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Woking AREA NEWS

March 1971

No. 1

A report on the work of your Council

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

THE NEW WOKING



The new shopping area and tower office block as seen from the junction of Percy Street and Church Street.

Start to be made in the Summer

VARIOUS bodies, official or unofficial, have been producing plans for the future of Woking for a very long time. First there were the Necropolis plans of the 19th Century. Then came the stillborn plans of the 1930's. Now we are to embark on the latest plan.

In partnership with the Norwich Union Insurance Society this multi-million pound scheme to be started shortly will change the face of the centre of Woking.

The Grand Theatre, old Council Offices, Constitutional Club, Methodist Church, Y.M.C.A. and Salvation Army Citadel have already gone. In due course the Atalanta, and Christ Church Hall and many other buildings will also go and in their place will arise a new shopping centre comprising three or four large stores and some 70 medium sized shops. This development will also have in it a large office block and 48 residential flats. The Atalanta Ballroom is to be re-accommodated at the eastern end of the shopping precinct which will keep the centre alive in the evenings. Linked to the new town centre development will be a multi-storey car park with a capacity of about 700 cars.

The Salvation Army Citadel for 250 persons and a proscenium stage. Club rooms and meeting rooms, bars and kitchens will also be provided.

Where Christ Church Hall now stands will be the Town Square. The Church Hall will be rebuilt on the opposite side of Church Street.

NEW LIBRARY AND CIVIC HALL

The civic needs of the District have not been forgotten. A new Library which will be the largest in Surrey is to be built on the north side of Church Street opposite the present Christ Church Hall.

Besides the usual lending and reference book sections for adults and children it will include a picture and record lending library and facilities for study.

Behind the new Library in what is now the West Street area will be built a Civic Hall. This will provide a main hall (with a platform stage) large enough to seat 750 people at meetings. It will also be capable of use as a banqueting hall with seating for 250.

In addition there will be a small hall with raised seating

New Divisional Police Headquarters and Magistrates' Courts will be built between the former Surrey County Council Clinic in Clarence Avenue and Boundary Lane. The Indoor Swimming Pool will be where the Clarence Avenue Car Park is now.

ROAD LAYOUT

A new road pattern to accommodate all these users will have to be provided. A new distributor road will follow the line of the existing Percy Street past the swimming pool site running parallel to the canal south of Victoria Hospital until it rejoins the existing Chertsey Road just south of Chertsey Road bridge.

How does the shopper get to Woking?

Although the main shopping area will be for pedestrians only, bus stopping places will be situated at convenient points for shoppers. Motorists will find that they are adequately catered for in the three multi-storey car parks.

Already the Boundary Road Car Park is taking shape—

another will be erected on what was the site of the Salvation Army Citadel. A third is planned adjacent to the proposed new Swimming Pool.

Two-way traffic may be resumed along the High Street and Broadway. It will no longer be possible to go from High Street into Goldsworth Road. This will mean that space will be available to resite the market in an improved location between the railway and the post office.

The Road improvements will mean that the War Memorial will have to be moved. Suggestions for a new site will be welcomed. Present thinking appears to favour a position in the new Town Square adjoining Christ Church.

In pressing ahead with their plans for the new centre the Council are fully aware of the need to re-develop other parts of the town area. Chobham Road and Duke Street are two such areas under active consideration.

The Council believe that with imagination and resolution Woking can become not only a town which will provide good shopping facilities but one which all residents can be proud to call their own.

Woking's First Lady says

It gives me very great pleasure to welcome and introduce the initial issue of The Woking Area News.

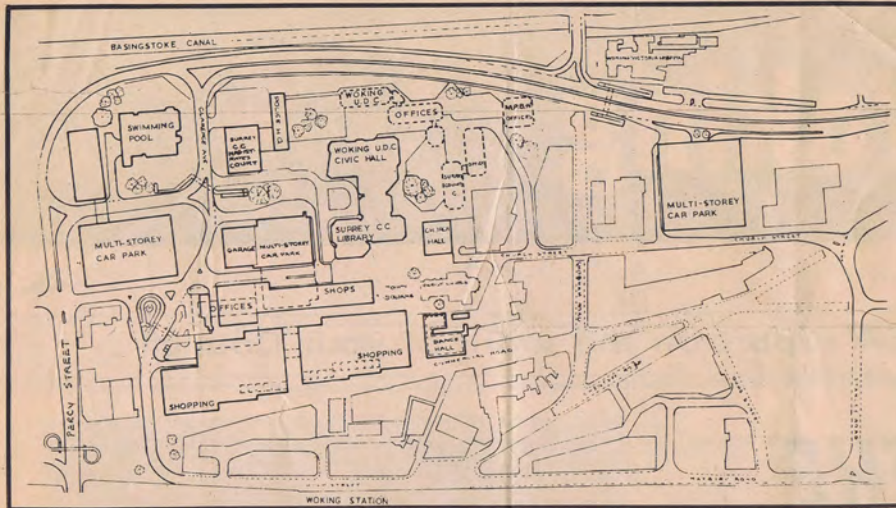
I have felt for a long time that there is a real need for an official publication of this sort to keep local people informed of how our town and its affairs are being managed.

