

Arley and Ansley Big Local



PROFILE DOCUMENT

Local Trust | Big Local



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THE LEYS MILLIONAIRES PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS BIG LOCAL

Big Local is an opportunity for the residents of Old Arley, New Arley and Ansley Village to use at least £1 Million to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their community.

The three villages in North Warwickshire form one of 150 areas around England chosen by Local Trust to be part of the Big Local project. Our area was chosen in December 2012 as part of the third wave of Big Local areas.

Big Local is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and managed by Local Trust (www.localtrust.org.uk), However it is the local residents in each area that are running the project on a day to day basis. Local Trust works with a range of partners nationally to provide expert advice, access to the skills and experiences of others and support for the local residents.

Big Local aims to bring together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live. To this end the four key outcomes from Big Local are:-

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

WHAT IT IS NOT

- It's not about the local authority, the government or a national organisation telling us what to do.
- It's not about individual groups fixing their favourite problem without talking to a wide range of different people who live and work in the community.
- It's not about short-term thinking – we have 10 years or more to plan and deliver the best options for our area.
- It's not about funding services that are the responsibility of a statutory authority – Local Trust do not allow us to use the money this way.

WHAT IS IN THIS PROFILE

The Profile is a document that forms one of the steps along the 'Big Local Pathway' and is written to help give an overview of our Big Local area to someone who may not be familiar with the area or with the Big Local project.

The Profile was compiled from answers people gave us in the response to our questionnaires, from statistical information derived from the 2011 Census data, information from North Warwickshire Borough Council, the Warwickshire Observatory and from talking to people around the three villages. Numeric information was derived from the Office of National Statistics using a customised set of Output Areas that as closely as possible match the geographic outline of our Big Local area.

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

In early 2013 our Big Local Rep; who is appointed by Local Trust to guide us through the stages of the project; conducted several meetings around the villages and recruited a group of willing local residents to form our Steering Group. The group decided to call itself the *Leys Millionaires* to give it a more local feel, *Leys* being part of each village's name. The meaning of 'Ley' as part of a place name signifies a clearing in a wood.

As Big Local is very different to other community projects it took a while to get going but one of the first tasks was to select and appoint Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) as our Local Trusted Organisation (LTO). Being the LTO means that WCAVA act as our banker for the initial money we were granted to get the project going, they also handle the legal employment requirements of any workers we may use to help us.

We developed a Questionnaire that was distributed to all households in the area (see the map that defines our area). We have also talked to many local groups about the project and talked to residents outside the local school and shops and at local events.



Whilst any committee work can be a bit dry we organised several things to show residents that we were actively doing things in the area and to gain their trust. We asked the local primary school to run a competition to come up with a logo we could use for the project and had 90 entries. We used some of our initial grant to run a Community Chest that benefitted 10 local groups across a range of topics from the environment and a local walking group to the local netball club and adult literacy.

We have also run several Fun events to encourage people to get involved and talk to one another. We started with a Scarecrow Festival and have since run a Christmas Lantern trail and a Kite flying event. All the events had associated workshops that gave residents an opportunity to ‘get their hands dirty’ by making scarecrows, lanterns and kites. The events were well received and the people that came along enjoyed themselves and so these are likely to turn into annual events. People commented that they liked the low key, informal nature of the events.



PATHWAY MILESTONES – WHERE ARE WE ALONG THE ROAD

Local Trust define a set of stages, or stepping stones, that all Big Local areas must follow to ensure that the process is open and transparent.



We are slightly out of sequence in that this Profile is part of Stage 2. However we have migrated from the informal steering group into the more formal Partnership Board (Stage 3) which was endorsed by Local Trust in June 2015. We have had several feedback meetings with residents about what we should include in our Plan for the first two years and are about to start writing our first Plan (Stage 4).

OUR BIG LOCAL AREA

The Arley and Ansley Big Local area consists of the three rural villages of Old Arley, New Arley and Ansley Village in North Warwickshire located in the Green Belt about 5 miles west of Nuneaton and 15 miles east of Birmingham.

The villages are in relatively close proximity, separated by about 1.5 miles of rural roads from each other. However the area is quite hilly which adds to its rural attraction but limits walking between the villages for the less mobile and so many people rely on their car or public transport to get between the villages.

