

Area Profile

Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub



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Area Profile

January 2021

About this document

This Area Profile is designed to be a 'living' document which will be updated when new information is received. It is intended to **provide insights into Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale** which build upon the local knowledge Members possess. The document explores some of the existing community assets in these areas and seeks to **outline 'Areas of Opportunity'** for development.

Also within this profile you will find **statistical data** relating to the following areas:

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It is acknowledged that **statistics and data do not tell the whole story of a community**, and it is for this reason that Members' detailed knowledge of their wards should also be factored into the overall decision-making process. **However, it is hoped that this profile goes some way to highlighting some of the issues faced locally**, and that armed with this information the Council will be even better placed to develop projects which will add real value to our communities.

Towards the end of this Area Profile (p12) you will also find contact information for many of the various institutions and organisations in Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale, including schools, churches and sports clubs.



Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub

Introduction

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Bamber Bridge

Bamber Bridge has a proud history of manufacturing; constructed in 1907, the Bamber Bridge Spinning and Weaving Cotton Mill on Wesley Street remains a notable landmark while Baxi Manufacturing has a base on Club Street. The Old Hob Inn at Church Road, meanwhile, has an interesting history - with the Battle of Bamber Bridge soon to be commemorated with a small memorial garden.

Bamber Bridge has plenty to offer leisure-wise with green spaces at Holmes Park and Withy Grove Park, which is on course to be renovated in late 2021. Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre is also a popular destination and the village is passionate about sport, with Bamber Bridge Football Club and the annual tradition of 'Raising the Coffin' dating back to 1948. A community-centred area, Bamber Bridge has two Primary Schools, one High School and six places of worship. It also has a Railway Station maintained by a 'Friends of' group. The village is divided into two wards; Bamber Bridge East (population 4,917) and Bamber Bridge West (4,289).

Lostock Hall

Lostock Hall was an important railway town following the construction of the East Lancashire and Liverpool Railway lines in 1846 and its railway is now also maintained by a hardworking 'Friends of' group which keeps the remaining station in good order. Lostock Hall is also home to the stunning South Ribble War Memorial and Peace Garden in St Catherine's Park as well as two more memorials on Browndge Road and Hope Terrace, while St Catherine's Hospice is situated at the original Lostock Hall.

Lostock Hall Carnival takes place every summer and the annual Lostock Hall 5km road race always has a fabulous atmosphere. Boasting three Primary Schools and one High School, the area is a family-centred village with a play park, a well-used library and a Bowling Club all within walking distance of the shops. Lostock Hall also has four churches that all take an interest in the community. The village has a population of 6,077 (as of 2019).

Walton-le-Dale

Walton-le-Dale is a village with three Primary Schools and one High School. Although there is no village centre as such, the community has good links into Preston City Centre and Bamber Bridge. The Unicorn Inn, a 17th century building (now known as Pinocchio's Restaurant) was the posting station used by Parliamentary troops during the English Civil War.

Friends of Walton Park have recently been awarded a significant amount of money from the Lancashire Environmental Fund and South Ribble Borough Council in order to construct a beautiful new park at Bellis Way, with work due to start in 2021. Meanwhile, Walton Park benefits from the very active and passionate 'Friends of' Group which works hard to preserve its natural beauty. The village is divided into two wards; Walton-le-Dale East (population 4,305) and Walton-le-Dale West (4,959).

Ward	Population
Bamber Bridge East	4,917
Bamber Bridge West	4,289
Lostock Hall	6,077
Walton-le-Dale East	4,305
Walton-le-Dale West	4,959
Hub Area	24,547
South Ribble Borough	110,788

South Ribble Overview

South Ribble covers 113 square kilometres (43.6 square miles) and is divided into 23 wards. The number of people per km² is more than twice the England and Wales average while the overall population of the borough has grown steadily since its inception in 1974. The 2019 mid-year estimates compiled by Lancashire County Council show the total population for the authority as being 110,788.

