International Perspectives on Low Income Areas and Social Exclusion

Anne Power, LSE Housing and Communities

Social Impacts and Social Equity Issues in Transport – Workshop Series

London School of Economics

21 June 2011
Low income areas across Europe

- Found in all countries
- 2 main forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inner City</th>
<th>Outer Edge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed use</td>
<td>Brutalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-racial</td>
<td>Breaking with urban form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>Unpopular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lacking key infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cut-off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saint-Étienne – outer edge
Saint-Étienne – inner city
Collapse of major industrial base
Bilbao and Belfast
Collapse of major industries

- Common pattern across Europe
- Undermined rationale for mass housing
- Created stranded communities
- Housing former workforce industrial workforce
- Post-colonial economic migrants, refugees and ‘guest-workers’
- Led to rapid physical decay and obsolescence
- Resulted in extraordinarily high unemployment
- Concentrated many forms of deprivation together
- Drove low demand and rise in empty property
Pattern repeated across Europe

Torino

Saint-Étienne
Rescue Programmes

• Innovative responses – both in inner and outer areas
• Decision to embark on neighbourhood renewal
• Demolition of ‘over-sized’ blocks in outer areas
• ‘scalped’ demolition in inner areas
• Creation of neighbourhood management structures
• Involvement with diverse communities to hold onto residents
• New community services and social enterprises
• Long process of reinvestment over 20+ years
• On-going challenge of poverty and inequality
• Ghetto/gentrification controversy
Neighbourhood renewal
Mirafiori Nord, Torino
Mirafiori Nord, Torino
Gröpelingen, Bremen
Outcomes

• Visible impacts
• Impressive innovations
• More social spaces
• Task unfinished – like Forth Bridge
• New imperatives
  – Energy saving
  – Community stability
  – Integration
  – Public realm
  – Connectivity
  – SMEs
  – Production v. consumption
Leipzig
Osterholz Tenever, Bremen
TOP 4: Bedarfe

1. Spielplatz für ältere Menschen
2. Kostenlos Frühstück für Kinder (Ellener Brock Weg)
   400 - 500 € / Monat
3. Kinderkulturprojekt
   10.000 €
4. „Dance for Live“ (Tanzprojekt)
   4.000 €
5. Einrichtung eines Kinderatelier
6. Vortragung TOA/ Schlichtungstelle
   15.000 €
7. 35 Jahre Hahnenkamp
   3.000 €
8. Erweiterung des Jugendtreffs Hahnenkamp
   25.000 €
Saint-Étienne
Energy Intensity and Environmental Limits

• Former industrial cities thrived on energy
• Now they suffer from the consequences
• But they are reinventing themselves
• They may offer a new lower impact pathway
More walkable streets – Bilbao
Bilbao

New tram

Burying trains
Sea turbine - Belfast
Bikes are everywhere
Contrasting outcomes in inner and outer areas

**Inner**
- Density
- Proximity
- Job opportunities
- Active streets
- Mixed uses
- Existing infrastructure
- Transport

**Outer**
- Harsh environment
- Far from job opportunities
- Open plan/unusable space
- Few services/shops
- Poor/slow transport links
- Sense of isolation
Saint-Étienne – unfinished sites
Inner cities – signs of recovery

• Revaluing city spaces
• Revaluing established neighbourhoods
• Attractions of mixed neighbourhoods
• Dense interchange
• Revitalisation of public transport, shops
• Easy access to core city
• Scope for emerging new enterprises
New transport links: Saint-Étienne
Transport infrastructure: Leipzig
Outer estates continue to struggle

• Physical structures hard to adapt
• Difficult to soften open areas
• Barriers to new enterprises or job opportunities
• Linkages to existing city still tenuous
• But –
  – Intensive, on-site management helps
  – Stronger community links encourage social stability
  – Transport improvements help
• City sprawl means distances are shrinking
• Outer city gradually incorporated
Big divide between inner and outer areas
Leipzig
Bilbao
Lessons

• Don’t build big lumps of housing outside core city
• Avoid monolithic, mono-tenure estates
• Outer estates can be saved
• Vital infrastructure includes transport
• Densify existing areas
• Reclaim/reuse existing buildings
• Follow urban design principles
  – Density/mixed use/public space/people NOT car-friendly