HISTORY OF THE AREA

Rural North Warwickshire changed from a largely agricultural area with the discovery and exploitation of the Warwickshire Coalfield. Many villages grew significantly around their local coal mine and developed into thriving self contained communities in the first half of the 20th century. Arley and Ansley are typical examples with local collieries at Arley, Ansley Hall and Haunchwood Tunnel though with the decline of the coal industry all were closed by the late 1960s. The local railway station also closed in 1960. Since the local pit closures, now nearly 50 years ago, the villages entered a period of decline with little alternative employment opportunities. The nearby modern coal mine at Daw Mill which opened in 1959 provided some local employment but closed after a serious fire in 2013.

THE AREA TODAY

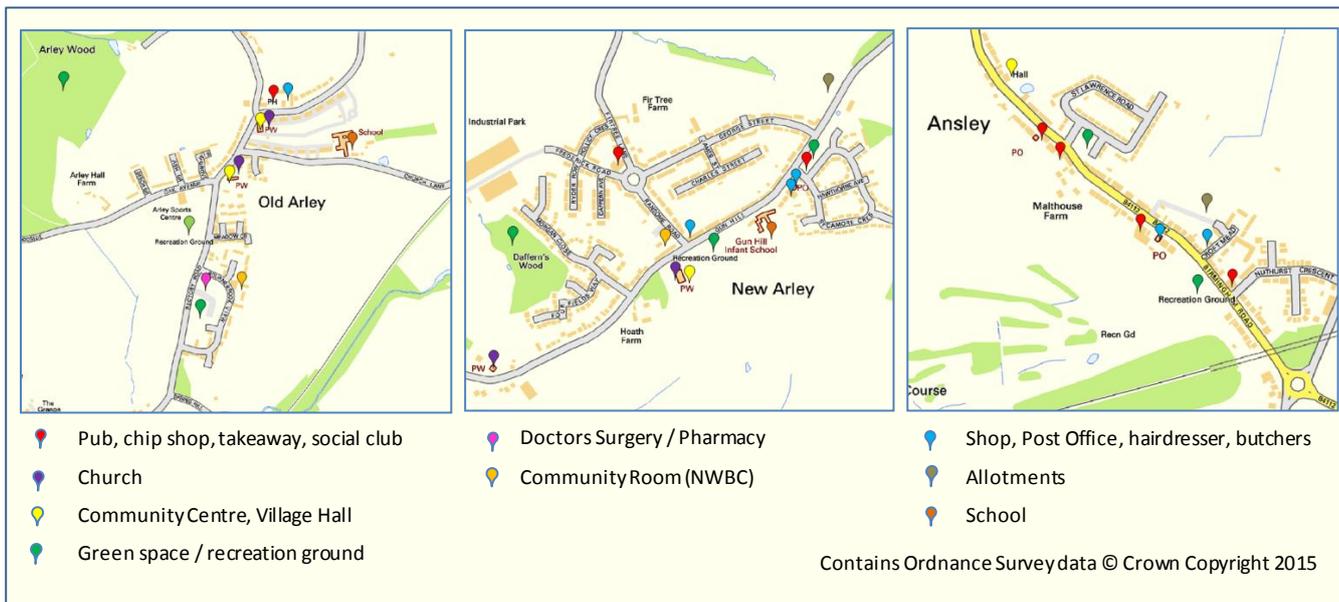
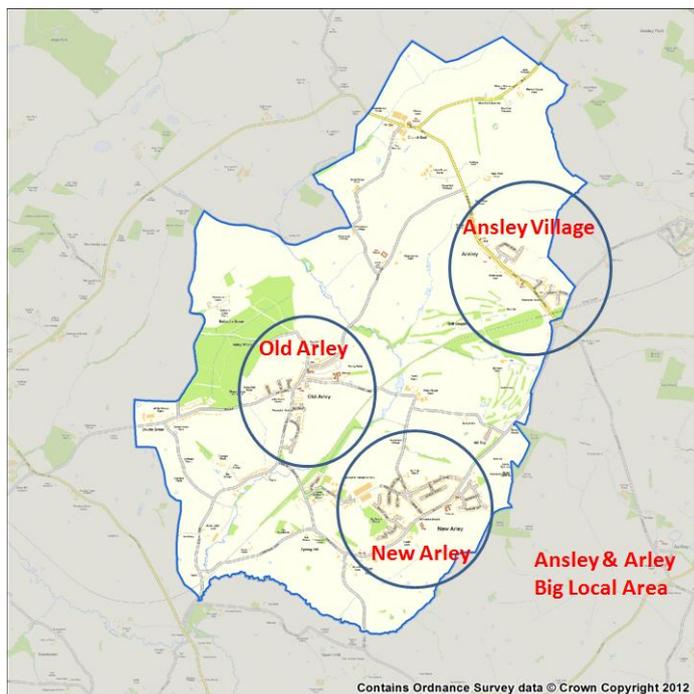
North Warwickshire is a pleasant semi-rural area where house prices are lower than other parts of Warwickshire and has good access to major roads and motorways. Thus it is popular with young families with access to a car who want a bit more living space and do not want to live in a city. People enjoy the rural location and many give walking and cycling as a favourite activity.

