

A wide-angle photograph of a lush green field in the foreground, with a line of trees and a city skyline in the background under a clear sky. The skyline includes several tall buildings and a power line tower.

Orchard Park

ORCHARD PARK is a housing estate of some 2,500 homes in the north west corner of Hull, next to open fields. It was built in the 1960's using what was then considered to be the most advanced design and construction methods available. It consists mainly of houses on what is called a Radburn layout (where the houses do not front onto streets) and tower blocks. It is subdivided into four distinct areas with addresses to define this: the Courts, the Shaws, the Danes and the Thorpes.

Over the last few decades it has experienced a decline, it is not well regarded by the rest of the city or indeed many of its residents. It ranks highly in social deprivation indicators. It has lost two of its primary schools. It lost one of its secondary schools some years ago and it is about to lose its other. Its main neighbourhood shopping centre is among the worst you can get to see in British council estates. Demand for the area's housing got so low that a proposal was made to demolish the whole place. Instead it was made one of the areas to be given Pathfinder status in the government's Housing Market Renewal Initiative. There has been some demolition to remove a lot of the tower blocks and thin out the far north west corner of the Danes, Hull's version of the Decent Homes Target has meant that many homes have received some refurbishment.

There is still much to do but Hull's problems however are not confined to Orchard Park and, controversially for some, Orchard Park will have to wait its turn for HMR funding. As part of the preparation process URBED were commissioned by the Pathfinder at the beginning of 2006 to engage the community in the regeneration process. The first part of this was to start a photographic portrait of the area, to inform those outside Orchard Park that the true picture of the area was more than the solely negative images they see in the papers and also to enable the community itself to think about how it saw itself.

This book is the product of that work. The photos are drawn from three sources. The first is me; wandering around the estate with my camera taking the outsider's view at first but then seeking guidance as to what had been missed from those inside. The second was a small group of young people who came to the Sparks Centre and spent a day with me and some small digital cameras, they did the walking this time and took a quick snapshot of their world. The third source was disposable cameras handed out to a range of people, young people and older residents, some anonymous. The words are either from postcards we invited residents to send in or from interviews.

So thanks to the young photographers, Shardell, Darryl, Tom and Sophie and to those other residents who took the disposable cameras. Thanks also to Dave Fowlie and Tony Fee for their work tracking down people to get consent forms signed. Thank you to Gateway for allowing us to publish the book and thanks to all those who have allowed their images to be used to show a truer picture of Orchard Park.

I'll not say anymore about the photographs as I think they say it better themselves, welcome to Orchard Park.

charlie baker
september 2006
charlie@beeker.co.uk

published by
 urbid



Orchard Park







“Where do we go
from here? In fifteen
years time it won’t
be worth living round
here. It’s a shame
really.





“My vision for Orchard Park is that it comes in line with all the other communities in Hull and it’s not singled out, when my son is eighteen and goes for a job he isn’t discriminated against because his postcode is HU6. We need an equal playing field when it comes to funding coming in to the city, the owner occupiers are taking more pride in where they live and it’s getting the right families into an area or the right support for families. A lot of people say that problem families shouldn’t be on the estate but I think they should be on the estate because otherwise it just moves on the problem, its not curing it. There should be services put in place to help people, but without money those services don’t come.

It’s about the people in housing, in health, working at grass roots level and actually listening to what people are

saying, not just nodding their head and saying “oh yes yes” but taking on board what they are saying. There are people on the estate that have got so many skills and so much knowledge but they are not effectively listened to.

The thing is we’ve heard it before, look at me, I’ve been involved in this from the beginning but I get despondent because NASA’s got money, Preston Road’s got money but everything else is on hold. You get despondent, you think why should I put in time and effort. I’m sick to death of money being wasted in this area through bad management of people in higher positions, they are ticking their boxes but what about my boxes? What about my son’s future? I don’t want him to be in postcode poverty.

