

Candidate 1 evidence

Advanced Higher Geography Case Study

Comparison of an Inner City area and a Suburban area; Springburn and Bearsden



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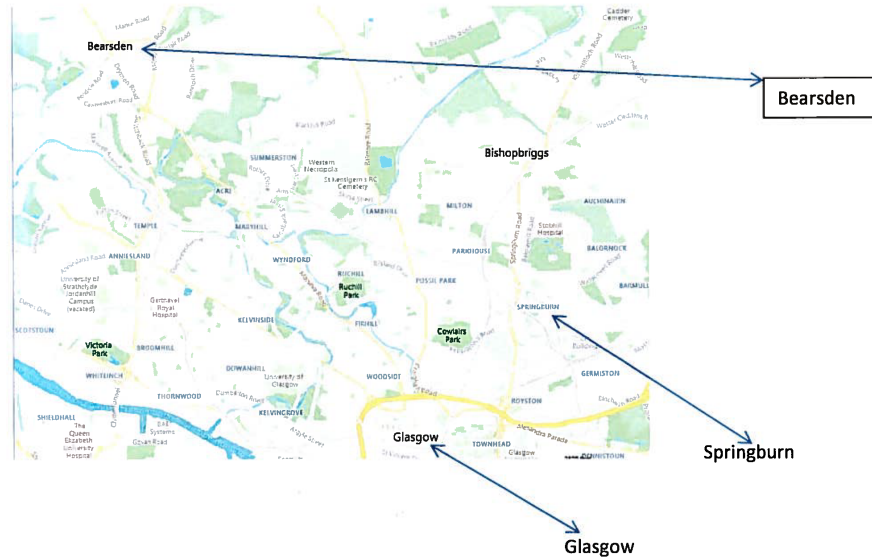
Comparison of Inner City area and suburban area; Springburn and Bearsden

This study aims to investigate the differences in two areas. This study will be carried out using a number of different techniques. The purpose of the study is to compare two areas in order to determine if they are inner city and suburban zones. I will study this in order to determine key differences between more developed (Bearsden) and less developed areas (Springburn). I believe this topic is worth learning about because there are obvious differences across the city of Glasgow and I believe that these differences should be explored in depth. I will explore Bearsden as it is on the outskirts of the city and Springburn as it is an area closer to Glasgow's city centre. This will ensure two sets of different data regarding differences between the two areas. By exploring the overall differences, I should be able to determine other factors such as health and quality of living. As well as, unemployment and life expectancy which should differ in both areas depending on the sets of data I find. I will also use the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation to gain further knowledge in this field. This will also allow me to study in depth, statistics of the areas considering all factors. I will also focus on a site survey in order to identify differences in the areas e.g. shops, schools etc.

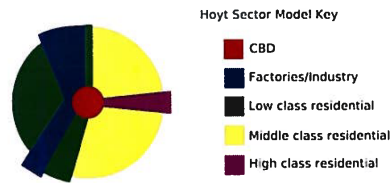
Research and Background Information**Glasgow**

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and the fourth largest city in the United Kingdom and Greater Glasgow's urban areas have a population of just over 1,200,000. Glasgow is home to more than 10% of Scotland's population and more than 20% live in the Greater Glasgow urban area. In the late 1930's, Glasgow's population reached highs of 1,128,000 people due to growth caused by the industrial revolution. During this period, Glasgow was one of the most densely populated cities in the United Kingdom, if not the world. The overall population of Glasgow has however decreased since then as citizens have moved to Glasgow's surrounding areas and because Glasgow's boundaries have changed meaning it covers less area than in the past.

In recent years, Glasgow's population has stalled, remaining around the same at 600,000. Between 2011 and 2016, according to The UK's Office for National Statistics the population of Glasgow had grown by just 1% meaning Glasgow had one of the lowest rates in the United Kingdom's larger cities. The Office for National Statistics predict that Glasgow's population will have grown just 2.5% from 2016 to 2025 whereas neighbouring city, Edinburgh will grow 7.3% during this time.



