



# Chapter 4

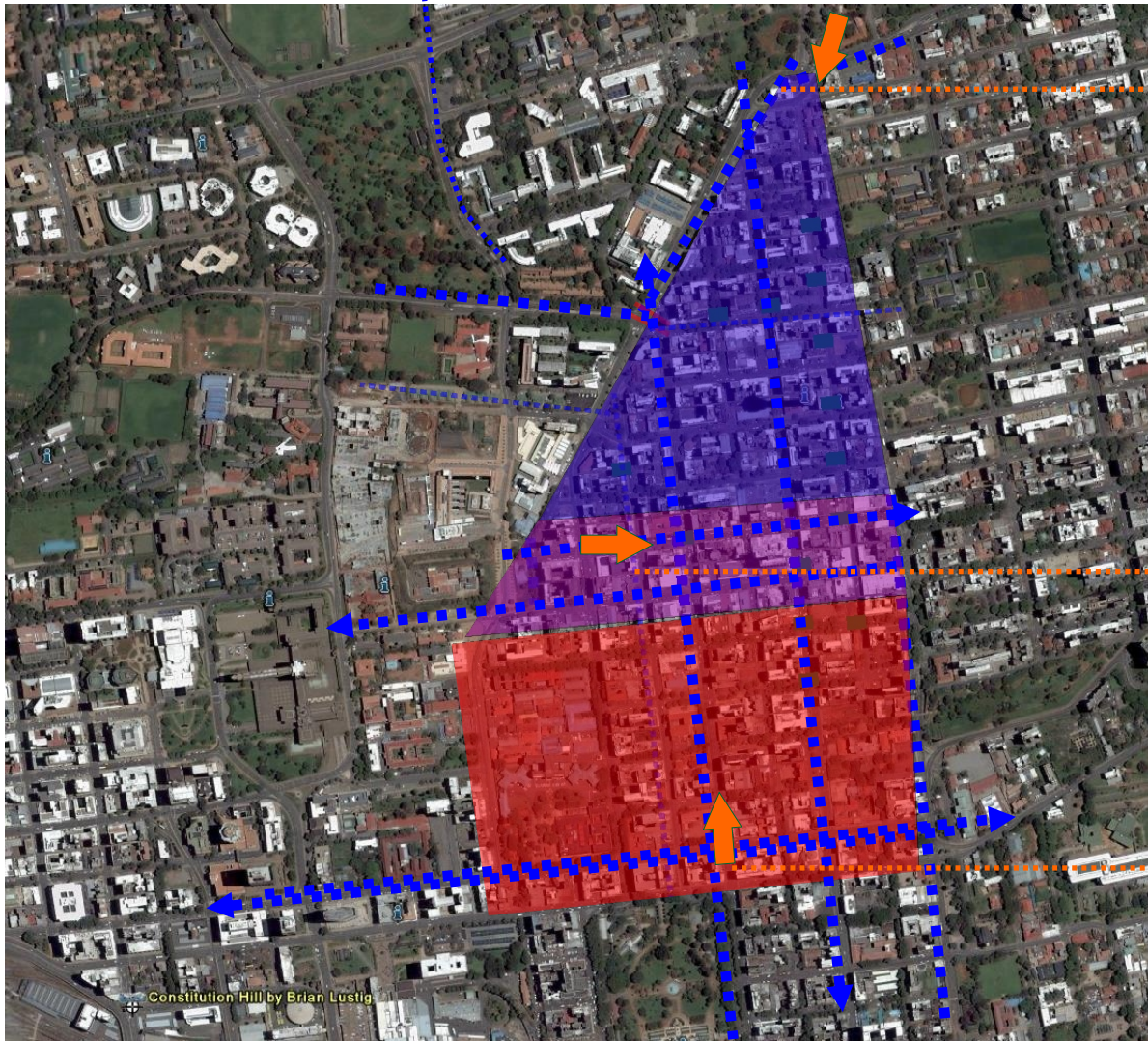
**.An analysis of Hillbrow**

**.Social problems in Hillbrow**

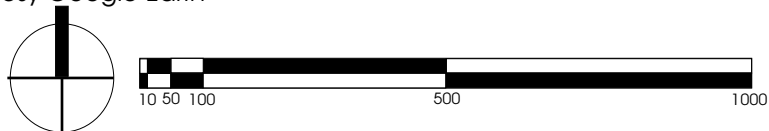


Courtesy Google Earth

## Sub-area analysis



Courtesy Google Earth



Hillbrow north: High rise residential buildings of mixed physical condition, with some business activity adjacent to stable, well maintained areas



Hillbrow business spine: Existing businesses adjacent to Pretoria and Kotze streets



Hillbrow south: High rise, poorly maintained, residential area incorporating medical functions

Source: Author's own

# Street locations



Claim Street



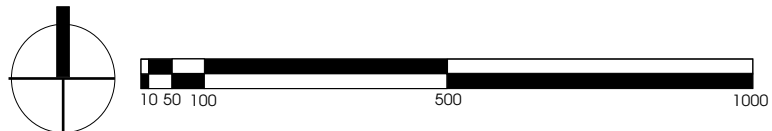
Pretoria Street



Twist Street

Source: Author's own

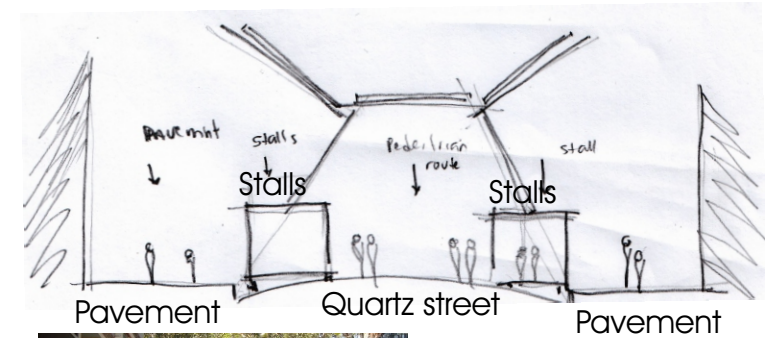
Courtesy Google Earth



## Commercial areas



Courtesy Google Earth



Quartz street market  
Existing pedestrian market



Hillbrow commercial hub:  
Existing clothing shops, fast food, cinema, gyms, pool, bars, etc.

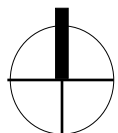
Source: Author's own



## Vehicular route and pedestrian linkages



Courtesy Google Earth



Main roads running north-south include, Claim Street and Twist Street, which cut through Hillbrow linking to the south of Johannesburg.

Smith and Wolmarans, run east-west between southern Hillbrow and Joubert park.

Clarendon place creates a buffer between hillbrow and Parktown. Kotze and Pretoria Streets are the commercial heart of Hillbrow and split the area into the north and south.

-  Major entry point into Hillbrow
-  Major pedestrian routes
-  Major vehicular routes
-  Bus stops

## Green spaces



Parks in the area include

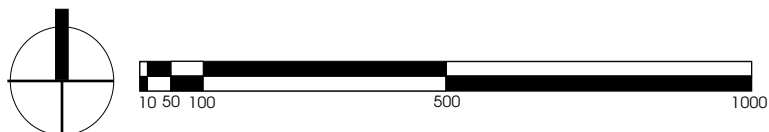
- Pieter Roos Park
- Joubert park
- Alec Groschel Park
- Pullinger Kop
- Donald Makay Park