This issue is mainly concerned with the new town centre, which I am firmly convinced will, when complete, make Woking a fine town and give the people the shopping centre they desire and deserve.

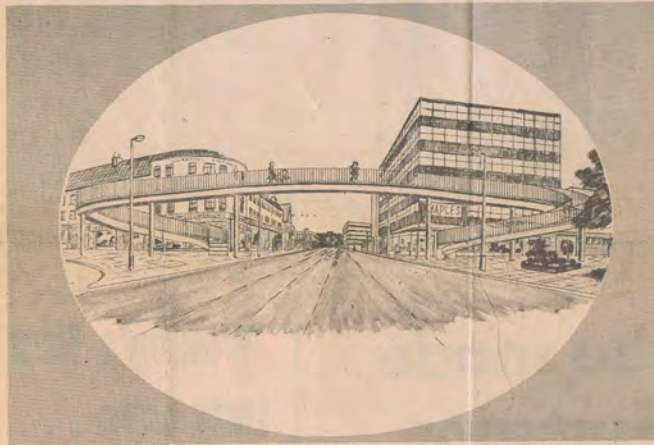
The publication of this paper is a new venture for the Council and if it is well received and found to serve a useful purpose will be repeated twice a year.

Whilst Council affairs get good coverage in the local Press I nevertheless feel that an official report direct to residents should be well worthwhile.

Margaret J. Marshall
Chairman, Woking U.D.C.



Future road pattern and layout of shops, offices and public buildings.



Footbridge over Percy Street connecting Goldsworth Road with new shopping precinct,



The proposed Co new shopp

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The Hippodrome Theatre; Council Offices; Constitutional Club and Methodist Church, from Victoria Arch. Most of this site is now occupied by Premier House and the Post Office.

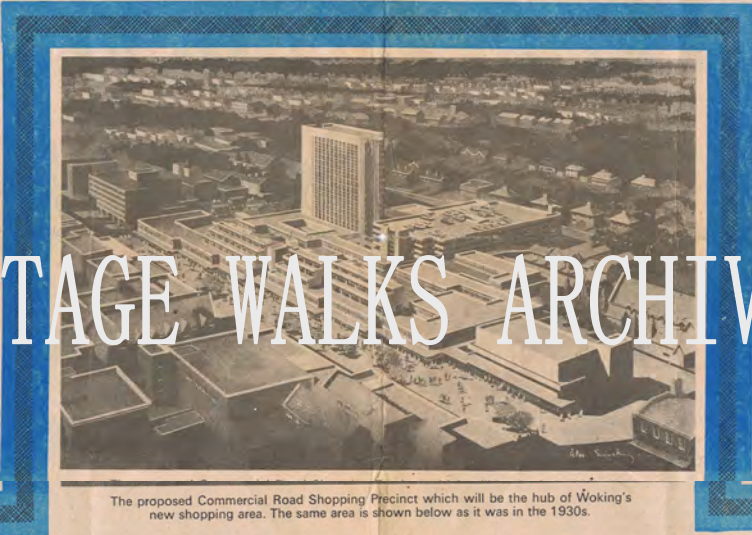


Looking west along



Woking's NEW TOWN CENTRE

These pictures show the town centre site as it will be in the 1970s and as it was in the 1930s.



The proposed Commercial Road Shopping Precinct which will be the hub of Woking's new shopping area. The same area is shown below as it was in the 1930s.



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Looking west along Commercial Road from its junction with Bath Road. The old Methodist Church can be seen in the background.



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Woking's new Central Library

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An artist's impression of the new Civic Hall.



The Atalanta Ballroom and the site of the Commercial Road Car Park

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Out and About

WOKING'S NEWEST SCHOOL . . .



This picture shows a small section of the new Horsell County Secondary School in Morton Road. It replaces the former Goldsworth and Chobham County Secondary Schools. Initially it will be a six form entry school with the most modern and up-to-date equipment and recreational facilities in the District.

The School is due to be completed in 1973 when it will accommodate 1,000 pupils.

