

## COMMITTEE REPORT

BY THE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Ward: Abbey

Address: Kings Road Garden, Kings Road, Reading

Proposal: To add Kings Road Garden to the List of Locally-Important Buildings and Structures

### RECOMMENDATION

That Kings Road Garden, Kings Road, Reading be added to the List of Locally-Important Buildings and Structures.

## 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report on a proposal to add Kings Road Garden, Kings Road, Reading to the List of Locally-Important Buildings and Structures.

1.2 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Location map

Appendix 2: Relevant photos and images

Appendix 3: Proposed Local List text

Appendix 4: Nomination form

Appendix 5: Article provided by Joe Doak via Reading Civic Society

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Reading Borough Council maintains a List of Locally-Important Buildings and Structures ('the Local List'). Its purpose is to recognise the buildings and structures which do not meet the criteria for national listing, but are nonetheless significant to the heritage of the local area. It was agreed by Planning Applications Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 that decisions on additions to the Local List should be made at PAC.

2.2 A nomination was received on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 to add Kings Road Garden, Kings Road, Reading to the Local List. Consultations have been carried out in accordance with the agreed process, and this report sets out the recommended action.

2.3 Kings Road Garden comprises a small ornamental inter-war period garden alongside Kings Road and the River Kennet associated with the former Huntley & Palmers Factory. It includes footpaths and soft landscaping and is bounded to the north and west by a brick wall with wrought iron railings, with iron gates at the entrance to the north.

- 2.4 The nomination form received for the building identifies the significance of the building as follows:

*“The Huntley & Palmers garden (King’s Road garden) is a survivor from the Huntley & Palmers factory that covered a vast site around the Kennet from the mid-nineteenth century until the second half of the twentieth century.*

*Although it is not a building it is a man-made structure surrounded by railings which is the ‘local’ equivalent of a nationally listed historic park and garden.*

*The garden appears on maps from the late 1930s/ 1940s and may have been associated with the building of new office buildings on King’s Road around that time. The ironwork of the gates is in the art deco style of the time.*

*The garden is listed in Reading’s New Local Plan for protection as local green space and public open space (Policy EN7 listing EN7Ce). It also deserves additional protection for its historical and industrial significance, linked to the Huntley & Palmers factory.”*

### **3. RESULTS OF CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 The following were consulted on the proposed addition to the Local List:

- Reading Borough Council, Parks (landowner);
- Ward councillors;
- Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee;
- Reading Civic Society; and
- Kennet and Brunel Community Association and Newtown GLOBE (local community groups).

- 3.2 Responses were received from Reading Borough Council Parks and Reading Civic Society.

#### **3.3 RBC Parks**

*The local Listing of the Gardens would reflect the historic and local significance of the Gardens principally the road side boundary and garden’s lay out. It should be noted that soft landscape and waterside boundary have changed in recent years reflecting current needs and use, and will not mirror the historic designs.*