Sports feilds in the area include

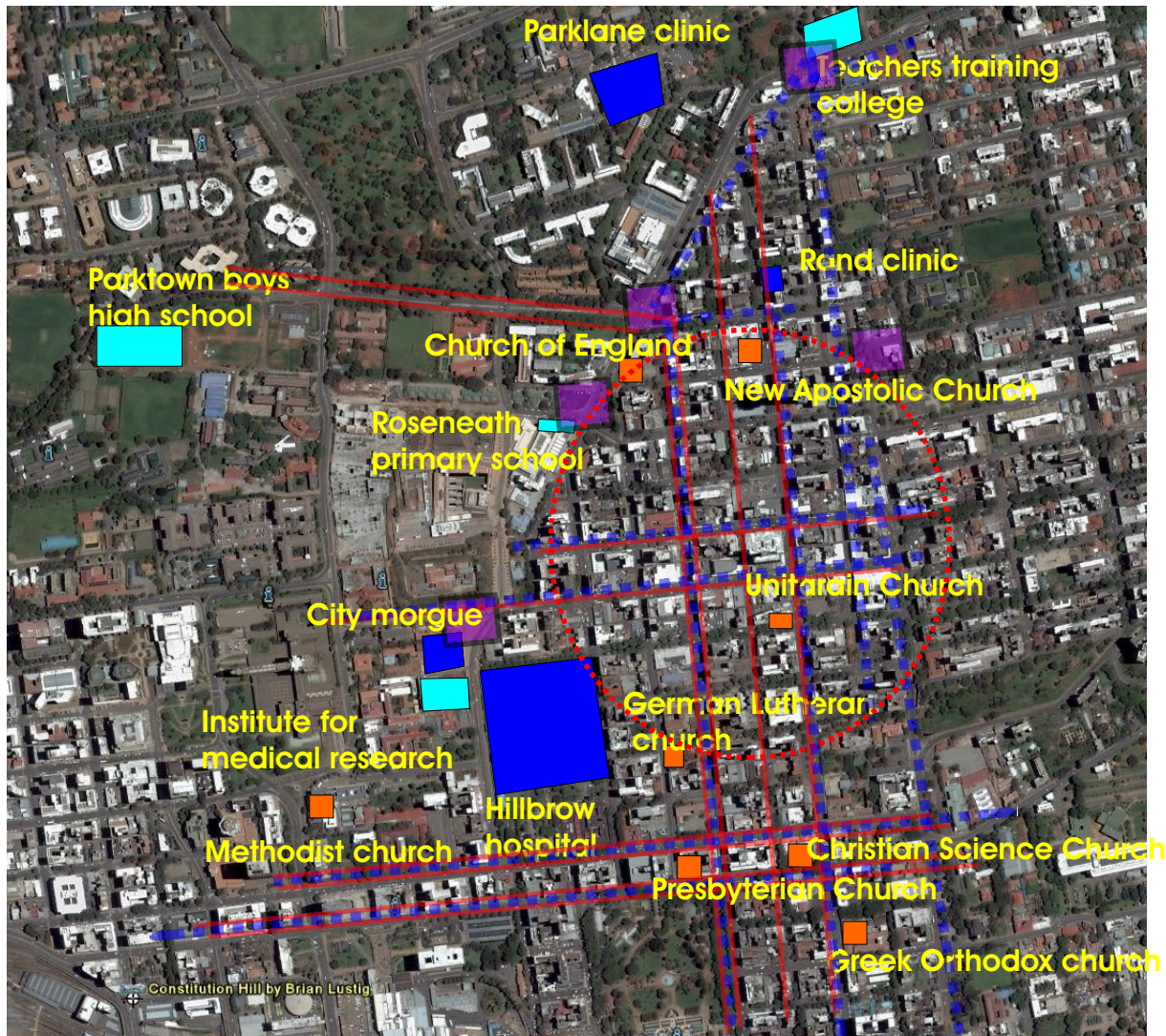
- Barnato Park
- JHB girls sport field

- 5minutes walk
- 10minutes walk

Courtesy Google Earth



## Schools, Clinics, Churches and Recreation center



Courtesy Google Earth

### Schools in the area include

- Teachers training college
- Parktown boys high school
- Institute for medical research
- Roseneath primary school

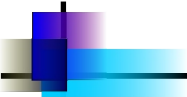
### Clinics in the area include

- Parklane clinic
- Rand clinic
- Hillbrow hospital precinct

### Churches in the area include

- Church of England
- Unitarian Church
- German Lutheran church
- Presbyterian Church
- Christian Science Church
- Greek Orthodox church
- Methodist church
- New Apostolic Church

 5 minutes walk



## Conclusions

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### **Sub areas**

Hillbrow splits into three portions

- Hillbrow north: Perceived by the residents of Hillbrow to be the safest portion.
- The business spine: This is the commercial heart of Hillbrow.
- Hillbrow south: this houses all of the medical precinct.

