

## **GRIMSBY / CLEETHOIRPES / N E LINCSEast Marsh and Sydney Sussex Wards**

Adjacent to the docks. Old inner 'city' terraced housing with some retail

### **DECLINE AND STAGNATION**

1950's/1960's A thriving fishing town.

The largest fishing port in the world with over 400 deep sea trawlers.

Fishing in the North Sea and the Arctic Ocean around Iceland. 50-60 % of the jobs in Grimsby related to the fishing industry, on trawlers, dock workers, fish market, maintenance and supply, transport and fish processing (Bird's Eye and Findus).

By the mid 1970's employment related to fishing was down to 20% and today it is less than 5%. A total devastation of the industry with associated economic decline in the town and rising unemployment.

Caused by the loss of the Arctic Ocean fishing grounds after the 'cod wars' with Iceland and the European Union common fisheries policy of allocating quotas to each country's fishing fleet in an attempt to preserve fish stocks.

Impacts on the East Marsh and Sydney Sussex wards. Dereliction on the docks, abandoned buildings. Urban and industrial blight.

High levels of deprivation, one of the most deprived areas in the UK.

Run down terraced housing, privately rented, poorly maintained, damp and cold.

Educational deprivation, cultural and material deprivation, inner city sink schools, poor educational achievement.

Limited access to any new jobs in the service and tertiary sectors leading to income deprivation.

Crime, vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, high percentage of ethnic minorities and single parent families. A spiral of decline.

Cleethorpes road and Freeman street retail areas in decline, many closures.

The whole area needed redevelopment and regeneration.

New out of town industrial estates were established such as Europarc adjacent to the A180/M180 route to the west. This Enterprise Zone with low rents and rates attracted new hi-tech industries, food, renewables and innovative businesses. But the residents and families of East Marsh and Sydney Sussex that had been employed in primary and manufacturing sectors and/or were poorly educated were not qualified or suited to the new service / tertiary / quaternary sector jobs. The tertiarisation of the local economy has by-passed the residents of East Marsh and Sydney Sussex.

The N E Lincs council has put forward ideas to try to regenerate the area, but they have so far been ineffectual and the East marsh and Sydney Sussex wards are still among the most deprived in the country.

The derelict land on the docks is ripe for regeneration, maybe a heritage based re-branding with retail, sports and leisure, hotels, restaurants and residential, but nothing has happened yet.

The local plans are high in visions for regeneration, infrastructure and educational improvements, children and families, housing improvements, reductions in poverty and deprivation, but low in actual initiatives and projects.

The area continues to stagnate. Failure!!

