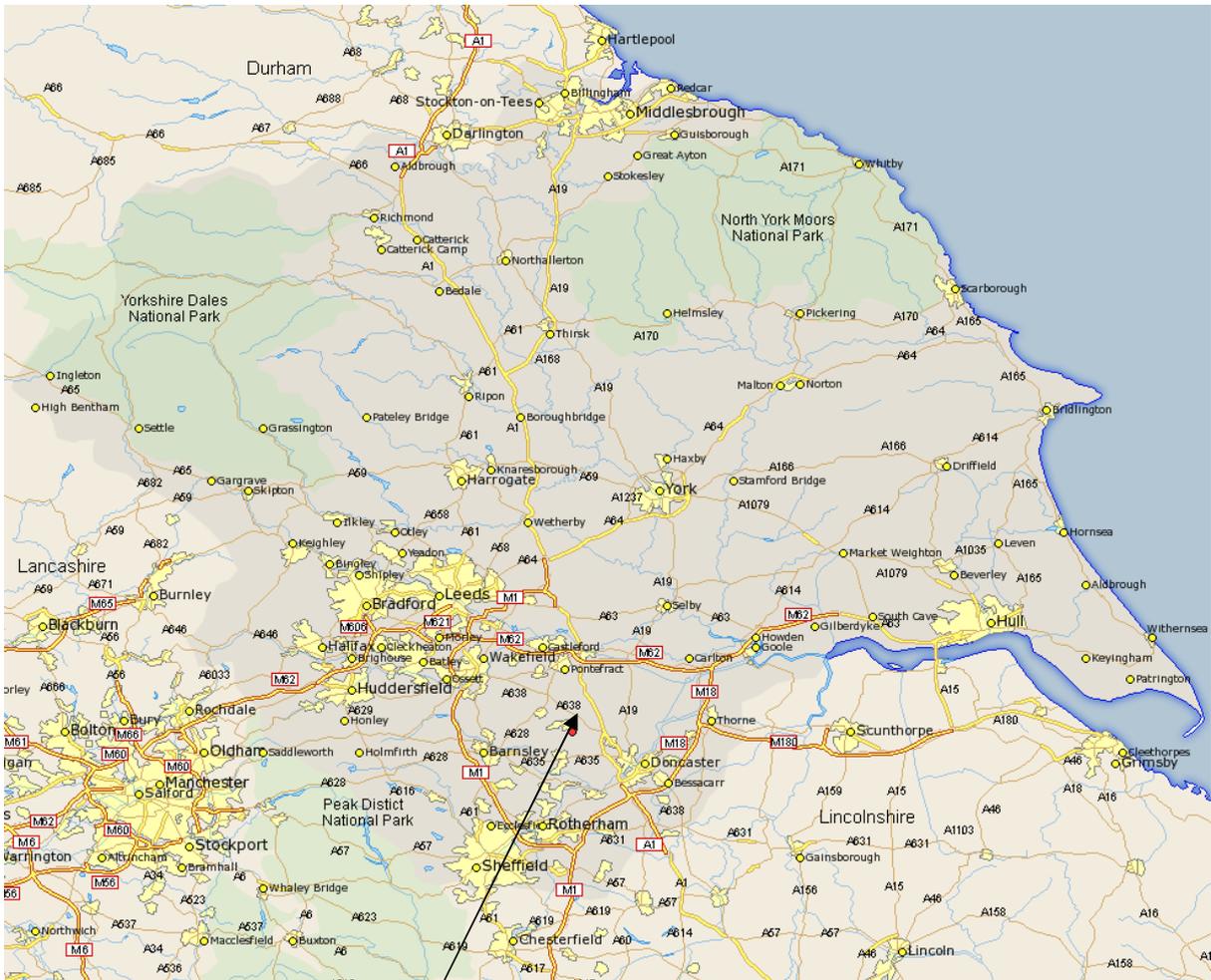


SOUTH ELMSALL COMMUNITY PROFILE

by

CLARE L BAXTER



Google Maps 2013

Red circle highlights South Elmsall

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Part One

Introduction

Welcome to the community of South Elmsall. This community profile will give you an insight into the physical and local environment where our residents enjoy a sense of community and well-being. I try to cover all aspects of the town and its residents before sharing service provision and demographics of this West Yorkshire town situated in Northern England, Western Europe.

1.

The identity and distinctiveness of the locality of South Elmsall

According to local historians the village of South Elmsall was a small agricultural community until the industrial revolution when the village began to grow. In 1893 South Elmsall only had 58 houses and corn milling was one of the main industries in the village.