### **Commercial areas**

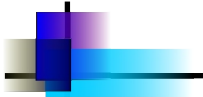
This is where the most intense formal trading happens. And because of this trade, there is plenty pedestrian and vehicular activity.

### **Vehicular and Pedestrian movements**

High traffic flows [on Claim, Twist, Pretoria, Kotze, Smith and Wolmarans Street] as well as easy accessibility favour commercial activities.

### **Green areas**

Though there are no sport or green spaces in Hillbrow, adjacent areas with green spaces are all within a 10 minute walking distance from Pretoria or Kotze Streets.



## Social problems in Hillbrow

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In an attempt to further understand Hillbrow, the use of informal conversations, observations and semi-structured interviews were employed. The author walked round, taking different peoples' perception on situations such as; life styles, living conditions and other social conflicts such as; prostitution, drugs and robbery in Hillbrow. These were done in an open discussion format, speaking to youths on the streets and in buildings.

The outcomes informed him on the problem spots as perceived by the residents of Hillbrow which was vital in the selection of a site.



## Robbery

Armed robbery, assault, and residential burglary, what actually goes on?

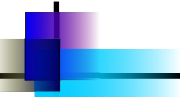
Although there seems to be lots of literature presenting Hillbrow as a very dangerous suburban in Johannesburg, most respondents were not consistent to that view. Such is represented in the following response by a seemingly conversant and old resident of the area;

*'I've never actually seen an assault or robbery happen in Hillbrow, but I see it on the television'.*

Despite such information, the fear of crime is clearly visible. People were observed to be walking on one side of the Street (where Ockerse Street meets with Twist Street) because of the fear of being mugged in broad daylight

## Prostitution

This is probably the business that has grown most extensively in Hillbrow since the mid 1980's. There are several hotels and blocks of flats which are explicitly oriented towards the provision of sex workers and 'adult entertainment'. Morris (1999) reported in his interview in Hillbrow that most of the girls (prostitutes) are usually on drugs and the girls are giving themselves away for something as little as R50 where as their normal prize is R150. The girls are so desperate to get 'it' (cocaine/crack). He further goes on to explain that the link between prostitution and Hillbrow is definitely drugs, otherwise the woman becomes a nymph or she's sick.



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## Drugs

'Drugs cause such an incredible 'high', but they are expensive' says a respondent.

*'The people selling the drugs are truly smart people, they get you hooked on it, mandrax, dagga, heroine, crack and the ultimate, cocaine, real easy, because it feels good elixir... you forget your problems, that's why these homeless kids take so much cheap glue'.* Another participant explains,

'What actually happens?' According to this respondent;

*'The drugs that give you the best highs, are expensive so the dealers exchange them for either a lot of cash or for something just as expensive that are usually stolen. So the guys will steal things, phones and whatever they can find, to exchange for the drugs... the women seeing they cannot steal will exchange the drugs for sex.'*

There are inconsistencies observed in their responses on the availability and knowledge of the drug users in Hillbrow. While quite a number of those interacted with said they know people who use drugs and could tell you where it could be gotten, others said they had not seen it used in the area but had read about it in the papers or seen its effect on the television. The fact is that a lot of people in Hillbrow have lots of information on drugs and its uses including the effects.