sherilee jepmond













“The opportunities offered by Gateway to do what people have looked at within our area far out weigh any negative things a lot of people are worried about, if the money is forthcoming that is. We want the estate to be lifted beyond what it is now so that it becomes a better place for people to live, with different types of housing, a new shopping centre and health centre making an integrated community where the road that runs through the estate doesn’t split us up it joins us together. People of Hull are a little bit dubious how things are going to work because in the past they have been knocked back so many times, hopefully that doesn’t happen this time. There is a lot of get up and go here; people

expect things to happen but we know it depends on how Gateway manage their other areas whether the Government are going to allow money for us to develop our estate how we would like it to be developed. Not only the Thorpes but right across the HU6 area a lot of work has been done and this will be an opportunity for Orchard Park to become a pleasant place to live, they have changed the system in Hull making the northern area an independent body for a lot of the facilities and it works a lot better, working with Gateway I can see the HU6 area becoming a better place to live.

dave fowley





















“We need to get away from the idea of Orchard Park being on its own; we are all one community and we need to break down those barriers. The image the area has is not deserved, 90% of the people that live here are incredibly hard working people and we need to get the information to those in business that just because someone lives in Orchard Park it doesn’t mean they are any less capable of doing the jobs that everyone else in Hull can do. We have just started a new rugby team in the area for the young people and hopefully from there we can get people interacting with the wider community and get the area an image it deserves. If we can get that and then develop not demolish Henry Cooper into

a community facility for arts, drama and the like it will be a boost because once we get people into things like that, no matter who they are, it broadens their horizons. It brings tremendous hope and that is what this area needs. When people have no hope you have problems; when councils develop ghettos where there is no hope, no jobs and no aspirations then what you get is walking zombies. That is not what we want here.

terry geraghty



"Nobody
listens,
nobody
cares."







“I would like to see a settled long term future for Orchard Park where people can start to think of making long term plans rather than always fighting the next battle. Committees and organisations set up to look at what’s required spend a lot of their time justifying their own existence and not much comes through to the areas they are talking about.

I think it’s just a wish, I can’t see it happening but I’d like to go back to people taking far more pride in the area and their houses. The other thing I think has completely left not just Orchard Park is respect for each other and this is a total way out wish list but that has to come back for anywhere to survive as a decent neighbourhood.

We’ve got to have better shopping areas, they’ve spent twenty odd years talking about the shopping area and asking people what they want, but the money is not coming down to where it’s needed.

Tenants and residents must be involved more in decision making at all levels, [for example] on these Danes here, new lighting was supposed to be put in but the lighting people couldn’t get their act together so what they have done is put it where it’s convenient for them to put it not where we needed it.

That type of thing goes on so often and is so frustrating, that at times I feel like turning off. Then I say well if we don’t keep going out and kicking backsides nothing will ever get done. There has to be constructive dialogue.

We need something for the smaller kids where they can play within sight of the parents.

The areas we have now for older people are really ideal, in the middle of a community rather than stuck away isolated, but we need property for elderly people with more than one bedroom. When couples get into their 60s, 70s, or even 80’s, there is a certain amount of handicap or illness practically in every household, and that often requires two separate bedrooms. All they are catering for are single elderly people.