Because of its history as a mining community there are many families where three generations still live in the villages.

However as there is now only a small amount of local employment this has resulted in the villages serving as dormitory areas with many people working in the surrounding cities and towns of Coventry, Birmingham, Nuneaton and Atherstone, though some commute further afield. More than 80% of those employed travel to work by car or van and less than 5% use public transport [Ref 1].

A small light industrial estate was built on the site of the Arley coal mine that provides some local employment. The proposed re-development of the Daw Mill colliery site (just outside the Big Local area) by the new owners for light commercial purposes may provide employment in the future but is a contentious issue as many residents want it returned to green belt.

MAP OF THE BIG LOCAL AREA AND COMMUNITY ASSETS



PEOPLE AND HOUSING

From the 2011 census data there are 3707 residents in the Big Local area comprising of 2024 in New Arley, 854 in Ansley Village and 829 on Old Arley evenly split between male and female living in 1539 households [Ref 1].

People say that the location and the friendly people are the main things that make living in the area attractive.

The Big local area is typical of North Warwickshire and is very ethnically un-mixed with 96.9% being born in the UK compared to nearby towns of Nuneaton 93.2% and Coventry 78.8% [Ref 1].

The age range mix varies between the three villages with New Arley having a younger population, Old Arley a significant retired population, with Ansley Village roughly in between shown by the table below of percentage of residents in the different age ranges [Ref 1].

Age range	0 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 49	50 - 65	65+
New Arley	23.0%	8.9%	38.8%	19.1%	10.2%
Ansley Village	20.5%	9.3%	32.9%	21.5%	15.8%
Old Arley	19.4%	5.2%	29.2%	24.8%	21.4%
Whole BL Area	21.6%	8.2%	35.3%	20.9%	14.0%



There is a wide range of housing types in the villages from terraced housing originally built for the mining families through post war housing developments of larger semi detached and terraced houses to retirement bungalows and modern (1980's) detached houses. There are very few flats and maisonettes in the villages.

In New Arley and Old Arley many of the houses originally owned by the Coal Board have rear service roads commonly referred to as 'the backs' which are in poor repair but the ownership / maintenance liability is unclear leading to them deteriorating. Many residents have asked for something to be done about the state of the backs.

Recently 42 new houses and 16 bungalows have been built on the sites of former miner's clubs in New Arley as affordable housing / part rent and for older people. Planning approval has been given for a further 13 affordable homes in New Arley on two brown field sites [Ref 2]. The residents accept the redevelopment of brown field sites within the villages for housing, though the high density and lack of green spaces associated with these developments is not always welcomed, large housing developments on green belt land are not welcomed by residents [Ref 7].

The majority (~72%) of the housing across the area is owned either outright or via a mortgage by the resident. About 15% are rented from the Local Authority with a significant number being for older residents particularly in Old Arley. About 12% are privately rented with the majority being in Ansley Village [Ref 1]. Some residents report issues with private landlords who do not maintain their properties correctly which may contribute to the resident's poor health reported in the 2011 census.

Several of the areas of housing for older residents have an associated communal room for socialising, though there is no residential care home locally in any of the three villages.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

When residents were asked about their general health as part of the 2011 Census, people in two of the three LSOAs (Lower Layer Super Output Areas) that form the Big Local area reported slightly higher percentage with Bad or Very Bad Health than the rest of North Warwickshire [Ref 1].