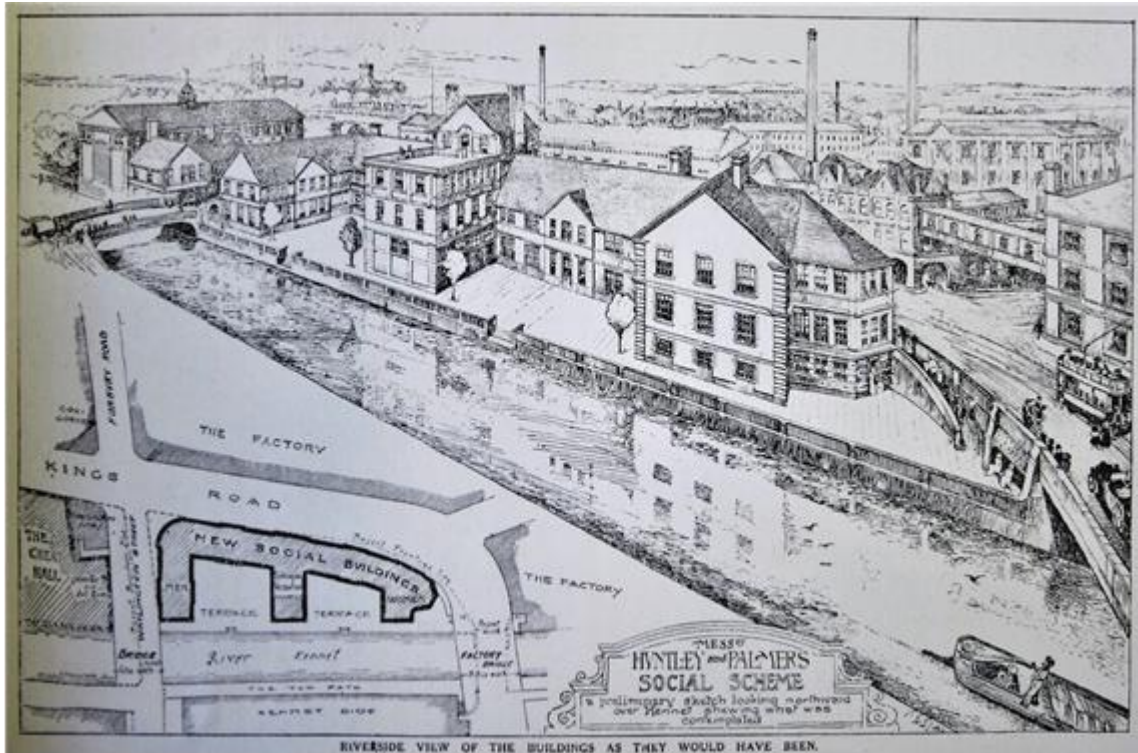
#### **3.4 Reading Civic Society**

*The committee of Reading Civic Society has reviewed, and support, Kings Road (Huntley and Palmer) Gardens being added to the Local List.*

*Additional information provided by Joe Doak (Doctoral Researcher in Urban History, Henley Business School & Vice Chair & Social Media Manager, Dorchester Civic Society):*

*The garden site next to the Canal is equally interesting historically because this was the main part of the site that was going to be H&P’s ‘Great Social Scheme’ (planned and drawn-up during WW1). See image below and article in the company magazine attached. (see Appendix 5)*

*The Social Scheme was shelved in 1920s (have exact date in files). It was going to be a mini 'welfare state', with medical facilities, workers education rooms, library, cafes, restaurant and 2000-seat theatre. Reasons for non-implementation: economic difficulties experienced by the company, increasing role of state in social welfare and difficulties in transferring the licence from one of the pubs on the site (on Watlington Street) to another location.*



3.5 Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee made the initial nomination and therefore did not make any comment on the proposal for local listing.

#### 4. ASSESSMENT

4.0.1 The proposal to add a building or structure to the Local List should be considered against the criteria in Appendix 2 of the Reading Borough Local Plan (adopted 2019).

#### 4.1 Exclusions

4.1.1 The Local Plan specifies that a building should not be considered for the Local List where it is already part of a conservation area, scheduled monument or subject to an Article 4 direction relating to historic or architectural interest. Kings Road Garden is not within any of these existing designations and can therefore be considered against the other criteria.

#### 4.2 General principles

4.2.1 Kings Road Garden dates from some point between 1935 and 1944. As such, it is not clear which of the following general principles should be considered:

*c. 1914 - 1939: Any building, structure or group of buildings where the elements that contribute to a high level of significance in the local context remain substantially complete.*

*d. post-1939: Any building, structure or group of buildings where the elements that contribute to its/ their exceptional heritage significance in the local context are wholly complete and unaffected by inappropriate changes.*

- 4.2.2 The original layout and exterior border fencing of the gardens has been retained. The gardens show the civic pride and sense of place that Huntley & Palmers had in their civic role, being part of the wider community and their staff as part of Reading. Whilst there have been changes to soft landscaping over this period, built structures, which are what any local listing would primarily cover, are unaffected. Whilst the surrounding context of the gardens has changed substantially over the years, there have been no significant inappropriate changes within the gardens itself. It is therefore considered that the gardens fulfil the criteria for both 1914-1939 and post 1939.

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 To be added to the Local List, a building or structure must fulfil at least one of the defined significance criteria, which fall into two categories - historic interest and architectural interest. These are assessed below.