The Hoyt model



Glasgow best fits the Hoyt model mainly due to the industrial development along the River Clyde.

Bearsden

Bearsden is an affluent, leafy suburb in East Dunbartonshire, six miles north East of Glasgow’s City Centre.

There are approximately 28,000 inhabitants making up around 10,500 households in Bearsden with 176 people being millionaires and only 4% of properties being council owned. Bearsden is a very affluent area resulting in the postcode (G61) being 7th wealthiest in the United Kingdom. The average male life expectancy is 80.5 years while females are expected to live for approximately 83.9 years. This is significantly longer than the average in Glasgow. The current average value for a house in Bearsden over the past 12 months is £366,496 and the average price paid is £338,560.

The Romans were Bearsden's first residents and one of the main streets in Bearsden is named after this; Roman Road. The town began to grow in the early 1800s as owners of factories in Glasgow looked for a town not too far from the city but uphill from the city and not too close to the city.

Bearsden railway was opened in 1863, which linked to Glasgow allowing easier access routes to the city that helped expand Bearsden making it a more well-known area in Glasgow.

Springburn

Springburn is an inner city district North of Glasgow's City Centre, home to mainly working class and middle class inhabitants.

In Springburn, the average male life expectancy is 69.1 years and the average female life expectancy is 76.4 years meaning women, on average, live 7 years longer than men, this average is lower than that of Glasgow as a whole. This could be due to happiness. There is also a higher average number of young people not in education, employment or training compared to Glasgow average and there are just 31% of 3,058 adults with qualifications at higher level and above. There are many people claiming employment and support allowance. The area is poverty stricken, as there are 46.4% of 1,100 children counted living in poverty. Another reason as to why this is an undeveloped area is that there are 91.9% of 12,310 people living within 500m of vacant or derelict land. The average value of a house in Springburn over the past 12 months is £98,515 and the average price paid is £81,100.

Springburn's industrial expansion started with the establishment of the chemical works near St. Rollox by Charles Tennant and later, in the nineteenth century, there came the construction of railway lines leading to the establishment of railway works. The Garnkirk and Glasgow Railway opened in 1831 to supply St. Rollox Chemical Works. The economic development of Springburn is strongly linked with industrial works, most notably, rail works with the manufacturing of locomotives. Previously, Springburn's locomotive industry had a 25% global market share.

Springburn began as a small community but the railways changed it completely which led to rapid increase in population as people moved to find work. Being on the route of Glasgow and Edinburgh, when the railway opened in 1842 Springburn grew rapidly.

Aim

The aim of my study is to identify the areas as inner city and suburban areas.

Research Questions

1. Can the areas of Springburn and Bearsden be identified as inner city and suburban zones?
2. How do the economic and social structures in the Springburn and Bearsden differ?
3. Does the environmental quality increase in suburbs compared to inner city?
4. Do resident's perceptions of the areas differ?

Methodology

1. Can the areas of Springburn and Bearsden be identified as inner city and suburban zones?

I used secondary map based data in order to compare two areas. I focused primarily on the housing patterns and street patterns along with the open spaces and greenery, which helped create a wider range of differences within the areas.

I undertook a site survey to back up my secondary data as I looked into the open spaces and greenery along with the house types and the differences in buildings.

I researched the difference in house prices between the two areas to allow further identifications of the zones as house prices are expected to decrease closer to the CBD.

2. How do the economic and social structures of Springburn and Bearsden differ?

Once again, I used secondary data, SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) as it is a statistical tool used by local authorities, the Scottish government and the NHS amongst other government bodies in Scotland. It is used to support decision making for the government.

SIMD focuses on numerous domains including current income, employment, health, education, crime, housing and other more domains. The domains are calculated for areas across Scotland called data zones. There is a rough estimation of 760 people per data zone. SIMD looks into small areas called data zones and the data zones are ranked from most deprived to least deprived for example, ranked 1st to 6976th in the whole of Scotland. When using SIMD, it is easy to focus on poorer data zones, as you are able to see clearly the top 5% to 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland. The SIMD data was also used as it is visual with its colour coding allowing the differences to be seen visually.