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Demographics

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	Age 0-17	Age 18-65	Age 66+	Female	Male	BAME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
UK average	21.1	61.6	17.3	50.6	49.4	20.2
North West average	21.1	61.4	17.5	50.6	49.4	12.9
Hub Area	20.3	61.7	18.0	50.5	49.5	5.1
Bamber Bridge East	20.9	61.7	17.3	51.8	48.2	5.1
Bamber Bridge West	19.7	60.0	20.4	50.9	49.1	5.4
Lostock Hall	18.8	61.7	19.6	50.5	49.5	4.0
Walton-le-Dale East	23.4	61.9	14.7	50.0	50.0	6.2
Walton-le-Dale West	19.3	63.1	17.5	49.1	50.9	5.0

The above graphic indicates the demographic proportions of the Central Hub Area, split into its five wards across Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale.

The Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale area has a **close to average population of people aged 66+**, with 18% of residents falling into that age bracket compared with the North West average of 17.5%. **Bamber Bridge West has the highest population of residents aged 66+ (20.4%).**

The area has a **small percentage of people who are Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME)** compared with regional and national statistics. The proportion of the population from BAME communities is just 5.1% compared to the North West average of 12.9%, with the highest population of BAME residents found in the Walton-le-Dale East ward (6.2%). These are groups we must ensure we try to engage in future consultations. **Of the 1,646 respondents to South Ribble Borough Council's 2020 Residents Survey, only 20 were from BAME communities.**



Area of Opportunity

Ensuring all groups of 'hard to reach' residents are considered in the future when looking at developing community links and projects.

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Crime and Emergency Services

January 2021

The graphics illustrates that **all parts of Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale have a better than average crime rate** compared to the wider North West region, although **both Bamber Bridge wards have a higher crime rate** than Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale. **Figures relating to emergency service call-outs are also**

favourable with the notable exceptions of Bamber Bridge East which has a higher than average number of calls to police and fire services, and **Bamber Bridge West** which has higher figures for both calls to the fire service and ambulance call-outs.

	Crime Rate	Calls to Police	Calls to Fire Service	Ambulance call outs
	Per 1k	Per 1k	Per 1k	Per 1k
North West average	60.3	357.3	9.6	24
Hub Area	38.8	225.6	5.9	18.4
Bamber Bridge East	54.0	408.3	12.7	19.0
Bamber Bridge West	52.3	292	10.0	31.7
Lostock Hall	37.4	183.4	3.4	14.0
Walton-le-Dale East	16.5	110.0	1.5	11.0
Walton-le-Dale West	27.3	123.7	2.7	16.7

Key: **Green** = Better than North West Average. **Red** = Worse than North West Average.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

In light of the above figures, **consideration should perhaps be given to diversionary activities and to fostering better relationships with PCSOs and Neighbourhood Officers.**

For instance, the Bamber Bridge wards could ensure that a representative from the local police attends the Community Hub meetings to raise awareness and gain more knowledge of any 'problem areas' and how we can work and support each other. Similarly, officers working in the community could hold 'open sessions' to allow the residents to meet local Community Beat Officers and their SRBC Community Development Officer to gain more of an understanding of issues.



Area of Opportunity

Utilising and supporting local Community Assets to create diversionary activities for young people, and creating new opportunities for people to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime. This can be linked in with the work of the SRBC Active Living and Community Safety Teams.

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Early Years and Educational Attainment

January 2021

Although the birth rate in the area (9%) is lower than the UK average (11.5%), the below graphic shows **Bamber Bridge West has a higher than average birth rate** (12.6%) and also has the **highest rate of children with excess weight at reception age** (27.8% compared with the UK average of 22.5%).

	Birth Rate	Achieving KS2 expectation	Excess weight at reception	NEET young people	GCSE average attainment
		%	%	%	
UK average	11.5		22.5		46.8
North West average		61		5.4	45.5
Hub Area	9	66.7	21.7	3.5	45.7
Bamber Bridge East	8.9	56.5	20.7	2.5	41.8
Bamber Bridge West	12.6	63.9	27.8	3.8	39.7
Lostock Hall	5.8	61.8	20.6	4.7	46.7
Walton-le-Dale East	9.3	76.4	21.1	3.5	49.5
Walton-le-Dale West	9.7	75.6	19.2	3.0	50.1

Key:
Green = Better than average

Red = Worse than average

The area has a lot of family homes, reflected in the number of schools in the area (seven primary and three secondary. **Education levels are a factor to celebrate** with 66.7% of our students achieving the expected level at KS2 and an average GCSE attainment score of 45.7 compared with a North West average of 45.5.