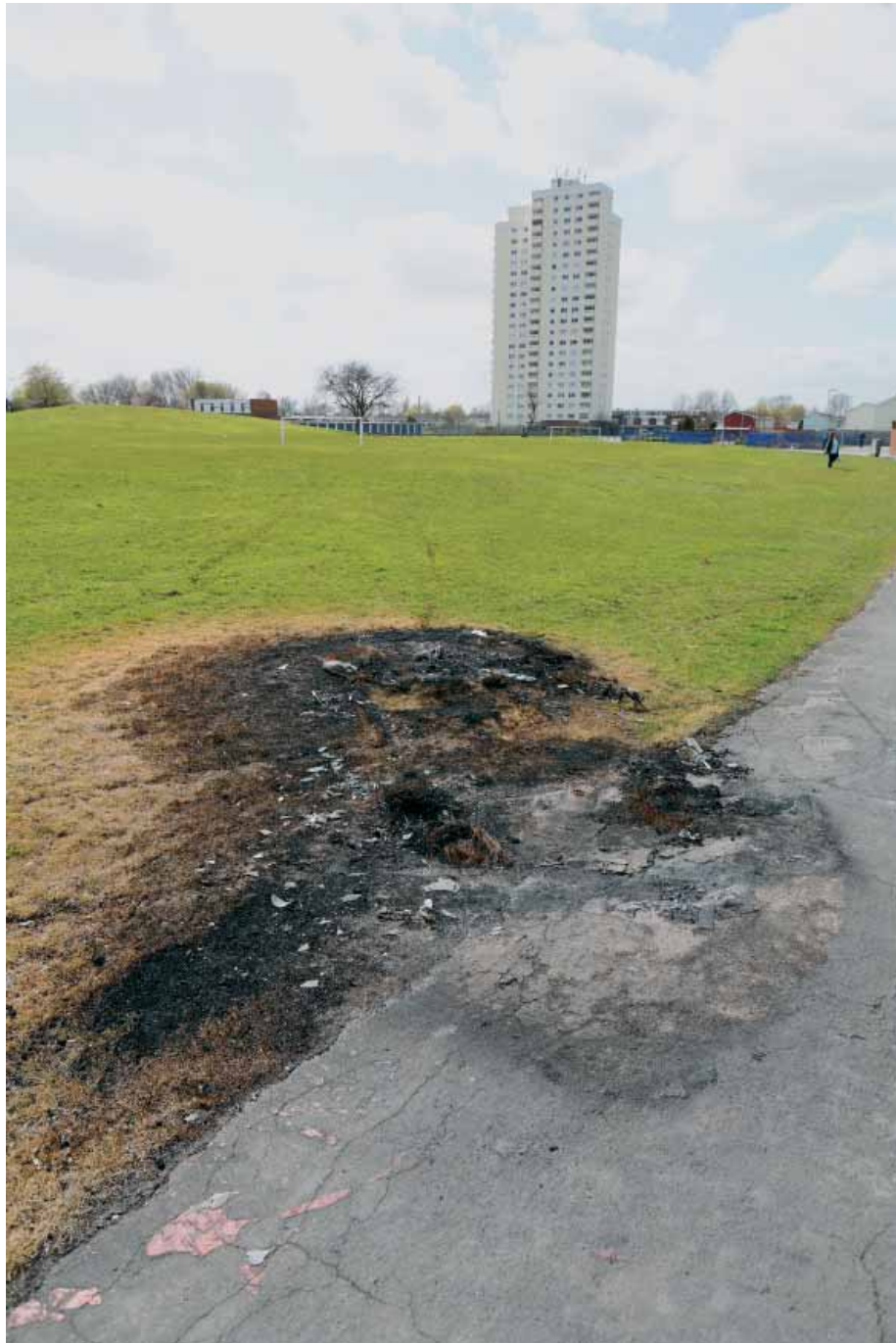
mike dearing













“What I don’t want to see is the slow decline and decimation of Orchard Park, I think this is the danger with the proposals to knock down the flats, if there was something positive about it, if people were offered the flats or a series of new buildings to replace them it would be different, but as it stands it feels like a managed decline of a less popular area. It has to be stopped by mobilizing residents but they have had been through this process so many times before people are battle weary. If something happens with the shopping centre I think people

will take an interest again as they see the merit of engagement and actual change. Once we get the district centre and the shops sorted we can build out from there; it will get development interest in the area and it will give the community confidence that new build of quality can happen in Orchard Park.

steven bayes













“Regeneration has been taking place but there’s been very little community involvement, any views they have expressed have been ignored. Leisure facilities have been destroyed although the community asked if they could take over the management, particularly the Shultz site. There’s been a tremendous waste because nobody took any notice.

There is a danger that we could lose one or both of the primary schools and the council wants to reorganise senior education, which will make Orchard Park less sustainable.

I also think that we need to develop more facilities for the young people, its no good complaining about them causing problems when the adults allowed their facilities to be taken away. We need more localised facilities like the Sparks, which will get people together on a regular basis.