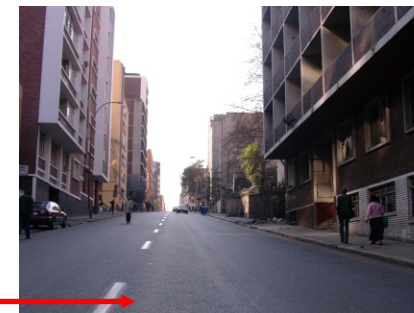
The following information regarding drugs were conclusive from the interviews,

- Dagga is produced by black farmers, sold by black people to all kinds of people.
- Mandrax is produced/imported mostly by the Indians and Coloured people and sold mostly to the Indians and the Coloured people.
- Cocaine and heroine are produced/ imported by the other foreigners and sold mostly to White people.

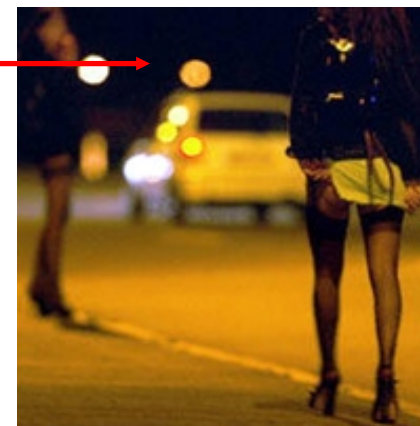
## Problem spots



Drugs in this area include mandrax, (methaqualone and diphenhydramine) crushed and smoked with tobacco and 'magat' usually in a bottle neck, dagga, heroine, crack and cocaine



The fear of crime is clearly visible people walking on one side of the street (where Ockerse meets Twist) because of the fear of being mugged in broad daylight.

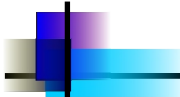


### Prostitution

Probably the business that has grown most extensively in Hillbrow since the mid 1980's has been the sex industry.

Moris A [1999]

According to residents in Hillbrow, these are locations where the sale of drugs, robbery and prostitution happens the most frequent.



## Statement of the problem

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The future of the world is unavoidably urban and the well being of the youths will continue to be inextricably tied to that of the cities. Conclusions from the analysis of Hillbrow indicate that there is an absence of social facilities that could engage the youths profitably. This together with the overpopulation and crimes are just few of the problems the youth face in Hillbrow. All these problems have serious ecological, social and economic implications for the society as well as the individuals involved. Special intervention package that will address these issues is mandatory and eminent to address the needs of the wasting youths in Hillbrow and its environs.

### **Justifying Social Hot Spot in Hillbrow**

For a community such as Hillbrow to function and be sustainable, the basic needs of its residents must be met. A socially sustainable community must have the ability to maintain and build on its own resources and have the resiliency to prevent and/or address problems in the future.

Having stated this, what this thesis hopes to accomplish for the youth of Hillbrow is the provision of resources that are able to build social sustainability. Resources such as 'human capacity' are described by Rick & Mario (2005) as the resources in which individuals contribute to their own well being and to the well being of the community as a whole. Catering for this resource, they also explained will provide

- Opportunities to develop and upgrade skills. A variety of local employment opportunities throughout the region
- Opportunities to develop and make use of creativity and artistic expression
- Appropriate, affordable formal and informal life-long learning
- Appropriate, affordable recreation, leisure and cultural facilities and programs
- A range of opportunities for individuals to contribute to the health and well-being of the community.



In addition to the human capacity, this thesis will also provide for 'community capacity' which Rick & Mario (2005) explain as the relationships, networks and norms that facilitate collective action which are taken to improve the quality of life.

This community capacity will ensure

- Community economic development is encouraged
- That the youth are involved in public processes and their results.
- Opportunities and a place for social interaction in the community
- Opportunities, resources and a venue for a variety of arts, cultural and community activities
- Support and encouragement for community organizations and networks

In conclusion therefore, this thesis hopes to provide an environment in which the youths of Hillbrow;

- Have sufficient resources to participate fully in their community and have opportunities for personal development and advancement
- Possess both the right and the opportunity to enjoy all aspect of community life whilst interacting with other community members.
- Have the resiliency and ability to respond appropriately to change.