Conversely, the number of young people not in education or employment (NEET) is 3.5% - the second highest in South Ribble after Leyland. These figures suggest that, after completing High School education, many young people do not progress to the next goal of further education or employment. Engaging with some of these young people may encourage a more positive outlook and help to prevent anti-social behaviour as well as low self-esteem and the mental health side-effects.



Areas of Opportunity

Linking up with the Council's Active Living Team to work on ways of reducing childhood obesity and encourage a more healthy lifestyles.

Positive promotion of available outdoor spaces, leisure facilities and green links.

Engaging NEET Young People with job clubs and/or Further Education, and trying to identify the reasons for the figure in an effort to narrow the gap.

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Employment and Inclusion

January 2021



Key:
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 than
 average.
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	Long-term unemployment
UK average	3.60
North West average	3.40
Hub Area	1.10
Bamber Bridge East	2.75
Bamber Bridge West	0.16
Lostock Hall	1.24
Walton-le-Dale East	No data
Walton-le-Dale West	0.39

The area's **low long-term employment figure (1.10)** is a cause **for celebration** although the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may see a change to this throughout 2021.

Charities like Christians Against Poverty Job Club offer help and are free to use by the public and open to all. The nearest such club is in Penwortham though new partnerships can be started at just £60 a month. The original CAP Job Club based in Lostock Hall closed some time ago, and an area like Bamber Bridge might benefit from a similar scheme.

Areas of Opportunity

Bamber Bridge & Lostock Hall could benefit from events such as job & advice fairs involving local businesses, Citizens Advice & the Job Centre. Charities looking for volunteers could also promote their services.

Encouraging local businesses to recruit locally would bring real positives & may well also be a positive angle for encouraging customers.

The area has a large number of schools that need the support of welfare staff & there are a lot of parents that would like 'school hour jobs'.

Through work on the Community Wealth Building Strategy, there may be scope to strengthen the 'employ local' message.

Digital inclusion

There is a need to ensure residents are not left vulnerable and isolated due to lack of technology. If tasks such as contacting energy suppliers, online food shopping, communicating with landlords etc. cannot be done, this leads to a snowball effect of issues. The feeling of complete isolation and helplessness due to lack of technology is not good for people's mental health.

There are a range of digital accessibility schemes in place, including the Department for Work and Pensions helping individuals to become 'connected' again by purchasing mobile phones. This also allows an individual to maintain up-to-date benefit claims and current job searches. However, the two local job centres are in Preston & Leyland — not all those who need assistance are able to afford the travel costs.

Through South Ribble Together, staff are able to provide residents with the assistance they need as the relevant services were out of any reach without a phone and/or internet.

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Older people, Isolation and Fuel Poverty

January 2021

Although social isolation affects all ages, this profile is specifically concerned with pensioners living alone. While four out of five wards in the area have a smaller than average proportion of pensioners living by themselves, **a significant proportion of pensioners in Bamber Bridge West now live alone (37.2%)**.

Loneliness has many health risks, increasing risk of death by 26% and increasing risk of heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. It also puts individuals at greater risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

Loneliness is expected to increase by 49% by 2025/26. In the UK, 45% of adults (not just the elderly) have reported they occasionally feel lonely – equating to some 20 million people. Undoubtedly this figure will rise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Charities such as Age UK have supported more than 299,000 friendship calls to older people experiencing loneliness this year.

