

NEW SHOPS FOR PYRFORD & THE BYFLEETS

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PYR.19 THE SHOPS, PYRFORD

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A couple of weeks ago I mentioned the building of the houses on the Pyrford Woods Estate, but I should also have mentioned an essential element of that scheme – the building of the shops opposite the Post Office on the corner of Coldharbour Road and Lovelace Drive.

In January 1957, Columbus Properties Ltd (an associate company of E & L Berg Ltd, who were then building the Pyrford Woods Estate) proposed to erect 14 shops in what would eventually be known as Marshall's Parade. Another plan had included a public house, but there were numerous objections to that, and according to the local Residents' Association many even objected to the number of shops on the grounds that 'this number was too large and that as a result many would remain empty for a very long time – if ever used as such.'

They proposed that eight shops should be the maximum permitted – as originally planned – and in April it was announced that that was what Berg's were now planning to build (although the company were cautious about garnering actual support from the Resident's Association for their scheme). Their plans for eight shops with flats above was, however, approved by Woking Council (subject to some conditions regarding highways matters) in June 1957 – with amended plans also passed in

September that year. But Berg were wise not to rely on support from the local Resident's Association as a public meeting held in November at Pyrford Village Hall called for the council to 'revoke or modify the planning permission' – an action that the council flatly refused to do!

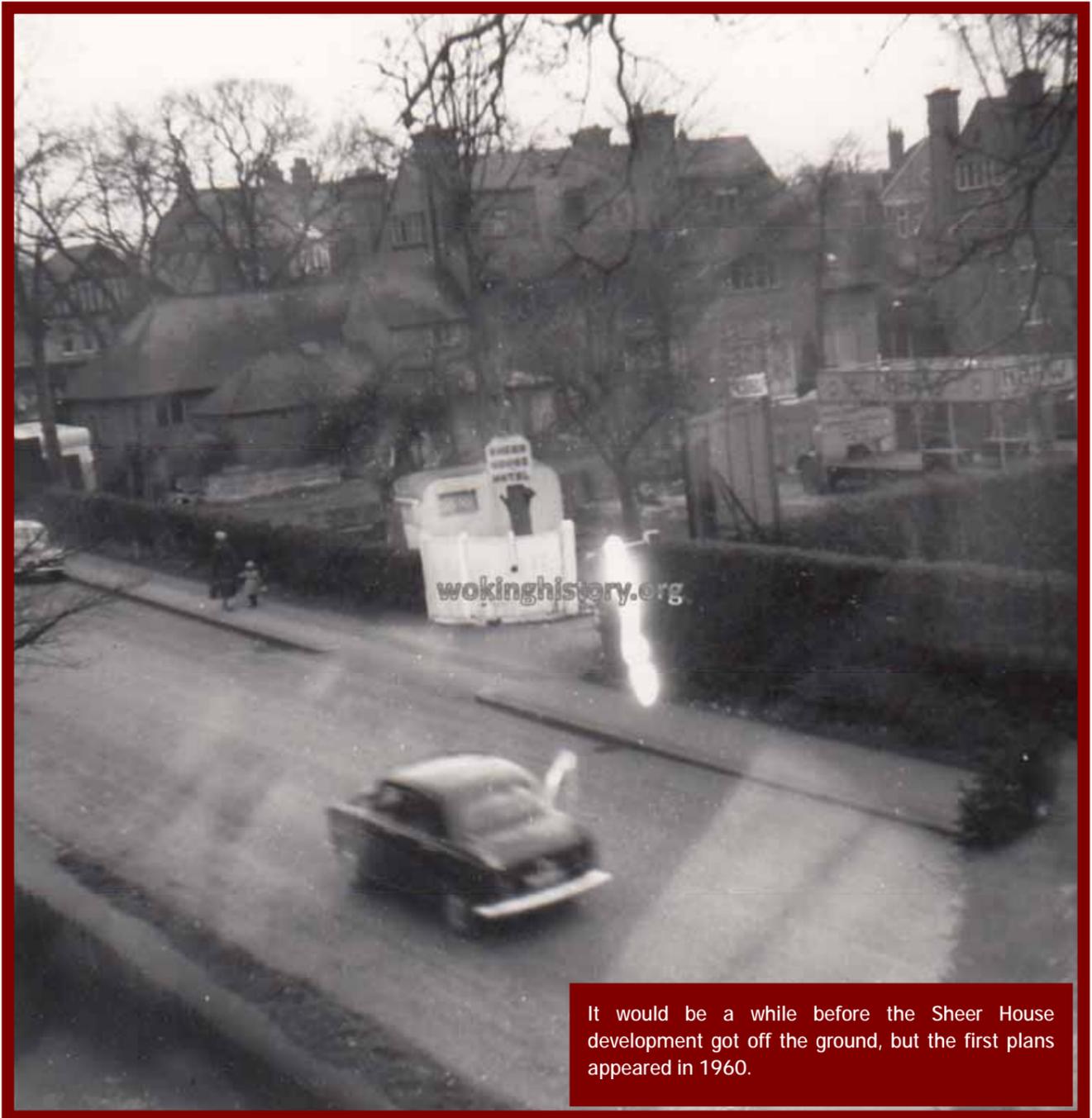
Named after the prominent Pyrford politician, Marshall's Parade went through a number of proposals before the current design was finally approved.

Meanwhile at West Byfleet major new development was also on the cards. In January 1960 the Norwich Union Insurance Society Ltd





Photographs of the Sheer House Hotel appear to be as rare as hen's teeth - the one above taken from Byfleet Corner, and the one right (from Lavender Park Road) being the only two I have managed to view so far.



It would be a while before the Sheer House development got off the ground, but the first plans appeared in 1960.

put in an application to Woking Council to redevelop the Sheer House Hotel at West Byfleet. The site, which included the village library and other properties between Byfleet Corner, Station Approach, Madeira Road and Lavender Park Road, was to include a block of six shops with living accommodation above, a further nine shops in another block, and a modest four-storey office block. The plans also included a car park for 270 vehicles, but perhaps unfortunately, the plans were turned down, presumably because the planners wanted something more ambitious (or ugly, depending on your point of view)!

Norwich Union, went away for a couple of months and came back in April with a proposal for twenty-five shops, a replacement library, seven flats on the first floor and 94 parking spaces, with offices on four floors above the flats and shops. Of course it would be several

years (and several amendments) before any development would take place, but I cannot help wonder whether ultimately the village would have been better off with the original Norwich Union scheme (let alone any new schemes for the site).

In Byfleet too, shopping developments were taking place with the forecourt of the shops of Petersham Parade at last made up and a number of new shops built throughout the village in the early 1960's. These included those on the site of the old Royston Place Hotel,



For ages the local resident's association had campaigned for the forecourt of Petersham Parade to be improved, and in 1960 they were successful.

the shops and flats that replaced Vanners Farm (illustrated last week) on the corner of the High Road and Brewery Lane, and the Addlestone & District Industrial Co-operative Society's shop (now the Bedding Centre) on the corner of the High Road and Studland Road.

The development at Royston Chase was originally to include Byfleet's very own one-way



Vanners Parade replaced the ancient farm of that name that once stood on the corner of Brewery Lane and the High Road



The 'Village Green' at the Royston Chase development was the result of an abandoned one-way system.



system to alleviate problems at the notorious accident black-spot at Plough Corner, but with the building of the new 'Loop Road' the land

was no longer required for such a scheme, leaving the large open space that is now often referred to as the 'village green'.