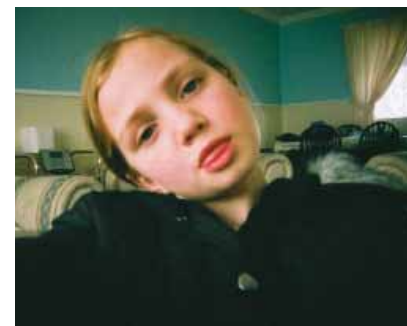
Tenant management might be a focal point for people to get involved. The more residents are involved in managing the area, they better the chance of problems being solved.

I think this could be the worst housing in the country by 2010, because the council is retaining the housing. All the tenants involved in looking at the stock options voted for stock transfer in some form, not necessarily to housing associations, because the financial side didn’t stack up for the council to keep them. In other areas they’ve got the money to do whole house improvements. Here if there’s a risk that a house won’t reach even the very low standard then no work gets done, so poor houses become worse.

tony fee













“I would like to see a lot of this spare ground used for children’s facilities, the problem is getting people motivated to get it happening. Trying to find people to help or step in and move things forward is very difficult, no one seems interested in doing things as the people that would give up time have no time to give up because they are working or looking after their families. People used to think that change would never happen here but things are much better than they used to be and people can see that work is being done to make this area better. We are seeing gradual improvement and that is what we want to see more of. People used to call this area ‘Little Beirut’, they cannot say that now.

Tom and Norma Marshall













“The children of the area have great dreams, they want to be architects, doctors and all sorts of things, it is partly because of work we do here but also because their parents want them to make something of themselves. There is a great desire in this area from all ages to see people from Orchard Park make something of themselves, to go and be great at something. I just think that losing the chance to have a new secondary school in the area is a massive blow to that, it could have been a flagship project to kickstart the wider regeneration of the area, it would have been a project that everyone would have benefited from too. It’s a real shame.