When looking at the Indices of Deprivation 2015 [Ref 4] for the LSOAs that intersect the Big Local area the overall multiple index value it is roughly middle ranking (4th decile) with a slight worsening in the decile ranking for the Income, Crime and Barriers to Housing & Services indices since the 2010 figures.

From information contained in the Quality of Life in North Warwickshire report prepared by the Warwickshire Observatory [Ref 5] it shows that parts of the Big Local area suffer from higher levels of fuel poverty and higher numbers of children in low income families than the average for North Warwickshire.

These figures together with the employment and skill figures would tend to suggest that there are residents in the area on low incomes, probably with money management issues, who suffer poor health, which may be exacerbated by poor diet or lack of exercise - all leading to a lack of wellbeing.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Until recently the area had two local authority schools one in Old Arley and one on New Arley operating as a junior school and its feeder infants school, both around 100 years old. A new combined school has been built in the school grounds in New Arley in 2013 to replace the old schools, with children from Old Arley and Ansley Village being bussed to the new school. The school can accommodate 315 children but currently has about 240 pupils including those in the nursery. Some parents send their children to other nearby primary / juniors schools for various reasons.



The new school had its first Ofsted inspection in October 2014 and whilst being rated Good in some areas, overall it was rated as Requires Improvement. About a quarter of pupils are eligible for the Pupil Premium which the school has used to good effect to minimise the attainment gap with all these children achieving

Reading, Writing and Maths at Level 4 or above at key stage 2 [Ref 3, Ref 5]. The school has held a competition for us to come up with a design for our Big Local logo with 90 entrants and has made scarecrows as part of our Scarecrow Trail and the school's official opening.

There are no main stream secondary schools in the area and all pupils are bussed to a range of schools outside the Big Local area.

There are also two independent day schools from the Arc school group within the area for children and young people from 11 to 16 who have struggled in mainstream education environments and who all have full statements of Special Educational Needs. These schools are located in open countryside and have a large catchment area and very few, if any, local children attend them. However the schools are keen to be more integrated with the community and some of the children made scarecrows for both our Scarecrow Trails. One of the schools has just (November 2015) relocated to the re-furbished junior school building in Old Arley which may help integration.

From the Indices of Deprivation 2015 the results for the Education Skills and Training measure for Ansley Village and parts of New Arley are poor being in the bottom 20% indicating poor levels of attainment, progression to higher education and skills. [Ref 4].

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

As mentioned earlier there is little employment locally and most people commute to work by car. The cost of having your own transport is normally a choice made when deciding to move into the villages to enjoy the rural environment. The residents work in a variety of trades and professions with 59% employed in Skilled, Administrative, Professional and Managerial roles [Ref 1].

However the limited public transport and distance to the main centres of employment means that if you do not have access to your own transport finding employment can be a problem. This possibly contributes to the higher level of unemployment amongst the economically active in New Arley of 5.2% compared the North Warwickshire average of 3.6% [Ref 1]. This is reflected in a higher percentage of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and for a longer period compared to North Warwickshire as a whole, though lower than the UK average [Ref 6]. We know from our Community Chest scheme that there are some residents that have literacy problems and hence limited skills making finding employment more difficult.

The area is similar to the rest of North Warwickshire in terms of qualifications with 28% of people with no qualifications, 35% with GCSE or apprentice level qualifications and 20% with degree level qualifications. This compares with the towns in South Warwickshire such as Warwick and Stratford upon Avon that have an overall higher level of qualification with only 17% with no qualifications and 36% with a degree [Ref 1].

Even though there is an existing breakfast club and after school care facility based at the Primary school a common theme in the results to our questionnaire was the need for affordable childcare, nurseries, wraparound care etc. to support parents who need to travel to work sometimes with jobs that involve shift working.

Some residents who do not have access to transport or childcare have commented on the difficulty in obtaining training locally to help their employment prospects. Lack of training was cited as the main reason, after lack of local jobs and public transport, for stopping people getting work in our questionnaire.

THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

In addition to the area being in a pleasant rural setting each of the three villages has a recreation ground and associated children's play area provided by the local Parish Councils.

The recreation areas in Old Arley and Ansley Village are well used and generally liked and respected. Though in New Arley the children's play equipment and recreation area suffers from repeated vandalism and some people report that the younger children are intimidated by teenagers and so do not like to go there. In our surveys residents consistently asked for the New Arley recreation area to be improved, though this is unlikely to happen if the problems continue.