The village began its change in the late 19th century. During 1866 the Doncaster to Wakefield railway was completed and this meant that people could reach nearby towns and villages more easily.

The opening of Frickley Colliery in 1903 meant the population of South Elmsall grew quite rapidly. The Colliery provided the livelihood for the area and as the mine flourished so did the town. New housing estates were built along with schools and services, which sustained the mine and the growing population. The mine closed in 1993.

The area today is the home and headquarters to 'Next' a large retail distribution company. The local market is also a central feature of the village and is currently undergoing renovations. The market plays host to approximately 105 trading stalls which is remarkable for a provincial market. The town has a railway station on the Leeds and Wakefield line. There is a thriving high street with shops such as Superdrug, Hallmark cards, Boots, Greggs, Asda and Sainsburys. There is a large industrial estate for national organisations. The industrial estate itself reflects the changing fortunes of the area being one of the key expansion areas since the closure of the local colliery. In 2005 it was announced the majority of the former colliery would be reclaimed to provide a high quality country park. Today the area is currently undergoing a lot of development and is being advertised as a commuter town for the local city of Leeds. More people are moving into South Elmsall and commuting to the cities of Leeds or Sheffield for work and opportunities. The town is expected to increase its population in the coming years and this is being helped with the building of a further 700 properties in the town by national developers such as

Barratt Homes. The site of former Frickley Colliery has been transformed after a £7million investment by the National Coalfields Programme, delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency. Now it is a park designed for the whole community to enjoy.

The regeneration of Frickley Country Park has been developed and managed by Yorkshire Forward and Wakefield Council

WMDC – 2014



South Elmsall Railway Station

Google – 2012



South Elmsall Market

Google – 2008

2

Topography

The topography of South Elmsall is a former coalfield area and is underlain by coal measures which consist mainly of mudstone with beds of sandstone and many seams of coal. The sandstones resist erosion so they form a recurring pattern of escarpments that stand out from the shallow mudstone floors of the valleys. The major rivers crossing the area have carved broad valleys which have been glaciated and are floored by fertile alluvial deposits. (Genuki online 2014).



Frickley Country Park

Google 2011

3

Buildings

As a result of the mine's expansion at the beginning of the 1900s new modern houses were built for the expanding area of South Elmsall. The newly built homes included inside toilets and good sized gardens. There are however a number of tudor style black and white buildings on the main high street, but these were not built during the 16th century, but instead were built during the 1900s in a later revival period. There are three Grade II listed building in South Elmsall, Broad Lane Farm East Farmhouse, Hill House Rock House Farmhouse and Cherry Tree Farmhouse. These properties were registered during the 1960s and 1980s. The farmhouses were built during the 1800s when the town was mainly a farming community in its longer ago history.

Part 2

4

Community Spirit

I have based my findings on my local knowledge and experience of living in the area for over thirty five years.

The former mining village, which sits just off the A1 on the edge of Wakefield, was decimated in 1993 when the pit closed, leaving multiple generations without work

and whole families on the bread line. Twenty years later, life is still tough in this tight-knit community. The people of South Elmsall are kind and caring, and are proud of their roots. They obviously got a lot of this community spirit from below ground working in the mines and looking out for each other in dark and dangerous conditions. The residents living in the town aren't bitter about any of the injustices they suffered but I am not sure if its long term community spirit will survive without further support and investment in the area. The local brass band is perhaps the last flowering of the mining community. A recent study by Sheffield and Hallamshire University has identified that there are still significant problems for the majority of coalfield communities such as fewer jobs, lower business formation rates, higher unemployment rates, more people with serious health issues, higher numbers of people in receipt of welfare benefits and a struggling voluntary and community sector than national averages. Millions of pounds have been spent regenerating South Elmsall, People feel safe, it is more than just a town, because the people who live here have a real emotional attachment to the place.

(Sheffield and Hallamshire University available from www.shu.ac.uk)

The miners strike had a massive impact on the area of South Elmsall, life it was feared would never be the same again, and in many respects it is not..



ITV Archives 1984

The definition of a town called South Elmsall

There are many definitions of small towns in England according to Lord Cameron of Dillington. The settlements with populations of between 1500 and 40,000 are usually situated within open countryside, around bigger towns and cities and in agricultural areas and hill country.