mary wallace





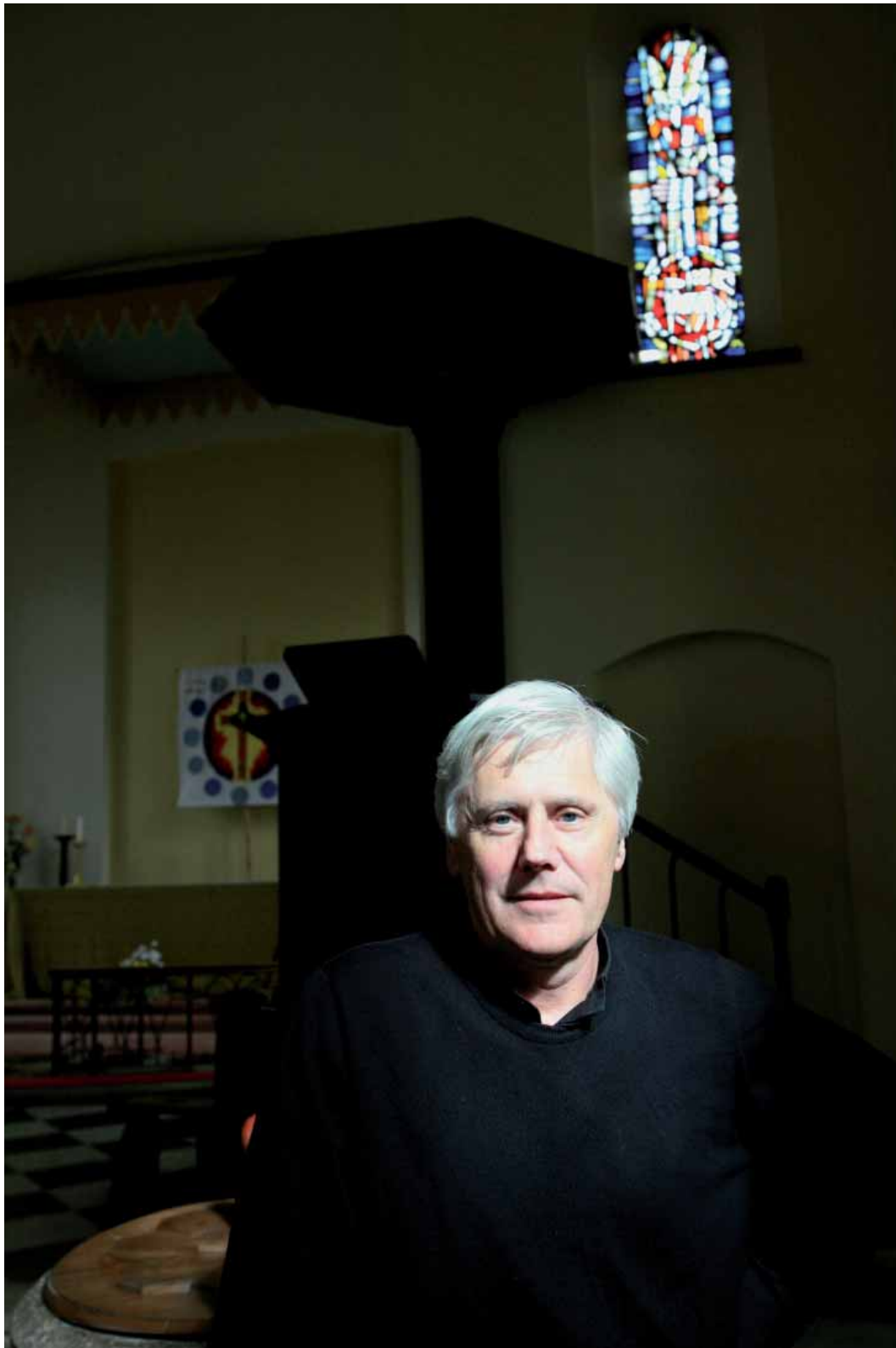








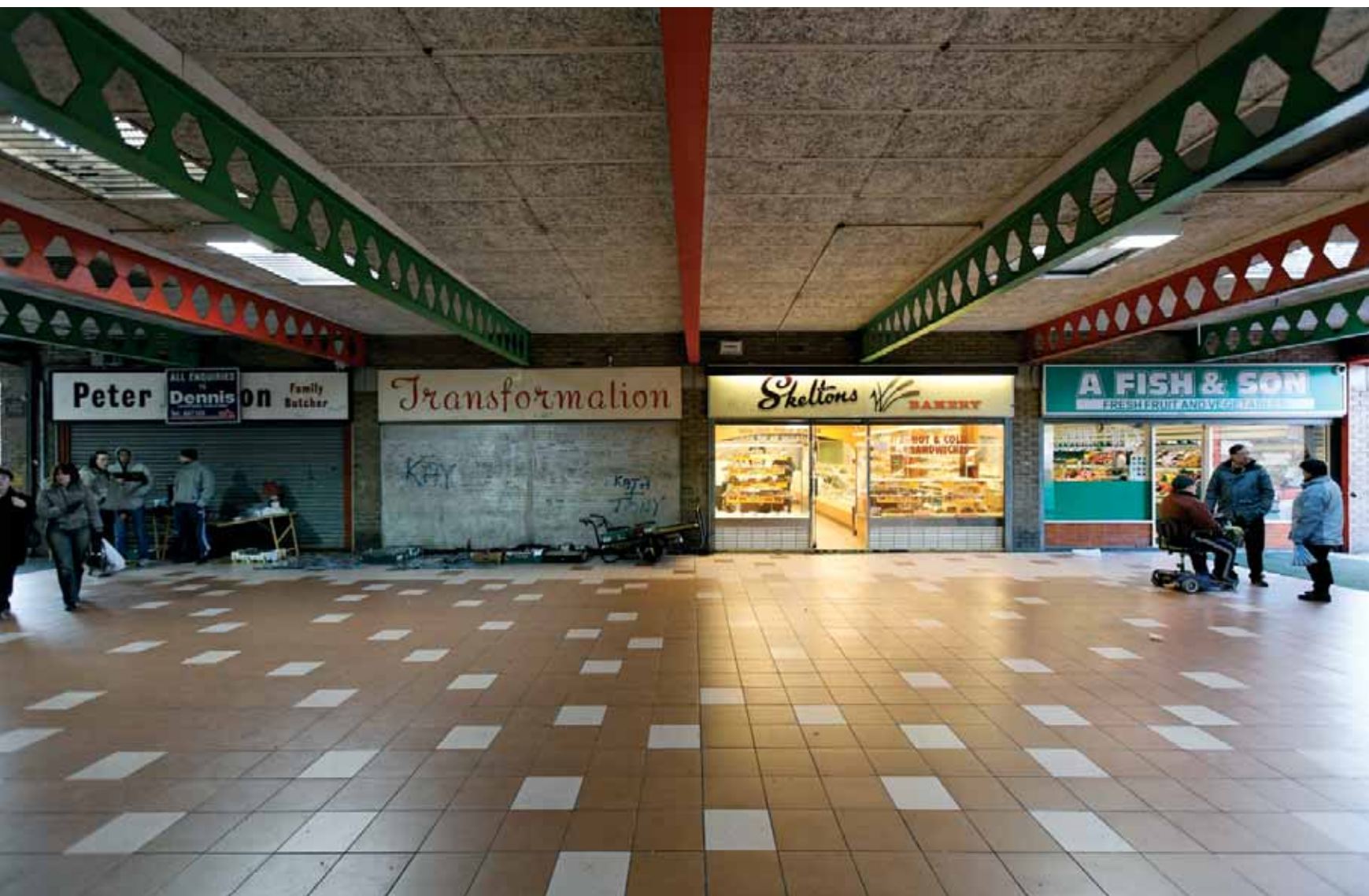




“The end goal is that we want to see this community going forward and having the assets of this place and people valued. The different resources available for the area need to be brought together as it is not going to be one person or interest that makes the difference, if groups cannot work in a co-ordinated and organized way then it will be very difficult to get results. I think we can carry on as we are, but it will not address some of the challenges that this community faces; challenges that affect the quality of people’s lives. We need to address the urban stress and crime that does socially blight the area at times. To do that I think we need to get away from tokenism and talking about change, we need to actually see some change round here too. I hope the opportunity here is not missed.

Reverend David Walker









ALL FRESH PRODUCTS

HOT SANDWICHES

BACON	£1.20
SAUSAGE	£1.20
EGG	£1.00
BACON & EGG	£1.80
SAUSAGE & EGG	£1.80
BACON SAUSAGE & EGG	£2.30
BACON & MUSHROOM	£1.50
SAUSAGE & MUSHROOM	£1.50
CHEESE BURGER	£1.50
BURGER	£1.20
EXTRA PORTIONS I.E BEANS, TOMATO	35p
Hot BUTTERED BREADCAKES	30p
TOAST AND TOPPING	15p

COLD SANDWICHES

CHEESE	£1.00
HAM	£1.00
EGG MAYO	£1.00
TUNA	£1.00
BEEF SALAD	£1.50
SALAD	£1.00