Two of the villages have allotment societies and both are investigating the introduction of smaller plots with raised beds and better paths to attract the less able residents to take on an allotment.

There are footpaths between the villages but people comment that they do not know where they are or that they get overgrown or are muddy and so are not easy to use by bike or with push chairs. There is an established Thursday afternoon walking group based at the Methodist Hall in Old Arley as part of a Borough council Wellbeing initiative.

The Big Local area includes Arley Wood which is a large managed woodland owned by the Forestry Commission. In New Arley there is a small Local Nature Reserve (Daffern's Wood) which dates back several hundred years and is classified as ancient woodland.

Litter and dog fouling are the main complaints about the state of the local environment.

LOCAL SERVICES

Apart from public transport and childcare the area is reasonably well served by services.



In 2013 the doctors surgery was relocated from New Arley to Old Arley into a new purpose built medical centre much larger than the old surgery. A Pharmacy was also opened adjacent to the new surgery. This has helped the higher proportion of older residents that live in Old Arley but means that the younger families from New Arley now have further to go (1.5 miles) to get to the surgery.

There is no dental practice in the three villages.



There is a Sports Centre in Old Arley operated by the Borough Council with badminton, squash, tennis courts a fitness centre, indoor football and outdoor football pitches. It can also host children's parties. Residents of North Warwickshire are entitled to discounted rates. Residents have asked for more facilities at the Sports Centre including a swimming pool, whilst the swimming pool is beyond the scope of Big Local further

consultation is perhaps needed on what other sporting facilities people think is required and would be used. Two further football pitches are managed by Arley Parish Council at Hilltop.

Both New Arley and Ansley Village have a Post Office / general store and New Arley also has a Co-op store with an external cash machine all open seven days a week. Old Arley has a Pharmacy and traditional butchers but no other shops. There is also a Chinese takeaway in New Arley and a Fish & Chip shop in Ansley Village. New Arley and Ansley Village also have hairdressers.

Each of the villages currently has a pub (two in the case of Ansley).

Public transport links are viewed by residents as poor, although an hourly bus service is available to Nuneaton (£6.30 adult return) and a more limited service to Coventry. The Local Authority (North Warwickshire Borough Council) is based in Atherstone which is difficult for people to access by public transport requiring two buses, considerable time and expense though most council services can be accessed via phone or the internet. To support this at the Community Centre in New Arley the Borough Council created a Community Hub with free web access, free phones, video conferencing and scanning facilities to give direct access to council and CAB (Citizen's Advice Bureau) services. There is a free bus three times a week

from the villages to a large Tesco supermarket in Bedworth (5 miles away) where there are a range of other shops and discount stores.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CLUBS

There are a number of clubs and groups for a range of activities and pastimes in the villages which operate from the village, community and church halls. Like in many villages there are a core group of people who give their time and energy to organising many of the activities and sit on committees but it seems to be difficult to get new people involved. Several of the community spaces have had improvements made in the last 10 years to attract more usage but the long term sustainability of the facilities is uncertain.

Examples of current activities and classes are fitness classes (zumba, yoga, tai chi) Barnardo's baby & toddler group, martial arts (children and adults), walking, computer skills, painting, sewing crafts, morris dancing, children's dance, messy church, indoor bowls, bingo. There are also groups such as the stroke group, a monthly dining club and a tea and cake group that offer respite for carers and somewhere for older residents to socialise.

There is a Community cafe on one morning a week during school term time in New Arley and one a Saturday morning in Old Arley in the summer, though none in Ansley Village. At the moment there is a youth club in New Arley and one in Old Arley but none in Ansley Village.

Residents have repeatedly asked for more things to be provided for children and youth.

CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

As with most areas reported crime is decreasing but the feeling is that incidents are not fully reported. The area does not suffer from anything out of the ordinary in terms of crime for a rural area. From the crime statistics for the last year anti-social behaviour is the most common crime with violent crime, vehicle crime and burglary generally the next most common crimes [Ref 8]. Residents report that cannabis use is an issue in New Arley which may be linked to other social problems in the village.

