to move into. They haven’t taken this into account. Because of the bedroom tax, people don’t want 3 bedroom properties.”
(Female 70s, November 2016)

“There’s only a handful of 1 and 2 bed flats in Sycamore Court, all the rest are like bedsits”
(Female 60s, November 2016)

“I want a downstairs room as I struggle with my walking these days-I am on the waiting list for a move in the building”
(Male 70s Mar. 2017)

Under the PFI regeneration scheme around 800 new houses are proposed in the area, while the masterplans are flexible, the majority of new builds in the area are family houses of 3/4 bedrooms and are actively marketed at younger people”
(Urban Design Analysis)

Retrofitting of “existing social housing is the best thing to happen in the area – these are quality houses”
(Adactus housing officer)

“I can’t see a 1 bedroom house coming up here for me now. All the new houses opposite are 3/ 4 bedrooms. Talking about sheltered accommodation – she doesn’t think she would as she doesn’t like one place she has seen in Beswick as the corridors are narrow and dim/dark.”
(Female 80s, November 2016)

“I’m currently living with a friend in a 1 bedroom bedsit here, the housing provider said there weren’t any two bedroom apartments available. We are looking to get something maybe beyond here but I heard it’s a long process, wouldn’t know where to begin.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

Impact

- » As people get older and their needs change their choices of housing is reduced in the area. This concerns residents who are getting older about having to moved out of the area if they want to move to a smaller house.
- » This is adversely effecting residents living in social rental properties concerned about the effects of the Bedroom tax on their ability to pay rent, and while they have the desire to move into smaller properties, suitable properties are not being built.

Ideas

- » Work in collaboration with the council to bring ideas and needs of older people to them, as well as help them communicate their plans for the area, especially on sites still to be designed/ planned.
- » Collaborate with PFI to look at current plans and see if any diversification of housing stock can be done.
- » Review the letting processes of Adactus in collaboration with city-wide partners.

Projects

- »

Social Participation

In response to a lack of events and activities for older people to participate in within the area, projects have been funded to increase social activity across the neighbourhood.

The people that run the current activities report lack of capacity to deliver anymore events as they rely on a small number of volunteers already working at capacity
(Interpersonal Research)

“There is nothing to do round here I go nowhere and am really bored”
(Female)

“St Georges is very children focused and doesn’t offer much for older people I offered an activity there but there were few takers” There used to be a day centre on Varley St but it closed down.
(Community Worker)

There are very few community assets within the boundary of Miles Platting.
(Urban Design Analysis)

There is frustration that many people don’t want to get involved with anything and keep themselves to themselves.
(Interpersonal Research)

“I visit a lot of older residents in the area; the thing they need is a befriending service; someone to see them in their own home”
(Professional, Mar 2017)

There are a number of churches which many older people use for social events and activities.
(Urban Design Analysis, Interpersonal Research)

“I don’t really go to any social activities in Miles Platting, I was going to the Salvation Army in town when I could walk better but haven’t been for a while since it got worse.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“I am not computer savvy and I have trouble reading the screen. Unless I receive help or support I find it difficult to search for jobs. I really want to work and the whole situation is making me smoke more”
(Male, 55, March 2017)

“The theatre project is really good, I’ve been to see two theatre shows since it started up!” *(Female, 60s, Mar. 2017)*

“Not enough activities or events. There are no pubs. I have to travel to Moston for a social drink”
(Male, 55, March 2017)

Impact

- » People had needed to travel outside the area to access services but now there are more activities in the neighbourhood
- » People do still report having to travel outside the neighbourhood for social activity.
- » People can be isolated and they report an impact on their well-being as a result of lack of engagement with events and activities

Ideas

- » Use Mile Platting community fund to generate and grow new activities and events.
- » Celebrate existing assets and increase activity closer to older people's housing.
- » Collaborate with partners to distribute the age-friendly calendar to older people in the area.

Projects

- » Walking Netball taster session
- » Action Planning Workshops happened in the neighbourhood and took on board views of residents and partner organisations.
- » Projects have included increasing social activity.
- » Board meetings have been located within the neighbourhood.
- » Theatre Trippers have 30 members in their group and have visited many cultural venues across the city.
- » Supporting other organisations to increase their social activity offer in the area,.