#### Historic Interest

##### *a. Historical Association*

- i. The building or structure has a well authenticated historical association with a notable person(s) or event.*
- ii. The building or structure has a prolonged and direct association with figures or events of local interest.*
- 4.3.2 The nominated garden site is significant as a physical reminder of the facilities and civic planning associated with the adjacent Kennet, provided by Huntley & Palmers for its employees and the community of Reading.
- 4.3.3 Huntley & Palmers had a long association with Reading for more than 150 years, between 1822 and 1976. The town has long been known for the three B's (beer, bulbs and biscuits), and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century expansion of Huntley & Palmers was a significant contributor to the major industrial growth of Reading during this period which resulted in many of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century housing areas that remain to this day. As a result of Huntley & Palmers, the town was well known for its biscuits and this included the 'Biscuit Men' nickname attributed to Reading Football Club. As such, remaining features of the Huntley & Palmers site have a clear connection with figures and events of local interest.
- 4.3.4 The historical association remains clear through the initials on the wrought iron gates on the northern side of the gardens (see photo 4 in Appendix 2).

##### *b. Social Importance*

*The building or structure has played an influential role in the development of an area or the life of one of Reading's communities. Such buildings/structures may include places of worship, schools, community buildings, places of employment, public houses and memorials which formed a focal point or played a key social role.*

4.3.5 Although Huntley & Palmers itself has clear social importance, it is not considered that the gardens themselves clearly fulfil this criterion.

*c. Industrial Importance*

*The building or structure clearly relates to traditional or historic industrial processes or important businesses or the products of such industrial processes or businesses in the history of Reading or are intact industrial structures, for example bridges.*

4.3.6 As set out in paragraph 4.3.3, the gardens were associated with the Huntley & Palmers biscuit manufacturers, one of the most important businesses in Reading's 19<sup>th</sup> Century expansion. It therefore clearly fulfils this criterion.

Architectural Interest

*a. Sense of place*

*i. The building or structure is representative of a style that is characteristic of Reading.*

4.3.7 It is not considered that Kings Road Garden fulfils this criterion.

*b. Innovation and virtuosity*

*i. The building or structure has a noteworthy quality of workmanship and materials.*

*ii. The building or structure is the work of a notable local/national architect/engineer/builder.*

*iii. The building or structure shows innovation in materials, technique, architectural style or engineering.*

4.3.6 It is not considered that Kings Road Garden fulfils this criterion.

*c. Group value*

*i. The buildings/structures form a group which as a whole has a unified architectural or historic value to the local area.*

*ii. The buildings/structures are an example of deliberate town planning from before 1947.*

4.3.7 The Gardens are a good example of deliberate town planning from before 1947 and the Inter-War period, showing the growth and development of a planned modern Reading. This is an example of planned civic park, which creates a sense of public space. The building is enveloped in a 1920s period example of brick work topped by specially designed wrought work fence and entry gateway.

4.3.8 It is identified in Reading's New Local Plan (2019), for protection as local green space and public open space (Policy EN7 listing EN7Ce).

4.3.9 The built features within the garden, most notably the fence, wall and gates have a unified value to the local area in themselves, but more particularly have a clear group relationship with the former Huntley & Palmers Social Club on the other side of Kings Road, which has been retained and converted to residential accommodation. The Social Club was converted to a recreational building in 1938,

a very similar time to the establishment of the garden, so there is likely to have been a strong relationship between the two. The Social Club building has itself been nominated for inclusion on the Local List, which will be considered at a future meeting.

#### **4.4 Conclusion of assessment**

4.4.1 Kings Road Garden qualifies for addition to the Local List because it:

- Is not within a conservation area, scheduled monument or area subject to an Article 4 direction relating to historic or architectural interest;
- Dates from between 1914 and 1939 and the elements that contribute to a high level of significance in the local context remain substantially complete or dates from after 1939 and the elements that contribute to its exceptional heritage significance in the local context are wholly complete and unaffected by inappropriate changes;
- Contributes to the heritage of the Borough in terms of its historical association;
- Contributes to the heritage of the Borough in terms of its industrial importance; and
- Contributes to the heritage of the Borough in terms of its group value.

4.4.2 A description of the significance of the building for inclusion in the Local List is included in Appendix 3.

### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Local listing of buildings and structures, where it leads to the retention of those buildings or structures, can help to address the climate emergency by negating the need for demolition and new development, which are processes that use significant amounts of energy and result in emissions. Kings Road Garden provides an area of green space and landscaping within a high-density urban environment and therefore contributes strongly to the environment of the area.

### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 It is not expected that there will be any significant adverse impacts on specific groups due to race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, age or religious belief as a result of the recommendations of this report.

### **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Addition to the Local List is not a statutory process, and there are no legal implications of the recommendations of this report.