Residents dislike the amount of litter and dog fouling particularly in New Arley. In the other villages litter does not seem to be as bad and in Ansley Village some community minded residents regularly pick up litter dropped by others which improves the look of the village. Speeding by motorists through the villages is also something that residents regularly complain about together with the lack of parking spaces near the shops.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

At the local level the parts of New and Old Arley that are in the Big Local area are served by Arley Parish Council and hence have close community ties. The Ansley Village part of the Big Local area is served by Ansley Parish Council whose boundaries also include other small communities that are not part of the Big Local area and so has fewer community ties with Old and New Arley. The next tier of government is North Warwickshire Borough Council based in Atherstone. The three villages in the Big Local area are part of the same Arley & Whitacre ward served by three Borough Councillors, one County Councillor and one MP.

CONSULTATION AND FINDING TO DATE

From the responses to our questionnaire and talking to residents and groups around the villages the themes and suggestions about how we should use the money are shown below. From these ideas we will create projects that will be included in the Plan for the first two years of the ten year programme.

Children / youth

- Employ Youth Worker for all ages groups
- Youth clubs and facilities in all villages – long term
- Training and support for young unemployed / vulnerable people
- After school clubs, holiday time clubs
- Youth shelters for kids to meet in
- Playgroups for small children
- Activities that kids / teenagers want to do
- Music, dance club, things for girls to do

Environment

- Sign post improvement for footpaths
- Keep the footpaths clear
- More litter bins / benches
- Plant Wildlife meadow / daffodils / wild flowers / community orchard
- Create wildlife corridors
- Gardening lessons
- Create cycle paths

Activities / events

- More social events, seasonal activities, summer fete, autumn bonfire, Easter parade

- Craft classes and groups, music lessons, baking/cooking club, drama group, dance classes
- Skills classes – DIY, plumbing, gardening, fishing club
- Get fit sessions, sports coaching sessions, outdoor gym
- Cinema nights, fun nights
- Bingo / OAP get together, days out
- Support for local groups

Transport

- Community Mini bus – round villages to doctors, Sundays, trips out for OAPs, children, teenagers, cinema, and swimming pool.
- Improve poor parking especially near shops
- Traffic needs calming, people drive too fast through villages
- Cycle paths between villages
- Buses to other places
- Better bus shelters
- Zebra crossings in Ansley & New Arley
- Fix potholes in roads and pavements
- More grit bins in on hills in New Arley

Facilities / Services

- Affordable childcare, nursery, playgroups
- Make community buildings sustainable
- Better housing, buy dilapidated houses, do up and rent / sell on
- Land for graveyard expansion
- Do something about 'The Backs'
- Expand business parks to provide more jobs
- Something to remember the Mining Heritage
- Maintain outdoor sports facilities
- A shop in Old Arley
- New changing pavilion
- Advise service for housing, money, mental health,
- Carers support group
- Local access to a credit union
- Local training on CV writing, interview skills, first aid, child safeguarding, GCSEs
- Local vocational training / work experience

Crime / Anti social behaviour

- Dog Fouling – more dog bins, fence off play areas, increase local dog warden patrols
- Litter – organise litter picks, educate children, utilise / involve Police Community Support
- Stop quad bikes in fields and green areas

INFORMATION SOURCES

Reference	Source
1	National Census 2011 data from the Office of National Statistics web site for a custom output area that as closely as possible matches the Big Local area comprising the set of output areas E00158055 to E00158069 inclusive. This over estimates the number of households by about 1%. Village subsets are New Arley comprising E00158058, E00158059, E00158060, E00158062, E00158063, E00158064, E00158065, E00158068, E00158069 Old Arley comprising E00158061, E00158066, E00158067 Ansley Village comprising E00158055, E00158056, E00158057. Some ONS data was updated in 2013.
2	North Warwickshire Borough Council Planning Application portal.
3	Pupil premium expenditure report 2014/15. Arley Primary school web site
4	Indices of Deprivation September 2015, published by the UK Department for Communities & Local Government available on www.gov.uk . Lower Layer Super Output Areas for the BL area are E01031005 New Arley East, Hill Top and Ansley E01031006 New Arley West and Old Arley E01031007 New Arley South and Over Whitacre.
5	Quality of Life in North Warwickshire report, September 2015 published by the Warwickshire Observatory
6	Nomis ward profile for E36005865 Arley & Whitacre September 2015.
7	Arley Neighbourhood Plan 2015 http://www.arleycommunitycentre.co.uk/unclassified/arley-neighbourhood-plan
8	UK crime statistics for the three LSOAs in the BL area www.ukcrimestats.com