3. Does the environment quality increase in the suburbs compared to the inner city?

I did an environmental quality survey in order to compare the two areas and determine differences.

The environmental quality survey is opinionated and I took this survey myself in order to prevent any bias as I am not residing in either area and I also felt that by doing it myself I would eliminate any personal opinions of happy or unhappy locals.

I decided on a route which would carry this study out. I aimed to study local shops, housing schemes and open spaces e.g. parks. This study was undertaken in both areas I chose to study. I gave an overall judgement on both areas following my study in order to compare both areas

4. Do residents perceptions of the area differ?

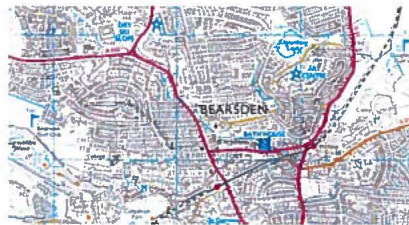
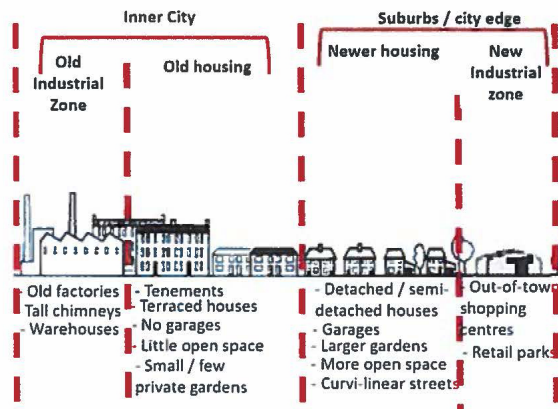
I made use of the Place Standard tool in order to get residents opinions on their thoughts of each area respectively. The Place Standard tool will simply help evaluate the overall quality of the area whilst taking into consideration the physical and human assets of the area. This technique allows a numerical answer which can help me find the average and residents can also give me a detailed response which will help analyse the outcome.

The responses drawn from the residents will hopefully give a varied outcome in order to analyse my data results. I collated average responses then allowed these to be placed into the Place Standard tool. I had initially planned to ask questions to a variation of people but then had to focus on people who were simply willing to stop.

Analysis

1. Can the areas of Springburn and Bearsden be identified as inner city and suburban zones?

The Urban Transect



Housing schemes

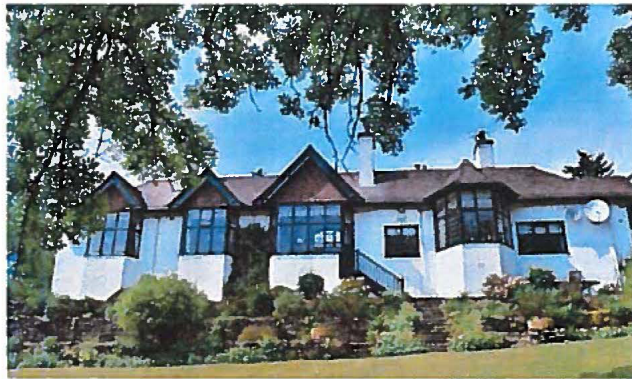


Greenery

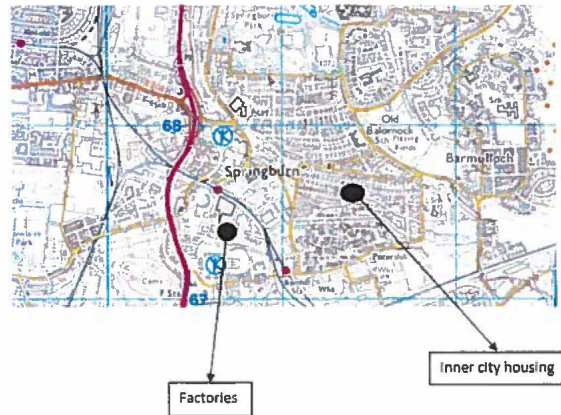
The above photos are satellite images of Bearsden. It is a separate residential community made up of mostly detached and semi-detached housing and there is seen to be homes closer together in the centre of Bearsden whereas there is an increase in open spaces the further from the centre towards the outskirts. Bearsden is 6 miles from Glasgow City Centre and is therefore further from the factory and industrial works in Glasgow's CBD. The large amounts of detached and semi-detached housing with larger garden tell us that Bearsden belong in the newer housing category according to the Urban Transect. This, coupled with the open space/greenery allows further evidence supporting the case that Bearsden is a suburban zone.