“We need a butcher, we need another shop in opposition to Kwiksave so they get their finger out, a launderette, a hairdresser and well just anything that would help us. The butcher is the main thing, but another bakers shop would be good if possible as that would sell hot meals at lunchtimes and things like that. A cafe would be ideal but that’s being too futuristic, if the pub maybe had a tea room, a side room where you could go during the day, we definitely need some facilities like that. We need a bus shelter across the road because we were promised one too.

I like the flats as they are, I don’t want them changed at all. I leave my door open most of the day but I lock it at teatime, people talk about building four storey flats but the ideal thing would be to make this a block for those over fifty five, that would work much better. We’ve got beautiful views, you must admit, you get away from everybody, you don’t answer the door if you don’t want to. I would miss my view, I would never go and live in a house and look across at somebody’s back yard, I’ll never move because I’m 83 now, I’ll be 84 this year, so there’ll be nothing built in my lifetime will there?

mrs hall









"I dread to think
what it will be like
in a few more years
unless something
happens.







“I’d like to see ramps, play areas, more grass; get rid of the flats; bmx and quaddie tracks on Fisher’s field



“That area of rubble where Schultz [school] used to be needs something building on it, maybe an arena, sports-gym, 5-a-side pitch

People need to change their opinions of the place

They say it’s bad but it’s not that bad.





MORPES RESOURCE CENTRE











Price: £8
Free to residents
of Orchard Park

ISBN 0-9525791-2-X



9 780952 579120