### **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

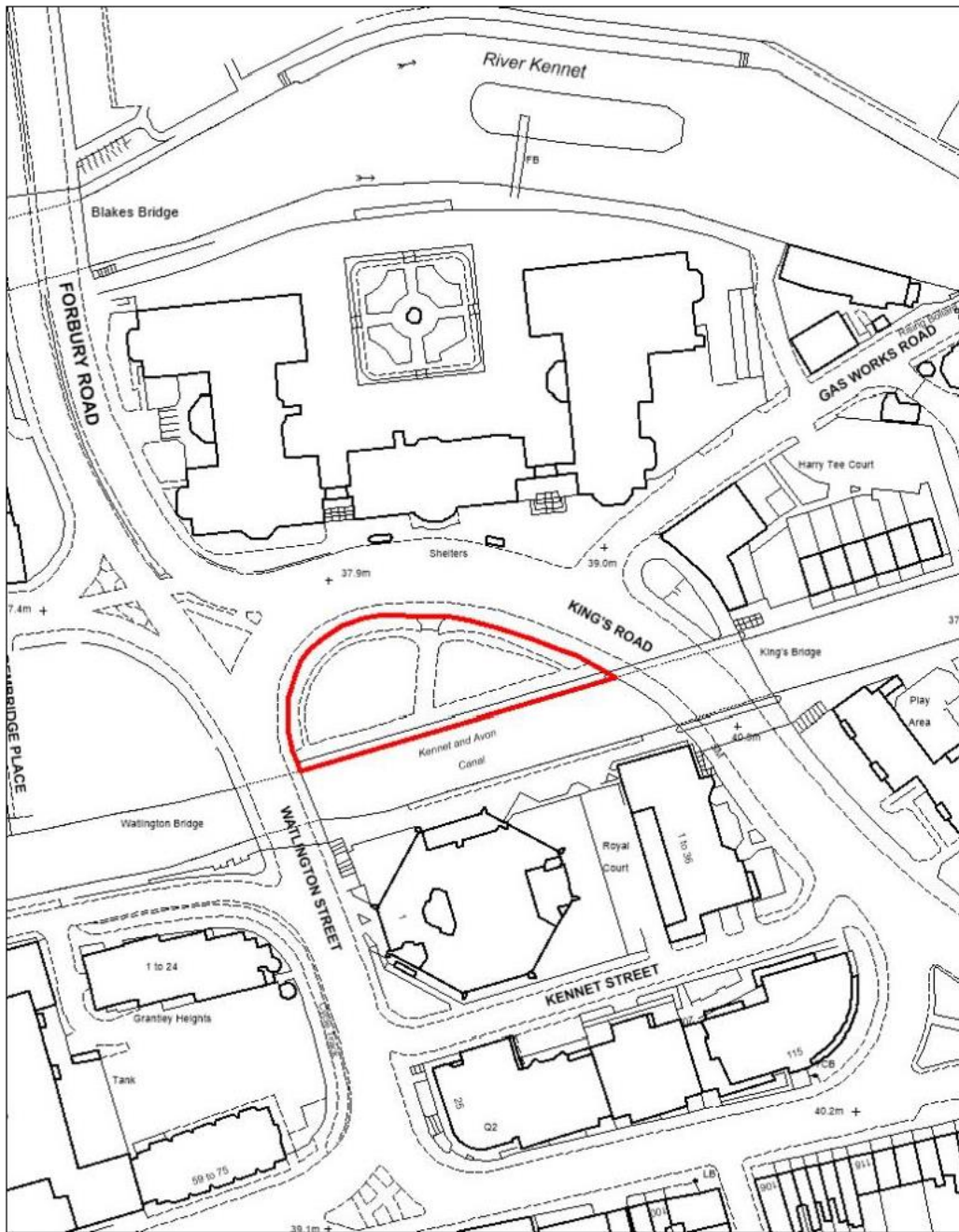
9.1 Consideration of this nomination and any resulting amendments to the Local List will be accommodated within existing budgets.

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Reading Borough Local Plan (Adopted November 2019)

**Bruce Edgar, Conservation and Urban Design Officer**

# APPENDIX 1: LOCATION PLAN



## APPENDIX 2: RELEVANT PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 1: RBC - August 2021, Huntley & Palmers Park, looking east along the Kennet Canal. The site was placed in front of and to the west of the offices of Huntley & Palmers, biscuit manufacturers.