5 bedroom detached house for sale
Camstradden Drive East, Bearsden

Offers Over
£895,000



According to estate agent, Right Move, the most expensive property currently for sale in Bearsden starts with offers over £895,000 for a 5 bedroom detached house. The overwhelming majority of houses for sale in Bearsden are detached which further suggests the area firmly belongs in the newer housing area of the suburbs.



The above photo is a map of Springburn where there is seen to be a huge number of older housing such as tenements and also a lot of terraced housing around the areas labelled 'inner city housing' in the diagram. The tenements suggest that Springburn is an area with inner city features in terms of building type.



This is the main street in Springburn, which contains numerous bookmakers and smaller housing schemes.

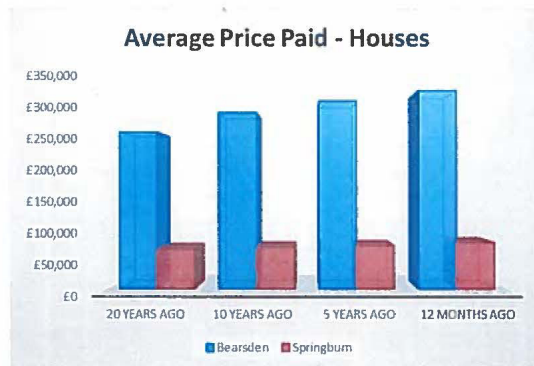
4 bedroom semi-detached house for sale

Springvale Terrace, Glasgow, G21

Offers Over
£200,000

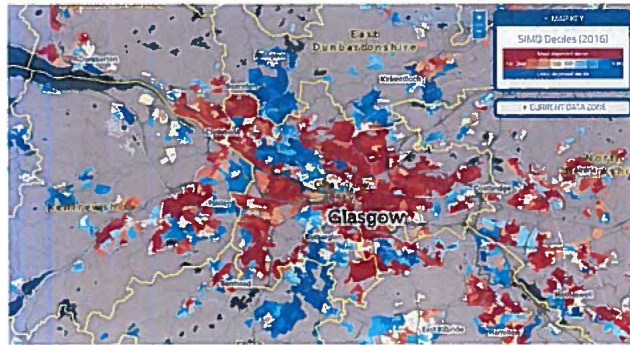


The current most expensive property for sale in Springburn is a 4 bedroom semi-detached house with offers over £200,000. However, this house shown does not have a substantial amount of open space, which is common in suburban areas which could suggest this belong in the inner city. Throughout further examination, the majority of the homes for sale in Springburn are tenements, which have very little to no open space or private gardens, which pushes Springburn into the inner city category on the Urban Transect Model



I then looked at the average price paid for houses in both areas over the past 20 years. Bearsden has an overall average house price of £332,338 and house prices have increased 6% than the year 2016 where the average house price was £313,297. Springburn's average price paid for houses is £73,770. The overall sold prices however have decreased 36% from £115,515 in 2008. There is a common theme occurring in that the prices paid for houses in Bearsden are much higher of that in Springburn. This could be due to the smaller number of private gardens and large amounts of tenement housing in Springburn, which puts this into the category of old housing in the inner city compared to the larger gardens and huge number of detached and semi-detached housing in the area.

