

# Walsall

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Short Heath

The Short Heath Community is very proud of its identity, which dates back to the 1800s. Census data has shown a strong connection to the Short Heath identity for hundreds of years.

Short Heath was originally an area formed on coal mining, with collieries and farms which lend their name to many of the neighbourhoods and streets in Short Heath today. The Village also has a proud history of lock making, with some of the local lock manufacturers still in business. Although part of modern-day Willenhall, Short Heath has a very separate and distinct identity from Willenhall Town and North Willenhall/New Invention. Its distinction from Willenhall and New Invention can be traced back to the 1800s when local residents petitioned to be separate from Willenhall. Short Heath Sanitary Council was formed as a result and later became Short Heath Urban District Council in 1894. There is a long history of local government in Short Heath before mergers with Willenhall Urban District Council, and later Walsall Council, which were both unpopular.

Short Heath is separated by Willenhall Town through the natural boundaries of Five Fields and Brindley's Farm and the old railway lines near to the Fire Station. It is separated from New Invention and North Willenhall by Knightsbridge. The M6 motorway is a clear boundary between Short Heath and Bloxwich/Beechdale.

Local landmarks include; Lane Head Bridge which connects Short Heath on both sides of the Essington and Wyrley Canal and is in the heart of Short Heath at the top of High Road; Rough Wood and Bentley Haye Local Nature Reserves, containing an ancient woodland that is enjoyed by

many in Short Heath and the Short Heath War Memorial which is a focal point for the community who come together each Remembrance Day in the annual parade of thousands of Short Heath residents.

Short Heath is made up of several neighbourhoods, including the Summer Hayes estate, Lucknow Road, the Woodlands estate, the Lodge Farm estate (Stroud Avenue area), Ashmore Lake and the Manor Farm estate which have developed within the Short Heath area over many decades.

The village of Short Heath is served well by local primary schools such as Woodlands Academy, Pool Hayes Primary, Lodge Farm Primary and schools within the Short Heath Federation (Short Heath Junior School, Rosedale C of E Infant School and Lane Head Nursery). It also has two secondary schools, Willenhall E-ACT Academy and Pool Hayes Academy. People in Short Heath have a strong identity to these schools, even after they leave formal education.

Local healthcare services include the Short Heath Clinic and Short Heath Dental Practice which take their name from this strong local identity.

There are several shopping precincts in the area, including the main high street on High Road which has the local post office, as well as the Brackendale Shops on the Lodge Farm/Stroud Avenue estate, the Lucknow Road shops, the Pool Hayes Shops and the Woodlands Centre.

People enjoy spending their time in the many pubs in Short Heath. These include, The Bridge Pub near Lane Head Bridge, The United Kingdom, Short Heath Liberal Club, The Swan, The Homestead, The Jolly Collier, The Whimsey, The Pool Hayes and the Short Heath British Legion Club which houses the Short Heath Branch of the Royal British Legion and owns the Village Hall which housed the Short Heath Urban District Council.

Short Heath is served by two Churches, Short Heath Methodist Church and Holy Trinity Church, which has been the Parish Church of Short Heath since 1855. Many residents also attend the Furzebank Worship Centre which is located within Rosedale C of E Infant School. Willenhall Lawn Cemetery is also the main cemetery in the area.

There are several voluntary community groups, including Short Heath Lest We Forget (who are a local community interest company), Short Heath Scouts, Short Heath Brownies, Short Heath Townswomen's Guild and the newly founded Friends of Willenhall Lawn Cemetery. The Community are extremely proud of these local organisations.

It is clear to see that Short Heath is a closely connected community, that is proud of its past dating back to the 1800s. It is served well by its own local amenities and its community groups. Short Heath has a strong and distinct identity from its neighbours.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*