Recent work to classify small towns by their social and economic characteristics suggests that they fall within a small number of clear groups. There are, for example the fast growing small towns of the Bristol- Cambridge belt with young families and households and with workers in professional and administrative jobs. There are a number of small towns and large villages like South Elmsall in the former coalfields of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire that are socially and economically disadvantaged and lack basic services. Other types of rural town are clearly characterised by their demographic structure and employment mix, with significant

differences at local levels. Our towns provide the quality of life to which people aspire.

(Lord Cameron Dillington available from www.smalltownsfortomorrow.org)

5

Local Government Structure for South Elmsall

Some parts of England have a third tier of local government. Town and parish councils are responsible for smaller local services such as parks, community centres, allotments and war memorials. The third tier of government for South Elmsall is South Elmsall Town Council. The Town Council is an independent corporate body created under the Local Government Act 1972; the legislation which was responsible for the wholesale reorganisation of the local system in England with effect from 1st April 1974. The Town Council forms part of the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. The Metropolitan Districts are unitary authorities; they can be called metropolitan district councils, metropolitan borough councils or metropolitan city councils.

Metropolitan districts are responsible for: education, highways, transport planning, passenger transport, social care, housing, libraries, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, waste disposal, planning applications, strategic planning and local taxation collection.

The incumbent member of Parliament for South Elmsall is Jon Trickett, former Leader of City of Leeds Council.



Google 2012

6

Service Provision

Service Provision provided by Wakefield MDC, Wakefield District Housing and West Yorkshire Police for South Elmsall

Housing services – Are managed by WDH (Wakefield District Housing), this also includes the housing waiting list and assessing homeless people. The organisation has the responsibility for assessing applications for housing benefit and paying it.

Anti-social behaviour – This is managed by WMDC (Wakefield Metropolitan District Council) who have a crime prevention partnership between local organisations including the police, probation service, youth and social services and South Elmsall Town Council.

Planning – This is managed by WMDC who have the responsibility for granting planning permission and so is an important department for developing housing associations. Minor planning applications are often delegated to council officers but large developments will always be referred to the planning committee.

Local Education Authority (LEA) – WMDC has the responsibility for maintaining secondary, primary and nursery schools as well as special schools and pupil referral units.

Highways and transport – WMDC has responsibility for transport policy, network planning, maintenance, design and development, street lighting and road safety.

Community and youth services – WMDC is responsible for a range of services directed at the community and young people from youth clubs to community centres.

Police and Crime – Is provided by West Yorkshire Police who promote safer neighbourhoods with visible policing and intergrated partnership working

Service Provision in South Elmsall provided by South Elmsall Town Council

Westfield Lane Allotments
Broad Lane Allotments
Bus Station
St Mary's Allotments
Priory Estate open space
Station Fields Allotments
Station Fields Grazing plots
Recreational Ground between Beech Street and Langthwaite Lane
Cenotaph opposite South Elmsall Fire Station
Open space at the front of South Elmsall United Services Club
Weston Hall Community Centre, Westfield Lane
Railway Station
Social Centre, Westfield Lane
South Elmsall Market
Westfield Centre, Westfield Lane
Bowling Green, Westfield Lane
Tennis Courts, Westfield Lane
Public Toilets, Westfield Lane

7.

Economic Activity in South Elmsall

Wakefield MDC have a committee who are specifically involved in scrutinising, monitoring and reviewing work undertaken to support and drive regeneration, planning investment and enterprise for South Elmsall and the wider district. The committee is responsible for:

- Rural issues – including the rural economy.
- Libraries, leisure and cultural services.
- Highways - including footpaths and public rights of way.
- Work relating to streetscene and public open spaces.
- Work relating to waste collection and disposal.
- The transportation network, connectivity and road safety.
- Delivery of the Jobs and Growth Plan and related delivery plans.
- Activities to promote financial inclusion, skills and employment.
- The work of the South Elmsall Town Centre Partnership.

South Elmsall did see steady improvement to employment growth during 2002 to 2007 but like most of England this declined during 2008 following the global recession. The coal industry, wool and textiles, chemicals and glass were the traditional industries for South Elmsall and the surrounding areas. These have largely been replaced by a new breed of service industries that have helped to stimulate the economy and have resulted in a much lower unemployment rate.

8.

Social Organisation in South Elmsall

South Elmsall does not currently have a social organisation policy or a set of projects or processes which are intentionally designed to constitute an explicit commitment to social organisation. However, a number of groups from across the Town and District Council have been involved in work which demonstrates socially, economically and environmentally responsible values and behaviours. As a local council, it is already our core business to provide services of social value and to conduct ourselves in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible way. Unlike private sector organisations, our priorities are not restricted predominantly by profit margins. From social care and regeneration to education and recycling services, our business practices already care for our community, support our local economy and look after our environment. In many ways, our core business is social responsibility, looking out for our community and engaging with local sports groups, churches and other organisations.