2. How do the economic and social structures in Springburn and Bearsden differ?



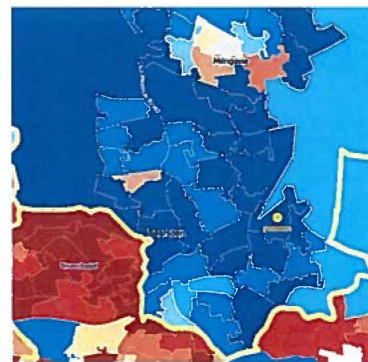
Using SIMD, I was able to depict clear differences between the areas.



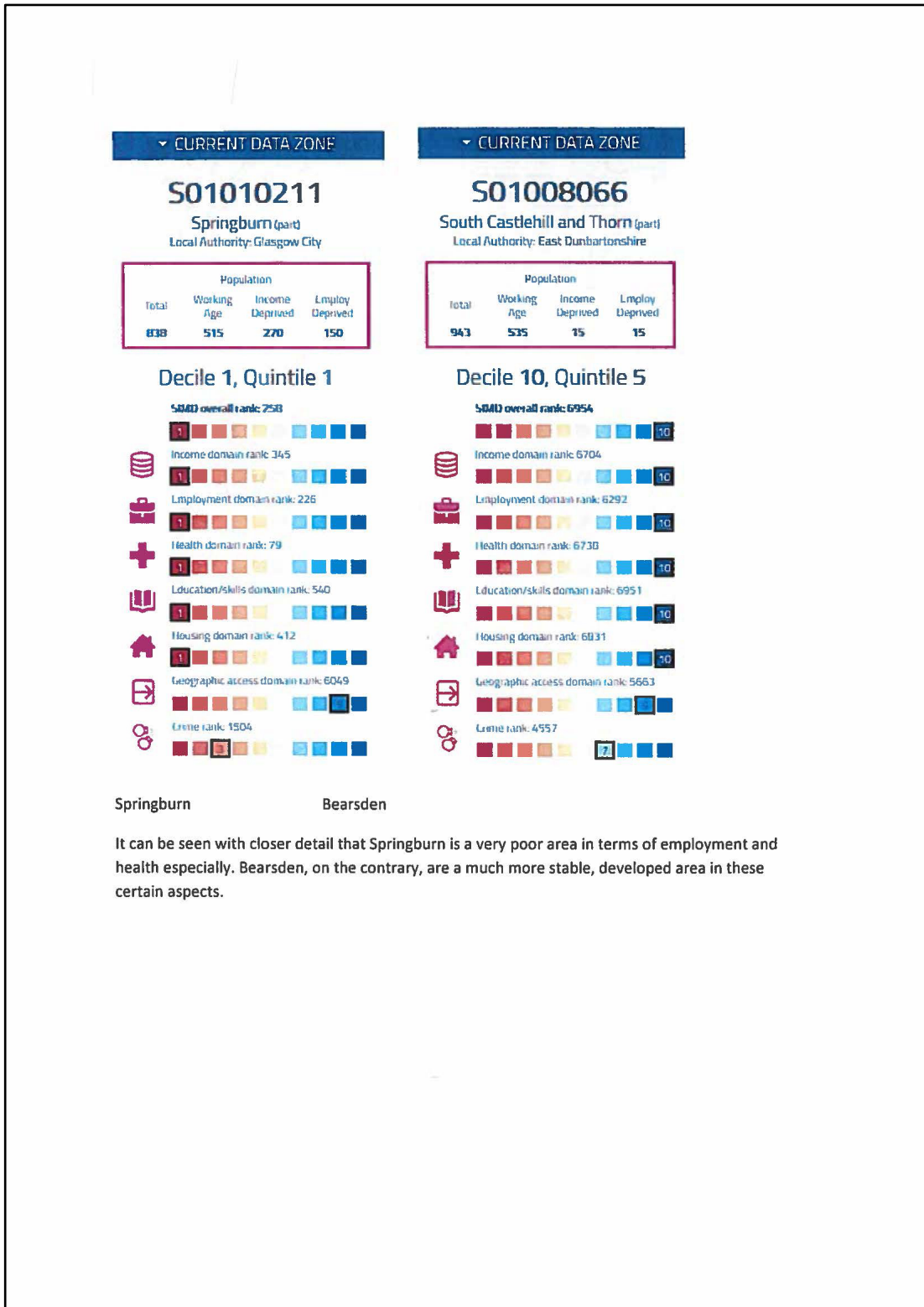
In accordance with the key, the most deprived areas are red in colour whereas the least deprived are blue. The images below show a coloured map of both areas. Overall, Springburn is a very deprived area according to the Deciles whereas Bearsden is almost opposite in the sense that it is one of the least deprived areas on the SIMD map