Photo 2: Historic connection with Huntley & Palmers Factory. Designed and constructed during the Inter-war period. The brick fence and its modern wrought-iron fence, typical of the period. The plan of the park sited adjacent and overlooking the River Kennet contributes to the street scape of central Reading.





Photo 3: Entry gate to the park, designed as part of the enclosure of the park, adds to the sense of place of the gardens.



Photo 4: Detail of the entry gate, showing the Initials the associated biscuit company, Huntley & Palmers.



### **APPENDIX 3: PROPOSED LOCAL LIST TEXT**

Kings Road Garden (formerly Huntley & Palmers Garden) is a surviving element of the former Huntley & Palmers biscuit factory that covered a substantial site around the Kennet from the mid-nineteenth century until the second half of the twentieth century. The Huntley & Palmers operation was a major part of Reading's 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial expansion, and Reading was renowned for its production of biscuits.

In 1846, Huntley & Palmers purchased an old silk mill and embarked on a programme of additions and expansions. In 1873 new buildings north of the river and the original site were added. The garden was added at some point in the late 1930s or 1940s and may have been associated with the building of new office buildings on King's Road around that time. The garden has a relationship with the former Huntley & Palmers Social Club to the east, across Kings Road, as the most prominent surviving elements of the Huntley & Palmers site.

The site comprises a small formal garden adjacent to Kings Road and the River Kennet. It includes footpaths and soft landscaping and retains its original layout albeit with subsequent changes to soft landscaping and the waterside boundary. Around the boundary to the north and west is a low brick retaining wall and wrought iron railings. The wrought iron gates bear the Huntley & Palmers initials, and the ironwork of the gates is in the art-deco style of the time.

## APPENDIX 4: NOMINATION FORM



**Selection for the Local List**

For any building, structure or group of buildings to be included in the Local List it **must** clearly meet the relevant age and integrity criteria:

	Please tick relevant box <sup>3</sup>
<b>(a)</b> pre-1840: Any building, structure or group of buildings where its/ their style, form and construction are easily identifiable.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>(b)</b> 1840 - 1913: Any building, structure or group of buildings that is/are substantially complete and unaltered and of definite significance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>(c)</b> 1914 - 1939: Any building, structure or group of buildings that is/are substantially complete and unaltered and of a high level of significance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>(d)</b> post 1939: Any building, structure or group of buildings that is/are of exceptional significance and wholly complete and unaffected by inappropriate changes.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide comments/ further explanation of above:

The Huntley & Palmers garden (King's Road garden) is a survivor from the Huntley & Palmers factory that covered a vast site around the Kennet from the mid-nineteenth century until the second half of the twentieth century.

Although it is not a building it is a man-made structure surrounded by railings which is the 'local' equivalent of a nationally listed historic park and garden.

In 1846 Huntley & Palmers purchased an old silk mill and embarked on a programme of additions and expansions. In 1873 new buildings north of the river and the original site were added.

The garden appears on maps from the late 1930s/1940s and may have been associated with the building of new office buildings on King's Road around that time. The ironwork of the gates is in the art deco style of the time.

The area around it is changing rapidly with new, mainly high rise, developments now taking place on the former Homebase / Toys R Us site, along King's Road and Queen's Road/Watlington Street.

The garden is listed in Reading's New Local Plan for protection as local green space and public open space (Policy EN7 listing EN7Ce). It also deserves additional protection for its historical and industrial significance, linked to the Huntley & Palmers factory.

<sup>3</sup> Note - if none of the above boxes are ticked, the building/ structure will not qualify for consideration as a locally listed building.

**In addition** it must also be shown that it contributes to the character of an area and is valued by local people in accordance with at least one of the criteria detailed below under the headings of historic interest, architectural interest and townscape value.

**Historic interest**

Please tick the relevant box/es

<b>(a) Historical Association</b> i. The building or structure has a well authenticated historical association with a notable person(s) or event.	√
ii. The building or structure has a prolonged and direct association with figures or events of local interest.	√
<b>(b) Social Importance</b> The building or structure has played an influential role in the development of an area or the life of one of Reading's communities. Such buildings/structures may include places of worship, schools, community buildings, places of employment, public houses and memorials which formed a focal point or played a key social role.	√
<b>(c) Industrial Importance</b> The building or structure clearly relates to traditional or historic industrial processes or important businesses or the products of such industrial processes or businesses in the history of Reading or are intact industrial structures, for example bridges	√

Comments/ further explanation of this should be provided in the box at the end of this section.