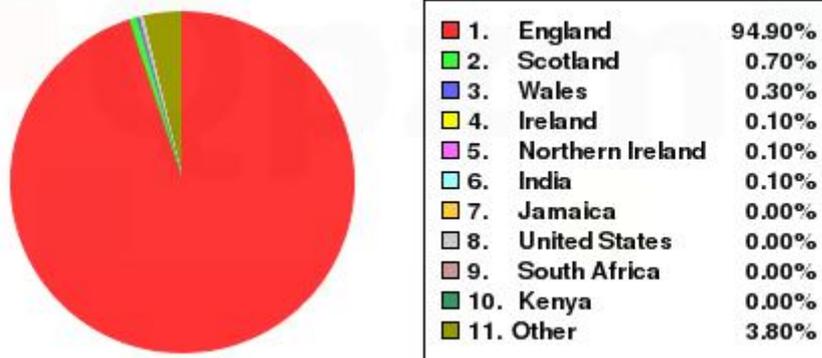
9.

Demographics for South Elmsall

In the 2011 census the population of South Elmsall and South Kirkby was 17,624 and is made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. The demographics for South Elmsall and South Kirkby are taken together as they are difficult to separate due to geographical boundaries crossing into each other.

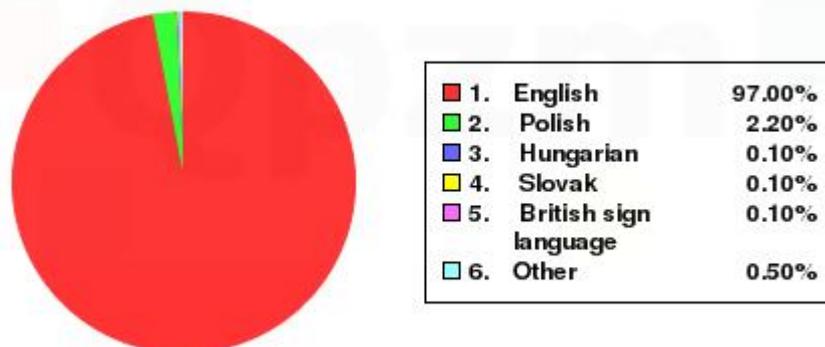
The average age of people in South Elmsall and South Kirkby is 39, while the median age is higher at 40.

94.9% of people living in South Elmsall and South Kirkby were born in England. Other top answers for country of birth were 0.7% Scotland, 0.3% Wales, 0.1% Ireland, 0.1% Northern Ireland, 0.1% India, 0.0% Jamaica, 0.0% United States, 0.0% South Africa, 0.0%



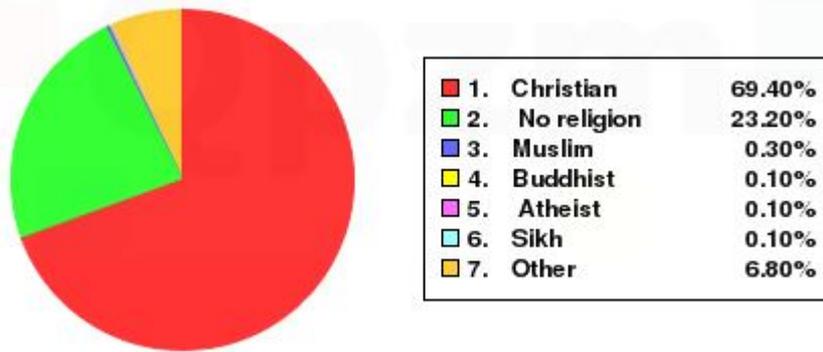
Kenya.

97.0% of people living in South Elmsall and South Kirkby speak English. The other top languages spoken are 2.2% Polish, 0.1% Hungarian, 0.1% Slovak, 0.1% British



sign language.

The religious make up of South Elmsall and South Kirkby is 69.4% Christian, 23.2% No religion, 0.3% Muslim, 0.1% Buddhist, 0.1% Atheist, 0.1% Sikh.



1,147 people did

not state a religion. 18 people identified as a Jedi Knight.

45.5% of people are married, 13.7% cohabit with a member of the opposite sex, 0.6% live with a partner of the same sex, 22.7% are single and have never married or been in a registered same sex partnership, 9.3% are separated or divorced. There are 1,007 widowed people living in South Elmsall and South Kirkby.