Winter Warmth is a huge project being overseen by SRBC's David Williams, who is investigating Health Inequalities. Statistics from 2018 show 9.3% of South Ribble households experienced fuel poverty in 2018, which was the lowest rate in Lancashire and below the England average of 10.3%. As illustrated in the above graphic, however, **the number of people living without central heating in Bamber Bridge and Lostock Hall is significantly higher than the national average.**

The 'Winter Readiness' Leaflet distributed among South Ribble residents in January will be a great source of advice for those in need - though again, only to those with access to a phone or the internet. Citizens Advice also do a tremendous amount of work with regards to energy advice, and this is again a resource to be tapped into and promoted by all Members, Officers and Community Hubs across our communities.

	Pensioners living alone	Without Central Heating
	%	%
UK average	30.3	2.7
North West average	31.5	3.1
Hub Area	29.1	3.8
Bamber Bridge East	23.7	4.6
Bamber Bridge West	37.2	3.9
Lostock Hall	27.4	4.3
Walton-le-Dale East	29.3	2.8
Walton-le-Dale West	28.3	3.4

Key: **Green** = Better than North West average.
Red = Worse than North West average.

Areas of Opportunity

Ensure Officers & Members are well informed & confident to encourage take-up of Winter Readiness services identified by South Ribble Borough Council.

Support & promote frequent use of community groups in existing community centres, support start-up groups, empower long-term community-led projects.

Look at the feasibility of true 'Community Hubs' which can help all residents, particularly those without basic phone/internet access.

Age Concern has a centre at Charnley Fold in Bamber Bridge which supports those living dementia and their carers –scope to develop partnership projects based on local demand.

Work to develop volunteering and Social Capital will incorporate a coordination of community groups & a recognised foodbank network.

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Health and Social Issues

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Bamber Bridge West has the lowest Life Expectancy of all South Ribble Borough wards (76.2). Both Bamber Bridge wards also have higher numbers of hospital stays relating to alcohol or self-harm. This would suggest the area has a high need for mental health support.

The level of obesity at Year 6 (school age 10/11) is lower than the UK average, though in Bamber Bridge the level is more in line with national figures.

Areas of Opportunity

Mental health support services need to be mapped and promoted, particularly in Bamber Bridge. We can do this through community groups, newsletters and social media.

Youth mental health is a corporate plan project which the hub will link in with.

More suitable community services to enable independent living, and more effective practice of preventive lifestyles & medicine has the potential to lengthen disability-free life expectancy, particularly in the case of the prevention & treatment of non-fatal but disabling diseases (Lancashire.gov.uk).

	Life Expectancy	Alcohol related hospital stay	Self-harm hospital stay	Obesity at Year 6 %
UK average	80.95	100	100	20.1
Hub Area	79.14	101.9	99.6	18.4
Bamber Bridge East	78.4	111.5	117.4	20.1
Bamber Bridge West	76.2	106.7	129.2	20.1
Lostock Hall	78	98.3	89.7	19.3
Walton le Dale East	82.6	100.4	94.5	16.7
Walton le Dale West	80.5	94.1	73.0	15.6

Key: Green = Better than UK average. Red = Worse than UK average.



Food banks and health

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated a pre-existing issue with regard to poverty, and communities have stepped in to provide help with food banks etc. **New Day Foodbank in Lostock Hall report they make approximately 90 deliveries a week and Bamber Bridge Christians Together Foodbank supports 25-35 families**, yet both acknowledge there are families they know they don't reach. It could be useful to consider how these programmes can better incorporate fresh food to improve the health of our communities.

Action plans will be made with the local foodbank network (to be set up by Lead Officer Sam Jones) in order to raise profiles, share best practice and ensure premises are suitable for the safe and appropriate storage of fresh items and adhere to food safety guidelines, thereby boosting the provision of fresh food for struggling families. The logistics of storage is a real problem for the Bamber Bridge Christians Together foodbank. As more work is done with the foodbanks, other issues may well arise.

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Living Environment

January 2021

South Ribble has previously been recognized as the best place to live in the UK. However, figures from Lancashire County Council recorded in 2019 demonstrate there are some issues with regard to the quality of the living environment for the residents of Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale.



Local green space

St Catherine's Park is located on the edge of the village of Lostock Hall. It is around four hectares in size and includes a natural play area, grass kick-about space and a network of footpaths.