Savings for ratepayers

The introduction of modern management techniques for Council staff is now bringing financial rewards to ratepayers. In 1967 the Council started their first work study based incentive bonus scheme for manual employees. Almost all manual staff are now covered and the success of the process can be measured by the financial benefits which at present are running at approximately £103,000 per annum. Substantial savings are also being made as a result of the Organisation and Method Survey of office staff carried out in 1970. This resulted in a new organisational structure being established and considerable savings in staff — the cash savings to date are running at £15,000 per annum.

Rent-a-picture

Are you aware that there is a picture gallery at your disposal at the Central Library. For just 10/- for three months you can hire a reproduction of a well known picture or an original by a local artist. The originals are also for sale.

This scheme was introduced by the Council a number of years ago and has proved very popular. It is operated at the Woking Central Library and the West Byfleet Branch Library. In selecting the stock of over 120 pictures care has been taken to try and cater for all tastes.

Buying a house?

If you are contemplating buying a house and you require a mortgage the Council may be able to help you. Recently more funds have become available to the Council for granting home loans and this has enabled a relaxation of the severe restrictions which it had been necessary to impose in the past. To qualify for a loan you must either live or work in Woking or have lived or worked in Woking for five of the last ten years and have a housing problem e.g. sharing or renting accommodation or about to get married. Details can be obtained from the Director of Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Woking.

Over 500 new homes



The new Bullbeggars Lane Housing Estate is now well under way. Over 200 dwellings have been completed so far and a further 300 should be ready for occupation by 1974. The estimated total cost of the scheme will be over £24m. The estate includes family dwellings and old people's flats. The picture shows some of the flats on this development.

YOUR MONEY CAN HELP BUILD YOUR NEW TOWN

Invest in Woking U.D.C. BONDS

8 1/8% min £500 2, 3, 4, or 5 years

Details: Treasurer, Council Offices, Woking. Tel. W. 5931



. . . AND FIRST HEALTH CENTRE

The first Health Centre in the Woking Area at St. John's opened recently. Child Health Clinics, Ante-natal and Relaxation Classes and Speech Therapy facilities as well as a Geriatric Clinic, Family Planning sessions and Well Women Clinics are now being held.

A Play Group for young children operates three mornings each week.

The Health Centre also includes a full-time local authority dental surgery for use by a Group Practice in Knap Hill and St. John's.

More leisure activities for young and old

Woking will have its new indoor swimming pool in 1973. Construction on the 25 metre pool will start in June this year. The estimated total cost will be £493,000 which besides the main pool includes a teaching pool, sauna baths, slipper baths, cafe and facilities for spectators.

This year will also see the provision of other new recreational facilities in the district. For the younger generation of Maybury an imaginative play area has just been completed at Eve Road, Woking which provides lots of new ideas for playing.

AT LAST

It looks as if Pyrford will get its recreation ground later this year. After years of negotiating, part of Pyrford Common has been bought and plans are going ahead for the layout of approximately two acres for use as a play area.

MORE TENNIS COURTS
Following discussions with the Governors of the Winston Churchill and Sheerwater C.S.

Schools the tennis courts at these Schools will be made available for use by tennis clubs during weekends and school holidays. At the Winston Churchill School the sports hall will also be available for use by local organisations.

ENCOURAGING

It is encouraging to learn that in this technological age the allotment movement is on the up and up. There are waiting lists to rent plots at Horsell and on the two Byfleet sites and the other Allotment Associations in the district report increasing membership. No doubt this news will gladden the heart of the father of the allotment movement, Mr Archie Benstead, now in his 84th year.

ANOTHER WHIRL

It is pleasing to hear that the Woking Round Table are organising another Woking Whirl this year on 10th July. If the weatherman is kind for the third year running more local charities will benefit from this worthwhile event.

Do you know . . . ?

That over £175,000 are spent each year on the collection and disposal of your rubbish i.e. over £2 per head of population.

That the Parks Dept. plant 17,000 bulbs, nearly 100,000 bedding plants and 2,000 roses each year.

That populationwise Woking is the largest authority in Surrey and the sixth largest Urban District in the country.

That grants are paid by the Council towards the cost of improving old houses.

That members of Woking Council spend over 5,000 hours each year in dealing with the town's affairs.

That over 120 applications for planning permission are considered by the Council each month.

That there are over 86,000 books in Woking's public libraries i.e. more than one book per resident.

PROBLEMS? WORRIED? LONELY?

Then contact the

WOKING COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

6A Guildford Road, Woking

Tel. Woking 63220

Support the

CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL

For a sunshine coach for the disabled

Donations to the Chairman, Council Offices, Woking