**Architectural interest**

<b>(a) Sense of place</b> i. The building or structure is representative of a style that is characteristic of Reading.	
<b>(b) Innovation and Virtuosity</b> i. The building or structure has a noteworthy quality of workmanship and materials.	
ii. The building or structure is the work of a notable local/national architect/engineer/builder.	
iii. The building or structure shows innovation in materials, technique, architectural style or engineering	
<b>(c) Group Value</b> i. The buildings/structures form a group which as a whole has a unified architectural or historic value to the local area.	√

ii. The buildings/structures are an example of deliberate town planning from before 1947	
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*Comments/ further explanation of this should be provided in the box at the end of this section.*

**Townscape Value**

The buildings/structures have prominence and a landmark quality that is fundamental to the sense of place of a particular locality.	√
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Please provide comments/ further explanation of above

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**Historic Interest**

a) Historical Association

A few points below but the importance and history of Huntley & Palmers biscuit enterprise and the Palmer family is well understood and the detail available elsewhere.

i) The Palmer family were influential in all aspects of Reading life: business, social and political. In addition the factory employed a significant proportion Reading people.

ii) The association with Reading life continues to this day although the factory closed in the 1970s.

b) Social importance

Many Reading residents worked at the factory.

c) Industrial importance

The factory garden is a physical remnant of the factory.

**Architectural Interest**

i) Group value

The garden is a good place to get a view of the Huntley & Palmer building. It is surrounded by railings and the gates have an HP logo.

**Townscape Value**

The garden is a tranquil space on a major thoroughfare - King's Road - although the road system makes it rather perilous to reach.

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**Recommendation made by (name of Proposer) : Evelyn Williams on behalf of Reading Conservation Area Advisory Committee**

**Date : 31 May 2020**

General notes and any other relevant information on the building/ structure by Proposer<sup>4</sup> making recommendation for local listing including reasons for recommendation<sup>5</sup>

When Huntley & Palmers left Reading a piece of land was given to Reading Borough Council for the benefit of residents that included the garden and that on which the former social club stands.

The garden is still owned by RBC.

One of the protests against demolition of the Huntley & Palmer social club took place in the garden. *'Don't let Huntley & Palmers become history'*. On 30 July 1994 at the factory garden a picnic was held to protest against its demolition. A local campaign led by Edward Hancock raised a petition of over 2,000 signatures that was presented to the RBC planning committee. The committee agreed to save the building.

Source of all information and details of any supporting document used to support the recommendation to locally list the building or structure<sup>6</sup>.

Detail of evidence/ document (including photographs)	Source/ reference of information
Dates for factory and social club.	Huntley and Palmers Collection (huntleyandpalmers.org.uk)
Protests against proposed demolition of social club c1994	Reading Museum online collection Object No. REDMG : 2009.577.1

<sup>4</sup> The 'Proposer' is anticipated to normally be the Planning Case Officer given that the identification of most buildings or structures will currently be identified through the process of determining planning applications, however, the 'Proposer' could also be a member of the public or another organisation' group.

<sup>5</sup> Failure to meet the requirements for a building or structure to be locally listed at a particular point in time does not rule out future re-consideration of that building or structure if significant new evidence is produced.

<sup>6</sup> Any supporting documentation provided cannot be returned and will be kept on file as part of the supporting documentation should the building be locally listed. Please only send photocopies (subject to relevant copyright) should you wish to keep a copy of any documentation.



