

280+
people
engaged

8
community
events

Social infrastructure and the process of mapping

The value of mapping local assets is primarily in the process. In asking questions about where different assets are located within a neighbourhood we have an opportunity to think differently about our neighbourhoods and to learn from others with deep local knowledge.

Mapping assets collaboratively across organisations can reveal knowledge and insights that may be hidden. It can be useful in pooling knowledge between individuals or partners who do not regularly work together, for sparking ideas and fresh thinking about how to develop local assets and to cut across the silos and structures that can inhibit innovative thinking.

What do we mean by assets? We include all the supports that residents use to meet their needs, to socialise, to take part in decision making, to have influence. This could include formal assets like libraries or community centres or informal groups or online networks.

Green Innovation Quarter

The Green Innovation Quarter maps are focused around Tyseley and Hay Mills, but also capturing Acocks Green, Small Heath, Sparkbrook, Sparkhill and Yardley.

Green spaces and local waterways are highlighted as important places for social connection, particularly the community activities happening at Small Heath Park, Oaklands Recreation Ground, the Grand Union Canal and the River Cole.

Clusters of local employers are identified around Tyseley, while Acocks Green is known as a hub for community and charity groups, places of worship and shops and restaurants. Key high streets recognised by the community groups are along Coventry Road, Acocks Green, Stratford Road and the Balti Triangle.

Tyseley's neighbourhoods and the local stories they tell are shown on the second map. Community groups drew the perceived boundaries of their neighbourhoods, pointed out local landmarks and shared local stories.

The map records stories of the unknown history and strength of Tyseley's community spaces, and it also shows the challenges the neighbourhoods face. These include the disconnection between Tyseley's businesses and the local workforce, concerns related to feeling unsafe, and problems with transportation such as traffic, parking and the changes to the number 11 bus route.