Springburn

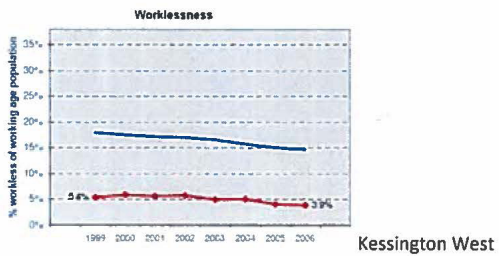
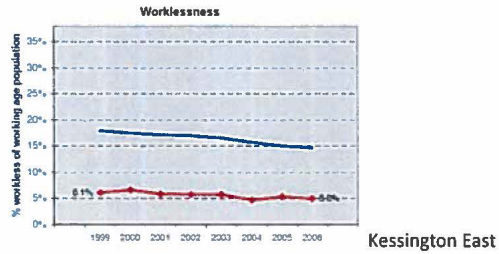


Bearsden



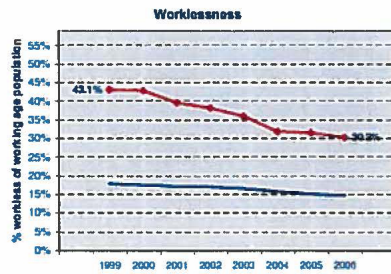
Unemployment

These line graphs focus on the unemployment in Bearsden, Kessington East and West to be precise. The red line represents Kessington and the blue line represents Glasgow overall.



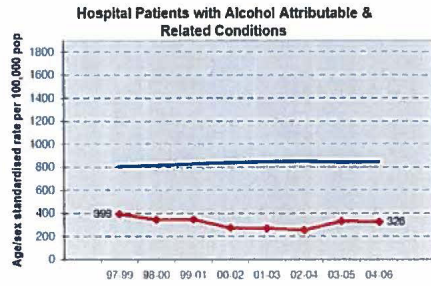
Another factor that could affect happiness is unemployment. In 2006 (Kessington West) just 3.9% of the neighbourhood suffered from unemployment. That is approximately 11% less than the Scottish average which sat, in 2006, at around 15%. This could be due to a well-balanced population and a reasonable number of citizens to cover adequate jobs from the age group 16-44 which would increase happiness in the area as more people are employed and are able to afford a comfortable living for the most part.

The following graph shows Springburns unemployment rates with the red line representing unemployment in Springburn and the blue representing Glasgow overall.

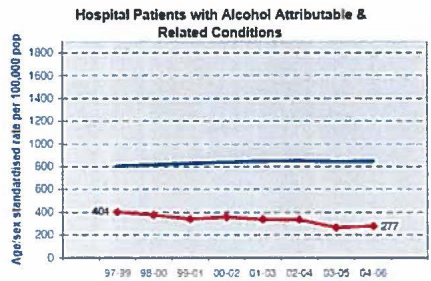


In 2006, approximately 30% of Springburn's working age citizens suffered unemployment which is 3 in 10 people. However, in 1999, 43% of Springburn's working age population suffered unemployment meaning the problems concerning unemployment have reduced from 1999 to 2006. However, 30% compared to an approximate 4% in Kessington West suggests that Springburn still (2006) suffers from huge numbers of unemployment which would affect the happiness of the people in the area overall as less people are earning money therefore being unable to fund a sufficient life.