Social Participation

Miles Platting Age Friendly Events

Mon Jun 12 – Thu Jun 15, 2017 (London)

	Mon 6/12	Tue 6/13	Wed 6/14	Thu 6/15
10am			community library @ Miles Platting Community Library Victoria Mill Community Centre Lower	community gardens @ Community gardens Holland St Miles Platting 10am - 12pm
11am		Miles Platting Work Club @ Adactus Housing Association, 542 Oldham Rd, Manchester M40 8BS, UK 10:30am - 12pm	Miles Platting Plodders @ All local walks meet at Trinity Church Butler St Miles Platting -	
12pm		walking football @ Manchester Tennis & Football Centre Etihad Campus, Gate 2, Alan Turing 12pm - 1pm		
1pm				
2pm	St Georges Old Genes @ St Georges Community Centre Livesey Street Miles Platting 2pm - 3pm	Community library @ Miles Platting Community Library Victoria Mill Community Centre Lower Vickers St M40 7LJ 2pm - 5pm		Time for Tia Chi @ Butler Court, Gunson St, Manchester M40 7WU, UK
3pm				
4pm				
5pm				
6pm			Walk to Run @ St Georges Community Centre Livesey St Manchester 6pm - 7pm	
7pm	YPAC at St Georges Fitness Classes -Pilates @ St Georges Community centre Livesey St 6:30pm - 7:30pm		Zumba @ Church of the Apostles Ridgway Road Miles Platting 7pm - 8pm	
8pm	craft group @ Church of the Apostles Ridgway Road Miles Platting 7:30pm - 9:30pm	YPAC at St Georges Fitness 7:30pm - 8:		
9pm				

The main evidence for this finding is the Miles Platting Age Friendly events calendar. This includes activities which we have been told about during workshops and during conversations.

This has become busier over the last 8 months with the inclusion of funded projects as well.

Fri 6/16

Sat 6/17

Sun 6/18

Open All Day Fridays @ St George's Community Centre Bothwell Road, Collyhurst, Manchester M40 7NY 0161 834 5665 10am - 4pm

Friday Friends and Fellowship @ Church of the Apostles Ridgway St Miles Platting 10am - 2pm

Apostle church coffee morning @ Apostle

Yoga @ St Georges 10am - 11am - Walking Football @ 11am -

walk to run @ St Georges Community Centre 12:30pm - 1:30pm

community library @ Miles Platting Community Library Victoria Mill Community Centre Lower Vickers St M40 7LJ 10am - 1pm

Neighbours Day Event @ Miles Platting, Manchester M40, UK 3:30pm - 6pm

Other events include:
Theatre Trippers outings
Co-researcher events
Vintage FM recordings

Respect and Social Inclusion

Most older people feel safe in the area despite perceived high incidences of crime (drug related) in the area.

Miles Platting has a bad reputation but it has improved a lot since she started working here. She is involved in ASB and neighbourhood engagement and work with local community groups and schools. She says Young People are board and has worked specifically to improve their behaviour.

She has addressed some of the issues relating to drugs and alcohol and crime including closing the Navy pub and removed the benches where drug dealers were operating.

Some of the challenges include drugs use being the norm for some and is not perceived as an addiction e.g. weed – quite a few people over 50 are involved; drinking is behind closed doors so not visible or known the scale of activity.
(Police Community Support Officer)

“There are some young people hanging around my area. You get youths on the playground at Saxon Street – making noise, but I don’t hear.”
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

Residents at Sycamore Court report feeling safe and secure, that the area is “crime free”, that they can walk out anytime and everyone knows each other. They feel that their area is a nice part of Miles Platting.
(Interpersonal Research)

“I don’t go near the green as its unsafe-they closed the Navy because of drug dealing”
(Male)

“I feel safe getting around the area in the day.” *(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)*

“I walk round the area all the time –I don’t feel frightened” *(Male early 60s Mar 2017)*

“Area is O.K. but there is a smell in the lifts – I don’t know what it is.”
(Male, 55, March 2017)

Impact

- » Differing perceptions of risk to older people in the area regarding crime. With many people staying at home due to fear of crime (who are therefore not heard at the moment as they are a hard to reach group)
- » Older people's perception of the area is positive which can assist with community cohesion.

Ideas

- » Reconnect with police and community support officers to understand any issues they face.

Projects

- »

2 People report feeling that there is a sense of community in Miles Platting, but older people have concerns that the new and old communities are not integrating.

