

STRATFORD ROAD (AREA 3)

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This part of the Stratford Road heading towards the City Centre is a vibrant, friendly but busy stretch of the road. It heads from the later, more suburban Hall Green into the Victorian, Edwardian inner city.

Hall Green Parade is now mainly takeaways and coffee shops, which have had outdoor seating areas made due to Covid-19 and a few of the older shops have remained with unusual advertising.

Heading towards Sparkhill before the road drops down the hill, there are views all the way into the city centre and beyond.

Vibrant fruit and vegetable shops abound alongside overflowing rubbish bins.

Older buildings have been transformed and given new life. The Mughal-e-Azam, formerly a church, gives the feel of being in North Africa with it's lights and fountains.

The stretch of the road before Sparkhill Park is full of shops selling all sorts of goods. The Sari and Gold Shops are mainly further along towards the City Centre.

The day I walked along was very poignant with donation points and collectors out organised by the local Mosques and Muslim organisations for The Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal. Sparkhill Park is open stretch of green along the Stratford Road. It is used by the locals and local wildlife. The squirrels are very friendly.

The new modernist fitness centre is next to old red brick Library. The old and the new compliment each other in a strange way.

The unique driving and parking of Sparkhill have been immortalised by Adil Ray in Citizen Khan and here is an example.