Health (Alcohol related conditions)

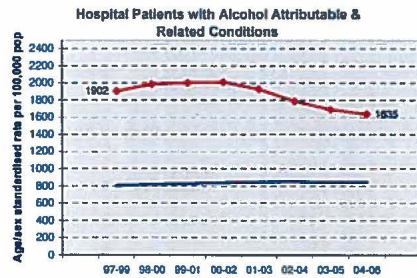


Kessington East



Kessington West

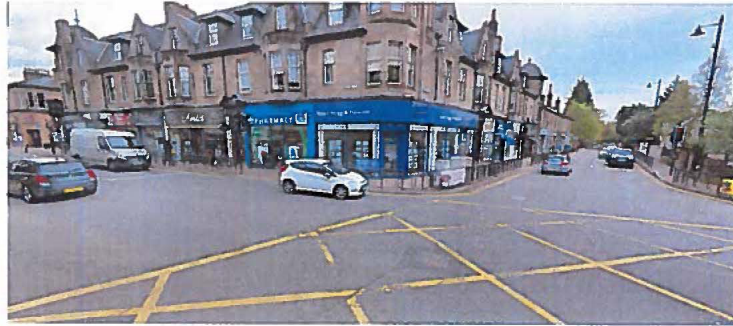
Both Kessington West and East are two similar neighbourhoods in Bearsden that have much less alcohol problems and alcohol related conditions than Scotland overall. Kessington West had 277 cases of alcoholism from 2004-2006 and Kessington East had 326 cases of alcoholism in the same period. This is significantly lower than that of Scotland overall in the same years at approximately 800 cases. The blue line is representative of Scotland on average and the red line is representative of the Kessington neighbourhoods.



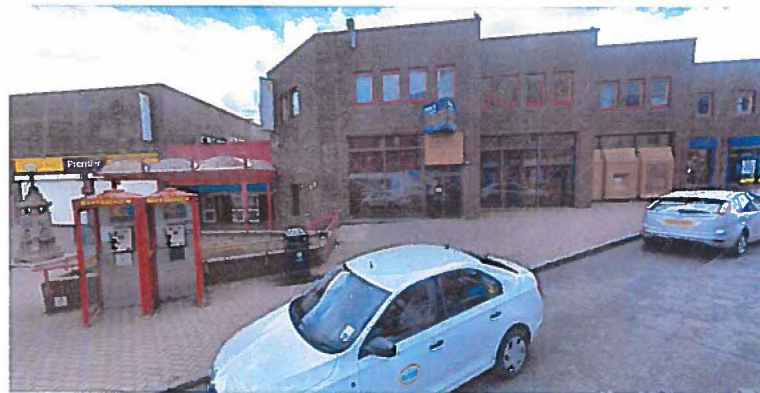
Springburn have much more hospital patients with alcohol related conditions than Scotland's overall. In 2004-2006, Springburn had 1635 cases of hospital alcoholism compared to Scotland overall with approximately 800 cases in the same years. The figures for Springburn are almost double that of Scotland overall. The blue line is representative of Scotland on average and the red line is representative of the area of Springburn. This would suggest that Springburn is a far more deprived area compared to the more affluent area of Kessington in Bearsden due to the number of alcohol related conditions for hospitals patients.

3. Does the environmental quality increase in the suburbs compared to inner city?

After a site survey in both areas, I focused on two main areas in both Bearsden and Springburn.