“ Don’t know enough about PFI. Unsure of the community and whether they will be still around”
(Male, 55, March 2017)

“New houses are bought by people not local to the area because of the area’s proximity to the city centre but they know little about the area and the existing community.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“There are two separate communities now in Miles Platting, the new one won’t be part of the old one.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“There are two separate communities now in Miles Platting, the new one won’t be part of the old one.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

“Newer residents are not mixing – people working, they have families. “When will they meet? Where will they meet?”
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

“There is still a sense of community to a degree, but some of the older people feel alienated – especially in the new properties (meaning the 60s houses).”
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

Word board at a public event asking what the story of Miles Platting is included these words: Vibrant, Special, Awesome, Hopeful, Shocking, Safe, Protected, Heartache. People do feel a sense of community, with residents reporting a friendly atmosphere in the neighbourhood.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

There are a few very active community activators, which help the sense of community.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

“Theatre trippers is a good project that does start to bridge the old and new communities, though a lot of people don’t know that the local theatre exists.”
(Male, 70s, Mar. 2017)

I am still worried about them demolishing our houses – wonder if they will leave us as we are separate up at the end. “I would put up a fight”. It’s my house and I wouldn’t want their money. Its just right for us.
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

“In the evenings and at weekends there is always old clothes just dumped on the road here [from homeless people attending Mustard tree] and it can get noisy at midnight when the pubs close and its chucking out time.”
(Female, 70s, Feb 2017)

Impact

- » This could indicate a lack of understanding of different concerns between generations.
- » Lack of opportunities and places for newer and older community members to come together.
- » Strong feeling of belonging in Miles Platting having lived in the neighbourhood for a long time.

Ideas

- » Think about ways to engage with newer residents. Letting them know about events in the area, encouraging them to help out and volunteer at local events.
- » Neighbourhood Information pack to go to all new residents moving in to let them know about the events and groups in the area.
- » Working with the schools in the area
- » Leaflet drop for new houses in partnership with Adactus.

Projects

- » Hosting a grandparents day to engage with the newer residents who have children attending the local primary school.

Respect and Social Inclusion

3 There is a history of short term interventions in the area which have not led to a sustainable model of community support.

Many of past regeneration projects have focussed on Sport City and Newton Heath. The economic situation in 2008 delayed the PFI in Miles Platting. Many of the building are now currently under construction
(Urban Design Analysis)

Adactus are committed to the neighbourhood and have contributed significantly to the renovation of the housing stock and are looking to work much more closely with residents and local organisations on increasing social activities.
(Adactus Staff)

“Interventions should be for no less than six months” *(Male, 55, March 2017)*

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graph TD; Impact[Impact] --> Ideas[Ideas]; Ideas --> Projects[Projects];
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Impact

- » People are engaged but this is not sustained and projects often come and go.
- » Feeling of being left behind the neighbouring areas.

Ideas

- » Training for Housing officers to take on more active role in community activation
- » Develop a resident-led board who work in partnership with organisations and institutions working in the area.
- » Build capacity of residents and volunteers already active in the area.

Projects

- »

Unemployment for the over 50s in the area is a significant issue, however few people attend the job clubs which are offered locally.

“I am 63 and have to evidence I am sharing my CV with potential employers”
(Female, 60s)

“I am frightened of being punished (by the DWP) if I do anything in the area – I have told them about the volunteering I am doing in the gardens”
(Male)

Adactus volunteer event was poorly attended (Oct 2016) despite being well advertised. Last year’s event was well attended and many reported signing up volunteers (for example Age UK spoke and to 5 interested people.)
(Interpersonal Research)

“I’ve done volunteering. I spent 40 hours a week cleaning the buses”.
(Male, 55, Mar 2017)

“Over the last 12 months or so I have found it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers for our project, for both befriending and for accompanying people on trips and activities. I have been told by Job Centre staff that they don’t support volunteering unless it is direct work experience and has been approved by the Work Coach”
(Community worker)

“I can’t get a job – everything is online these days and I don’t have a computer.... I’ve waited 5 months for a DBS”
(Resident, Job Club attendee)

“I am not computer savvy and I have trouble reading the screen. Unless I receive help or support I find it difficult to search for jobs. I really want to work and the whole situation is making me smoke more”
Male, 55, March 2017)

“Older women in their 50s and 60s find lots of barriers to finding work because they previously brought up children and haven’t had jobs in the past and had to make a CV. A lot of the older residents who come to the jobs club have low confidence because they apply for jobs but don’t get any feedback on how to improve their applications. It would be good if the job centre could give feedback to older people looking for jobs.
(Jobs Club Adactus Organiser)

Impact

- » Worklessness has a significant impact on mental well-being – older people are over-represented and adversely affected.
- » Volunteering is not seen as a meaningful activity to support the community but as a way of reducing staff time from service providers.
- » Low income and poverty impacts on health and well-being.
- » Many people report boredom as a result of having nothing meaningful to do.

Ideas

- » Housing Providers working more closely with the Job Centre and DWP.
- » Made contact and arranging an event with DEA at DWP Newton Heath.