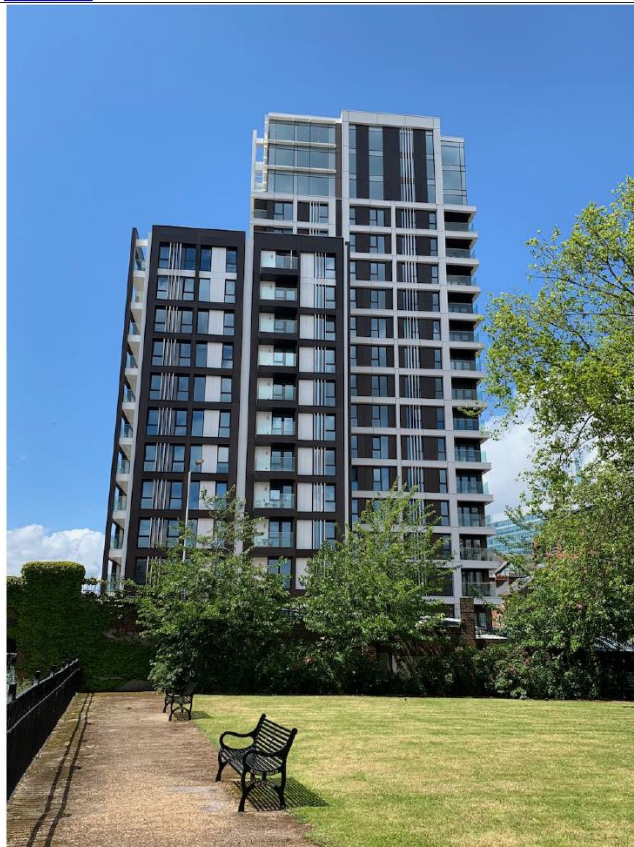
Huntley & Palmers  
social club from the  
Huntley & Palmers  
garden (Evelyn  
Williams)



King's Road gardens  
(RBC)

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/article/7071/Kings-Road-Gardens>

Verto building on Kings  
Road as seen from the  
garden (Evelyn  
Williams)



Gate to gardens with  
HP logo (Evelyn  
Williams)



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**For official use only.**

Recommendation **confirmed/rejected** by Conservation Officer:

**Date:**

Conservation Officer signature confirming recommendation:

**Position:**

**Print name:**

**Reasons that the recommendation for locally listing the building/ structure have been confirmed/ rejected**

**Any additional comments regarding the building/ structure**

Building/ structure identification :

Grid reference:

UPRN:

Signature of Manager accepting recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

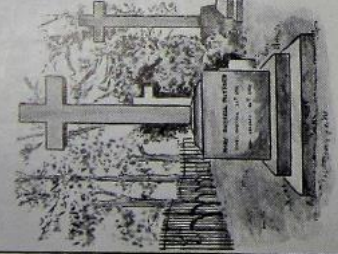
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**Print name:** \_\_\_\_\_

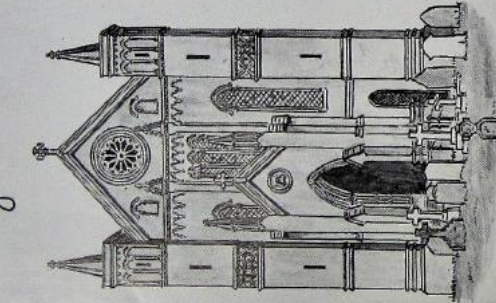
**APPENDIX 4: ARTICLE PROVIDED BY JOE DOAK VIA READING CIVIC SOCIETY**

Do you know?

No 1



A CROSS OF ABERDEEN GRANITE IN SWALLOWFIELD CHURCHYARD MARKS THE GRAVE OF MISS MARY RUSSELL MITFORD, THE AUTHORESS, WHO AT ONE TIME LIVED IN READING. SHE IS ONE OF BERKSHIRE'S BEST-REMEMBERED LITERARY FIGURES.



THE WEST FRONT OF THEALE CHURCH IS COPIED FROM THAT OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.



BOBBY, A WHITE ROUGH-HAIRED TERRIER, BORN AT MALTA, WHICH GAINED FAME AS A REGIMENTAL PET OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT OF FOOT (LATER THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT) BOBBY WAS WOUNDED BY A BULLET AT THE GALLANT STAND OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> IN THE BATTLE OF MAINWAND, AND QUEEN VICTORIA TIED THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL TO HIS COLLAR WITH HER OWN HANDS. HE IS NOW STUFFED AND STANDS ON GUARD IN A GLASS CASE TO BE SEEN IN THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM AT BROCK BARRACKS, READING.

This is the first of a new series drawn by Mr. H. Treacher of local landmarks and objects of interest.

## THE HISTORY OF THE RECREATION CLUB

by MR. J. OSTER,  
General Secretary of the Recreation Club.