Withy Grove Park playground is one of the largest free facilities of its type in the North West and has a range of equipment that caters for a variety of ages.

Areas of Opportunity

Working to improve the natural environment in our communities can lead to residents leading longer, healthier lives.

Addressing air quality is also an essential part of our duty to combat climate change. Encouraging residents to become involved with this can increase awareness.

Linking with more local businesses to encourage workable carbon reducing policies could reduce the area's emissions.

Air quality

Quality of Living Environment covers a broad range of factors, but particularly pertinent across South Ribble at the moment is the measuring of air quality.

Current areas of focus for the council are: Station Road, Bamber Bridge; Tardy Gate Junction, Lostock Hall; and Victoria Road, Walton-le-Dale.

Air pollution is associated with several adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, as areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas.

Greener Projects

Planting Trees

Using local resources

Reducing cars 'idling' outside schools and at busy junctions

Reduction in usage of Single Use Plastics

Water fountain installation to encourage reusing bottles

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Communities and Community Engagement

January 2021

Engagement with our residents and community groups is key.

However, face-to-face consultations and informal meetings are currently challenging due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In order to build sustainable and resilient communities **we must ensure the public are kept informed, up-to-date, involved and at times empowered**, for example through 'Friends of...' groups for local community assets and attractions (e.g. the Friends of Walton Park, *pictured*). The goal is to have a truly engaged community which helps to shape its own future.



Areas of Opportunity

Online surveys are a great way of canvassing the local community, giving respondents the opportunity to voice their opinions at a time that is convenient for them.

When COVID restrictions allow, surgeries and forum meetings are a great way for residents of the local community to meet elected members, but it is critical that more consideration is given to the timings of future events to enable a wider variety of people to attend (for instance, working parents, those with disabilities or without transport etc).

As agreed at a recent planning meeting, future Hub invites will go to 'Friends of' groups, residents directly affected by said projects, and local business owners. It was also agreed the council would look at having Hub meetings broken down by wards to make them more accessible for all residents.



Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub

Community Contacts

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Sports Clubs	Address	Telephone
Bamber Bridge Football Club	Sir Tom Finney Stadium, Irongate	01772 909695
Brownedge and Bamber Bridge Bowling Club	Aspden Street	01772 423039
Brownedge Saints Bowling Club	Aspden Street	07949 600151
Lostock Hall Conservative Bowling Club	Brownedge Road	01772 313068

Primary Schools	Head Count	Address	Telephone
Lostock Hall Primary	434	Linden Drive	01772 338289
Our Lady and St Gerard's Primary	359	Lourdes Avenue	01772 335025
St Aiden's Primary	128	Larch Avenue	01772 337321
St Mary and St Benedict's Primary	285	Brownedge Lane	01772 336650
St Leonards Primary	276	Walton Green	01772 556021
Cuerden Church Primary	181	Station Road	01772 335033
Walton-le-Dale Primary	444	With Grove Crescent	01772 335065

Secondary Schools	Head Count	Address	Telephone
Lostock Hall Academy	571	Todd Lane North	01772 336293
Brownedge St Marys	713	Station Road	01772 339813
Walton-le-Dale High	765	Brindle Road	01772 335726

Churches	Address	Telephone
St James Church	Moss Lane, Lostock Hall	01772 315404
Our Lady & St Gerard's Church	Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall	01772 335387
New Day Church	Ward Street, Lostock Hall	01772 461454
Lostock Hall Methodist	Watkin Lane, Lostock Hall	01772 626350
St Aiden's Church	Longworth Street, Bamber Bridge	01772 335310
Valley Church	Fourfields, Bamber Bridge	01772 696717
St Saviours Church	Church Road, Bamber Bridge	01772 335374
Bamber Bridge Pentecostal	Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge	01772 379363
St Marys RC Church	Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge	01772 335168
St Benedict's Monastery	Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge	01772 902220

Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub

Members

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Bamber Bridge West



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Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub

Members

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Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale Community Hub

Members

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