Projects

- » Proposal to look at unemployed men over 55 in the area to try and improve long-term unemployed people using a more personal approach and potential to have job coaches.

2 There are few voluntary groups in the area, and those that do exist report a low number of local people willing to volunteer.

I used to be a guide leader and noticed that some of the children were struggling with reading. I had planned in my retirement to help with reading so I approached the head teacher and since 2011 I have volunteered helping children with their reading.
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

A lack of attendance at a volunteer event held at the library.
(Interpersonal Research Observations, Oct 2016)

A befriending service in the area had to stop due to a lack of volunteers.
(Community Support officer, Oct 2016)

“Getting residents out is hard work too. We have 8 laptops but it’s the same people who turn up to the jobs club, the job centre should be referring people over to us”
(Jobs Club Adactus Organiser)

“We did have a walking group, but we couldn’t keep it going. People who would have volunteered in the past – those ones under 65, who are fit and able – they don’t volunteer any more as they’ll be seen as fit to work and don’t want to have to look for jobs” *(Residential Scheme Manager, Feb 2017)*

Issue with volunteers: a local community coordinator finds it difficult to recruit, and most are young people with children who can only commit to term time volunteering.
(Interpersonal Research Observations, Sept 2016)

Age UK worker in the area advised the board she is struggling to get volunteers. This was echoed by others in the group.
(Interpersonal Research Observations Oct 2016)

The Community Gardens in Miles Platting (Holland Street and Chippenham Road) could benefit from more users, either individual or groups.
(Adactus Housing Officer, Oct 2016)

Impact

- » There are huge benefits to health and well-being by volunteering and older people could benefit from taking up volunteer roles in the community
- » When volunteers are trained and capacity increased it is not maintained and then these skills are lost and do not benefit the community in the longer-term.

Ideas

- » Volunteer event to encourage people into volunteering
- » Encourage newer residents along to events.
- » Work with the DWP to make sure sanctions are not unfairly being placed on volunteers.
- » Talk to residents to try and understand the reasons why people volunteer and other do not in the area.
- » Work with Adactus to develop the 'boost courses' further – to include relevant skill development and explore possible local volunteering opportunities in Miles Platting.

Projects

- » Training up co-researchers to look at the actions and to gather residents views on these findings.

There is generally a lack of health provision assets in the area and there is a lack coordination between health-orientated organisations.

Reports of people trading prescription medicine and becoming dependent on them.
(District Nurse)

Most of the GP practices are outside the neighbourhood.
(Urban Design Analysis)

Perception of Victoria Mill service quality is variable
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

There is a lack of take-up on short-term courses on health and well-being.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

Urban Village Doctor is well regarded and respected by the community. Offering a service that is appreciated by many residents. This practice works closely with people at risk of socially isolated older people.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

Impact

- » People are travelling long distances to access health facilities.

Ideas

- » There needs to be a different approach to health and well-being courses in this area.
- » Made contact with district nurses to look at working closer with the Health and Social Care transformation programme
- » Work closely with the GP federation to highlight co-work and good practice in the area. Look to work together and come up with common solutions.

Projects

- » Proposal to look at individualising health care for residents.

2 There are a number of residents who are living with dementia but there are a lack of specialised support networks in the area

Butler Court and Sycamore has a number of residents who are living with Dementia.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

We did have a walking group, but we couldn't keep it going. It would be good to start that up again as we have a few people who have dementia who would benefit from it. They are not acknowledging that they are living with dementia, which makes it difficult for them to access the support they need"
(Residential Scheme Manager)

Reports that people living with dementia lack the support to get out and feel isolated.
(Interpersonal Research Observations)

Impact

- » The residents who are living with Dementia are excluded from current social activities. This increases the burden of care on informal carers and wardens of housing schemes.
- » Generic events are not appropriate for people with higher needs and require specialist support.

Ideas

- » Link up with Alzheimer's Society and board member to develop an offer for people living with dementia in the neighbourhood.
- » Consider people with specific needs in future projects.
- » Need to raise awareness about Dementia especially in sheltered housing settings.

Projects

- » Dementia Cafe at Trinity Church being planned.