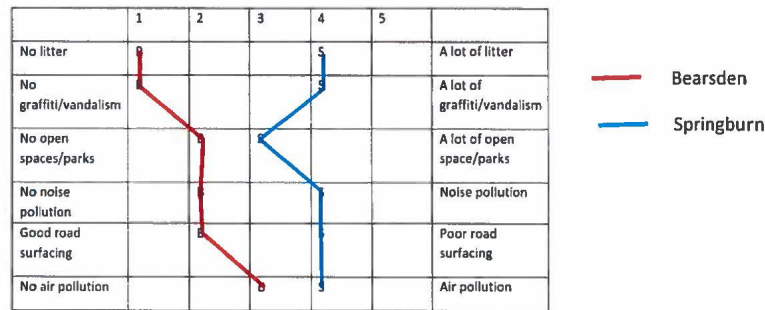


Drymen Road, Bearsden



Springburn Way, Glasgow

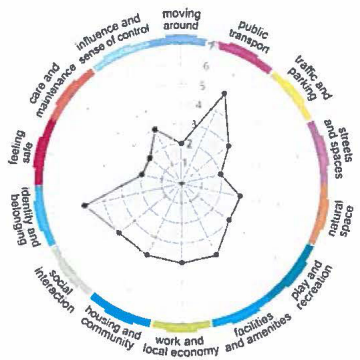
Whilst doing my environmental quality survey I wrote down things I could look for in both areas such as amount of litter, building and road quality, pollution etc. numbering these things 1-5 in order to complete a simple table which is easy to interpret and understand. I used a table similar to this in order to collate my results and show clear differences in my study of both areas.



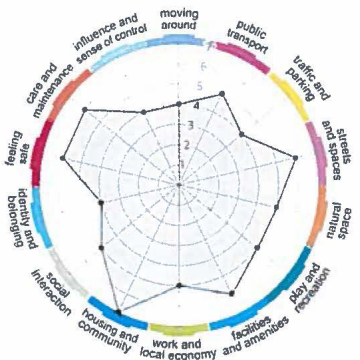
Overall, my view of Bearsden is that there is a lot of care for the area as seen with the immaculate streets free of vandalism and litter whereas there is a lot of vandalism and litter in Springburn, which does unfortunately reflect badly on the wider community. Bearsden is also a quieter area whereas there is a motorway running through Springburn which naturally causes more noise and air pollution. It is therefore clear to me that the environmental quality increases in the suburbs compared to the inner city.

4. Do resident's perceptions of the areas differ?

I used the Place Standard tool to create a visually effective diagram in order to display my results after asking residents a selection of questions. This allowed me to gain an average response from residents opinions in both areas.



Springburn



Bearsden

Having gotten my responses from a number of locals in each area, I planned to stop people from a varying age group but due to the time of day, Sunday at approximately 4pm, I spoke to anyone willing to give me answers, which helped me put together the graphs.

The graphs shown are shown to have very different reflections on the areas as, visually, they look very different. The sale shows that number one requires a lot of room for improvement whereas number seven shows there is very little to no room for improvement.

Immediately, looking at both graphs we see that they show very different results which is interesting as these were given by locals in both areas respectively.

Springburn has drawn an average of 3.3/7, which is less than half, meaning Springburn's residents are reasonably unhappy with the area and wish for improvement, as they believe their area needs improvement. Springburn do however score higher than Bearsden on one category 'Identity and belonging'. This, suggested by one Springburn local, could be because many of their family have lived in Springburn for a number of years meaning they feel a sense of belonging in the area as it is where their people have come from. Whereas people in Bearsden do not feel like they belong there as much as many of the residents, some of which I encountered, said their families had lived in inner city areas such as Springburn but they have since moved to the Bearsden suburbs.

Bearsden, on the other hand, has drawn an average of 5.1/7 meaning there is much less room for improvement in Bearsden according to the locals. Bearsden scored higher on average in the overwhelming majority of categories. This focuses our attention to the section 'care and maintenance'. This would suggest that Bearsden have high quality buildings and the local authorities taken action when needed in terms of improving the area. The area is also almost free of litter and vandalism whereas there is a large amount of vandalism and litter in Springburn and the old inner city housing has made the buildings look less attractive compared to the suburban detached and semi-detached housing of Bearsden.

This confirms that local's perceptions of the areas differ.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that Springburn is an inner city area and Bearsden is a suburban area. This is due to a number of reasons from the care and maintenance of the place to the housing differences in both areas. This coupled with the resident's views as well as my own personal view suggests that there are clear differences between Springburn and Bearsden.

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