The top occupations listed by people in South Elmsall and South Kirkby are Elementary (professionals) 24.4%, Elementary (professional) administration and service 21.6%, Skilled trades 12.1%, Process, plant and machine operatives 10.7%, Caring, leisure and other service 10.5%, Administrative and secretarial 10.2%, Associate professional and technical 8.8%, Caring personal service 8.5%, Professional 8.2%, Administrative 7.8%.

South Elmsall Benefits & Unemployment Statistics

These figures on the claiming of benefits in South Elmsall come from the Department for Work & Pensions and are dated 2011. They can often be a good indicator of the prosperity of the town and possible indicator of how hard it would be to get employment in the area. The rate of unemployment in South Elmsall is both higher than the average for and higher than the national average, suggesting that finding a job in this area maybe hard. The rate of claiming any benefit (or unemployment income)(which includes in work benefits) is more than 25% higher in South Elmsall than the national average, suggesting that many people maybe under employed or on a low salary.

BENEFIT	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
Jobseekers Allowance (only)	4.3%	3.3%
Incapacity Benefits (IB or ESA)	3.4%	2.4%
Any Benefit (includes in work benefits)	17.8%	13.5%

South Elmsall Age Distribution Statistics

The population of Wakefield as a whole, is older than the national average. The population of South Elmsall is also older than the average, making South Elmsall a older persons location.

AGE	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
Age 0 to 4	6%	6.3%
Age 5 to 9	5.5%	5.6%
Age 10 to 14	5.8%	5.8%
Age 15 to 17	3.9%	3.7%
Age 18 to 24	8.3%	9.4%
Age 25 to 29	6.4%	6.9%
Age 30 to 44	20%	20.6%
Age 45 to 59	20.8%	19.4%
Age 60 to 64	6.5%	6%
Age 65 to 74	9.3%	8.6%
Age 75 to 84	5.6%	5.5%
Age 85 and over	2.1%	2.3%
Mean Age	40.2	39.3
Median Age	41	39

South Elmsall General Health Statistics

The respondents of the 2011 Census were asked to rate their health. These are the results for South Elmsall. The percentage of residents in South Elmsall rating their health as 'very good' is less than the national average. Also the percentage of residents in South Elmsall rating their health as 'very bad' is more than the national average, suggesting that the health of the residents of South Elmsall is generally worse than in the average person in England.

HEALTH	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
Very Good	42.75%	47.17%
Good	34.04%	34.22%

Fair	15.53%	13.12%
Bad	5.99%	4.25%
Very Bad	1.70%	1.25%

South Elmsall Immigration Statistics

These figures for Country of Birth for the residents of South Elmsall are from the UK Census of 2011. Since South Elmsall has a higher level of residents born in the UK than the national average and a lower rate of residents either born in other EU countries or outside the EU, it does not have a significant immigrant population.

COUNTRY	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
United Kingdom	94.6%	86.2%
Republic of Ireland	0.2%	0.7%
Other EU Countries	2.4%	3.7%
Outside the EU	2.8%	9.4%

South Elmsall Property Ownership & Rental Statistics

These figures for property ownership are from the UK Census of 2011 and show that the majority of residents in Wakefield district are home owners, proving residents like to put down roots and create loyal communities.

TENURE	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
Owned	29%	30.6%
Mortgage	34.6%	32.8%
Shared	0.5%	0.8%
Social Rented (Council)	17.2%	9.4%
Social Rented (Housing Assoc)	6.4%	8.3%
Private Rented	10.2%	15.4%
Other	1.2%	1.4%
Rent Free	0.9%	1.3%

South Elmsall Education Statistics

These statistics are for the highest level education obtained by the residents of South Elmsall and are from the UK Census of 2011. South Elmsall has a high level of residents with either no qualifications or qualifications equal to 1 or more GCSE at grade D or below, than the national average.

QUALIFICATION	WAKEFIELD	ENGLAND
No Qualifications	31.1%	22.5%
Level 1	14.6%	13.3%
Level 2	16.1%	15.2%
Apprenticeship	4.4%	3.6%
Level 3	10.6%	12.4%
Level 4	18.3%	27.4%
Other	4.9%	5.7%

Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed this insight into South Elmsall and got a flavour for the place and its residents.

You can see that South Elmsall is a close knit town with a strong, active and resilient community that is cohesive. The people of our town trust one another and trust the local institutions such as South Elmsall Town Council to act fairly and for their best interests.

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