3 People's ability to access affordable, fresh, healthy food is severely limited in Miles Platting.

“We did have a walking group, but we couldn't keep it going. People who would have volunteered in the past – those ones under 65, who are fit and able – they don't volunteer any more as they'll be seen as fit to work and don't want to have to look for jobs” *(Residential Scheme Manager)*

The Foodbank was reported to be really good and useful for local people.
(St George's Focus Group)

There are no shops selling fresh fruit or vegetables in the Miles Platting area. The closest shop is ASDA on Alan Turing Way
(Urban Design Analysis)

“Used to be loads of shops on Hulme Hall Lane. There was houses, couple rows of shops, butchers, bakers, hairdressers, drycleaning – they just pulled them down”.
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

“They are making 3 shops just by the end of my street, where an old pub used to be. There's going to be an off licence, maybe a sunbed shop. I'd like a corner shop with veg.”
(Female 70s, March 2017)

“I go to Moston to get my breakfast, the Chinese chippy closed down, she moved away.”
(Male, 50s, Mar. 2017)

“We also had a theatre production company (MAD) come in and we offered free fish and chips to everyone who came and watched. They do a deal up the road so we get them pretty reasonable”
(Residential Scheme Manager)

“ I worked at Dunlops when I first moved to Manchester – 1958. My sister helped me get the job. Later I worked in admin, then I was made the cook. I no longer cook as I am scared of leaving the gas on, I eat out – Leos, Roundtrees and McDonalds.”
(Female 80s, March 2017)

Impact

- » Lack of access to fresh fruit and vegetables leads to poor diet which can impact the health of older people in the area.
- » The only shop selling fresh produce is a car or bus ride away, those with mobility issues or on a low income may find it difficult to access these shops.

Ideas

- » Cookery classes in residential homes to increase the confidence of residents to cook their own food rather than eating takeaways.
- » Work with community gardens and allotments in the area to provide fruit and veg to older residents

Projects

- » Community Grocer project
- » Visit to Fairshare distribution centre to raise awareness of food waste.

4 Older people recognise the need to stay physically fit, but have limited access to suitable opportunities (swimming pool is too far and walking not seen as a good option or not possible)

“I used to swim when I lived in Middleton, but you get out the habit. I had no idea there was a swimming pool at Sascha’s!”
(Female, 60s, Feb 2017)

“Used to be a bowling Green at Saxon Street Park – a crown green and a flat one, there used to be a hut where the men used to go and spend time.” Then they turned into a playground.”
(Female, 70s, March 2017)

“We (The Plodders) walk down the canal every other week ; we go to the marina /sometimes we walk to Heathfields”
(Female, 60s Mar 2016)

“We’ve had a great day today I wish there were more dances in the area like there used to be”
(Female 70s Mar 2017)

Impact

- » It is important that older people are active and healthy. This has many benefits including reducing the risk of falls and this can have significant impact on people living with long-term health conditions.

Ideas

- » Work with Plodders to ensure the sustainability
- » Healthyme Healthy communities working in partnership
- » Working with Health Walks national organisation.

Projects

- » Walking Netball sessions
- » Walking football sessions
- » Funded a Tai Chi class and physical activity classes at Victoria Square and the Apostles.
- » Developing Manchester offer with key local and national partners offering training on leading walks.

Some organisations and groups promote their own activities but these efforts are not coordinated. Word of mouth is reported to be a key communication method but excludes those who are not already within strong social networks.

“Spotlight provides good information”
(Female 60s, March 2017)

“Vintage FM could be a way to promote activities of the partnership and about the area.”
(Male 50s, March 2017)

“The scheme manager here is very good, she lets us know when things are going and if I need to find out some information about how to do something she’s really helpful.”
(Male, 70s Mar. 2017)

“A lot of people here don’t use the internet”
(Focus Group, March 2016)

“The warden is great –she tells us what is going on locally and we have a notice board”
(Male early 60s Mar 2017)

“Computers are not for me, I don’t want to learn, it’s for the younger people not for me.”
(Female, 80s, Mar. 2017)

“I get the newsletter [from Adactus] – it’s good, they tell you what’s happening”
(Nelson Court Resident, March 2017)

Impact

- » People get to know about activities from groups they already attend. This is good for people who are already socially active, but not for people who are isolated, or not already attending activities.
- » Large cost and human effort to make and distribute flyers, which could be mitigated if groups worked together.



Ideas

- » Coordinate calendar for groups in the community to create 'what's on' guides.
 - » Not centrally administered - each community group/service provider has their own calendar which are linked together. This stop the calendar from becoming out of date.
 - » Needs to be online and paper format - ability to generate physical 'what's-on' guides which groups can print out to share their own activities, and the other activities available in the neighbourhood.



Projects

- » Board to support the creation of a neighbourhood calendar - must be printed as well as available online.
- » Collaboration with Adactus on their quarterly magazine Spotlight to increase awareness of the partnership activities in the neighbourhood.