

Sutton Four Oaks Ward

Introduction

Sutton Four Oaks Ward is the most northerly Ward in the city of Birmingham. The Ward includes the neighbourhoods known as Hill Hook, Hill Wood, Roughley, Doe Bank, Ley Hill, Four Oaks and Four Oaks Park with Mere Green being its thriving commercial centre, with a Youth & Community Centre and Library.

The Ward is characterised by a mixture of attractive, well-established and newly developed residential areas and by green belt to the north east of the town.

Four Oaks Ward's most notable feature is Sutton Park, which gained National Nature Reserve status in 1997. It is an amenity unique in the Midlands and one of the largest local authority parks of its kind in the United Kingdom. It is the remnant of an extensive forest which once covered most of the Midlands region and its association with the people of Sutton Coldfield dates back to the former Borough's Royal Charter of 1528. Most of the land area covered by the park is situated within the boundaries of Four Oaks Ward. Once within the park, its natural features, including woodland and wetland, are large enough to give the illusion of open countryside. Sutton Park, which is also designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, provides a rich habitat for a vast range of wildlife and plants.

Apart from a small automotive factory at Mere Green, there is currently no industry within the Ward. However, Mere Green boasts a wealth of retail establishments as well as offices for service sector organisations providing good quality local employment.

The Ward is well connected by road and rail, served by three 'Cross-City' rail stations. These enable people to travel to Lichfield Trent Valley in the north and Redditch in the south, via Birmingham New Street station where the national rail network can be accessed. The M6 (Toll) motorway, the A5 and the A38 as well as a network of motorways are all accessible within a short distance.

(www.birmingham.gov.uk)

Personnel

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council Constituency Director: **Gill Taylor**

Birmingham City Council Ward Support Officer: **Mary Kennedy**

A Ward Support Officer (WSO) is a Birmingham City Council employee working in two ward's within a Constituency, in the Sutton Constituency there are four wards therefore there are two WSO's.

They are responsible for maintaining the records and monitoring regeneration funds for example the Working Neighbourhoods Fund within a particular ward. They are one of the main contacts supporting the constituency offices and working towards improving the ward and constituency in relation to health, crime, education, employment, housing and environment. They also organise constituency meetings.

All Birmingham City Council personnel are based at:

Sutton Coldfield Council House Annex
Upper Clifton Road
Sutton Coldfield
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0121 303 2355

Councillors

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HOWARD, PETER (Con)

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UNDERWOOD, ANNE (Con)

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Birmingham East and North Primary Care Trust (BEN PCT)

BEN PCT Neighbourhood Health Development Coordinator (NHD Co.): **Sheeba Mir**

Neighbourhood Health Development works by constituency, Sheeba covers the Sutton Constituency, which is overlapped by two localities (please refer to localities map on the web site) NHDO's aim to support and drive forward the Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) and reduce health inequalities within BEN PCT.

NHD's objectives are to:

- Promote BEN PCT's activities within the Sutton Constituency.
- Responsible for communicating and establishing links between Sutton Constituency organisations, local community and BEN PCT.
- To encourage and support financial bids from local organisations to attract new funds for health activities in the Sutton Constituency. (One of the prime examples of this is the constituency health panels jointly established by the NHD Officers and Birmingham City Council (for further details, please refer to the PPI section on BEN PCT web site)
- Guide local people on their greatest health needs and priorities in the Sutton Constituency..

Based at:

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Email: sheeba.mir@benpct.nhs.uk

Website: www.benpct.nhs.uk

Locality Director: **Caroline Nolan**

Locality Manager: **Joanne Hankinson**

Based at:

Castle Vale Primary Care Centre
Tangmere Drive
Castle Vale
Birmingham
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Key Points

Sutton Four Oaks Ward

1. The Sutton Four Oaks population has an older age structure than that of Birmingham, with relatively fewer children and young adults, and a larger proportion of persons of retirement age than the city.

(Birmingham Public Health Network (BPHN),
Sutton Four Oaks Health Profile, 2001, P.3)

2. Lower proportions of pensioners living in Sutton Four Oaks ward report poor general health and limiting long-term illness than pensioners living in Sutton Coldfield constituency or Birmingham.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.8)

3. Households in Sutton Four Oaks ward perform better than Birmingham households across all four components, resulting in a very low Townsend Score* for the ward. This is also supported by BEN PCT's Annual Public Health Report 2006, where Sutton Four Oaks wards is classified as having the lowest index of multiple deprivation score for all the wards in BEN PCT.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.10)
(BEN PCT Annual Public Health Report 2006-07 P. 15)

4. Sutton Four Oaks' limiting long-term illness rates are the same as, or lower than, the corresponding Sutton Coldfield constituency and Birmingham rates across all age groups, resulting in a standardised all age rate for the ward which is 38% lower than the Birmingham rate, and 8% lower than the rate for the constituency.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.13)

5. The percentages in Sutton Four Oaks ward reporting poor general health are lower than the corresponding Birmingham figures across all age groups. Overall, the age standardised total rate for the ward is almost 50% lower than the Birmingham rate, and 9% lower than the rate for Sutton Coldfield constituency.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.14)

6. Between 1999 and 2003, Sutton Four Oaks ward averaged 188 births per year, resulting in a General Fertility Rate of 52 births per year per 1,000 women aged 15-44, slightly higher than the figure for Sutton Coldfield constituency, but lower than the Birmingham rate. The stillbirth rate for the ward was higher than both the constituency and city rates, though the small numbers involved make comparisons unreliable.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.15)

7. 37% of all ward deaths were due to diseases of the circulatory system (heart disease and stroke), while the four types of cancer listed (lung, breast, colon and prostate) accounted for a further 12%. Sutton Constituency has a high prevalence of CHD, however, fewer deaths from the illness took place in the constituency than expected.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.17)
(BEN PCT Annual Public Health Report 2006-07 P. 11)

8. Taking the highest life expectancy of all the wards in Birmingham as the benchmark, Sutton New Hall life expectancy is 81.2 years; therefore individuals Sutton Four Oaks ward are expected, on average, to live 0.7 fewer years.

(BPHN, Sutton Four Oaks Ward Profile, 2001, P.18)

* The Townsend Score is a four component ranking index designed to measure relative deprivation and is particularly appropriate for use in urban areas. The higher the Townsend Score, the greater the degree of deprivation in an area relative to other areas.