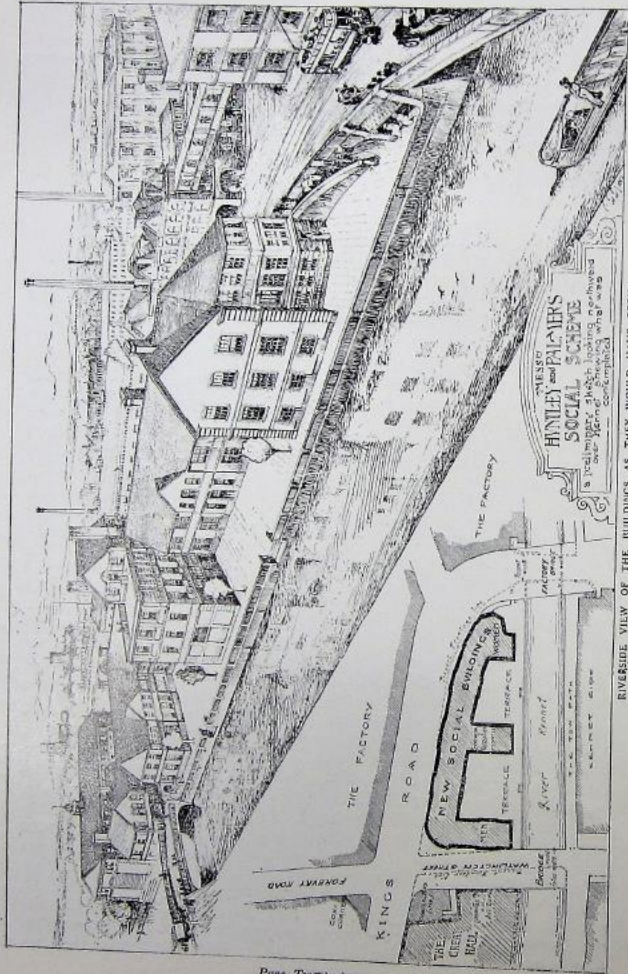
READING, with its Palmer Park, Palmer Hall, Huntley & Palmers' Ward in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the fine University playing fields and the public recreation ground at King's Meadow amongst other gifts, has its reminders of the generosity of the Palmer family to the town. What is less well-known is that the employees of this Company also benefited in this respect, twelve acres of land at King's Meadow having been made available to them some time between 1866 and 1883. Early records reveal that the firm's cricket club had a strong fixture list, and football and bowls were played; the social side also appears to have been looked after.

The Recreation Club as we know it today began in 1898. The first annual report and balance sheet printed by the 'Reading Observer' Steam Printing Works, shows a membership of 2,430, the Company having provided all equipment for four cricket teams, a football team, hockey, quoits, bowls, tennis, athletics and a horticultural show. In fact, it is probable that our Recreation Club was one of the first, if not the very first business house club in Britain.

Encouraged by the Directors, the club gained in strength, new sections were added and in 1916 the Company, to quote the then Managing Director, "proposed a

scheme, the outcome of years of thought, which would have embodied all the best features of the various social welfare schemes which have been developed in the United States, France and Great Britain." The plans are still kept and show that it would have been modern even by today's standards. The buildings would have replaced some old shops, cottages and public houses opposite the front of the factory. To their bitter disappointment and that of most enlightened people, and despite all efforts including that of the local press, the Licensing Justices refused to transfer the licences of the two public houses, which made the project impossible to carry out, and our employees were to wait a further twenty-four years for a Social Centre.

With the end of the Great War outdoor sport flourished at all levels, and coming home from the Army, Mr. Reginald Palmer, M.C., D.L., followed his father, Mr. W. Howard Palmer the Club's first President, as captain of cricket, to build up a side of minor county strength with three other teams to call on. He was followed by the present Lord Palmer (now Honorary Secretary of the Berkshire Gentlemen Cricket Club) and, continuing the tradition, by Mr. Richard Palmer, J.P., the present Chairman of the Recreation Club. These positions were no



RIVERSIDE VIEW OF THE BUILDINGS AS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN.

sincere as all were good at the game; Mr. Reginald Palmer after playing for Eton was in the Berkshire County team which won the Minor Counties' Championship.

In 1920 the Directors acquired the Kensington Road ground, one of the finest in the South and the home of the Berkshire Cricket Club, to add to the King's Meadow ground.

The Great War which ended so many useful lives had to everyone's sorrow claimed Mr. Ronald Poulton Palmer (Ronnie Poulton), Rugby International and founder of what was probably the first Boys' Club in Reading; but the

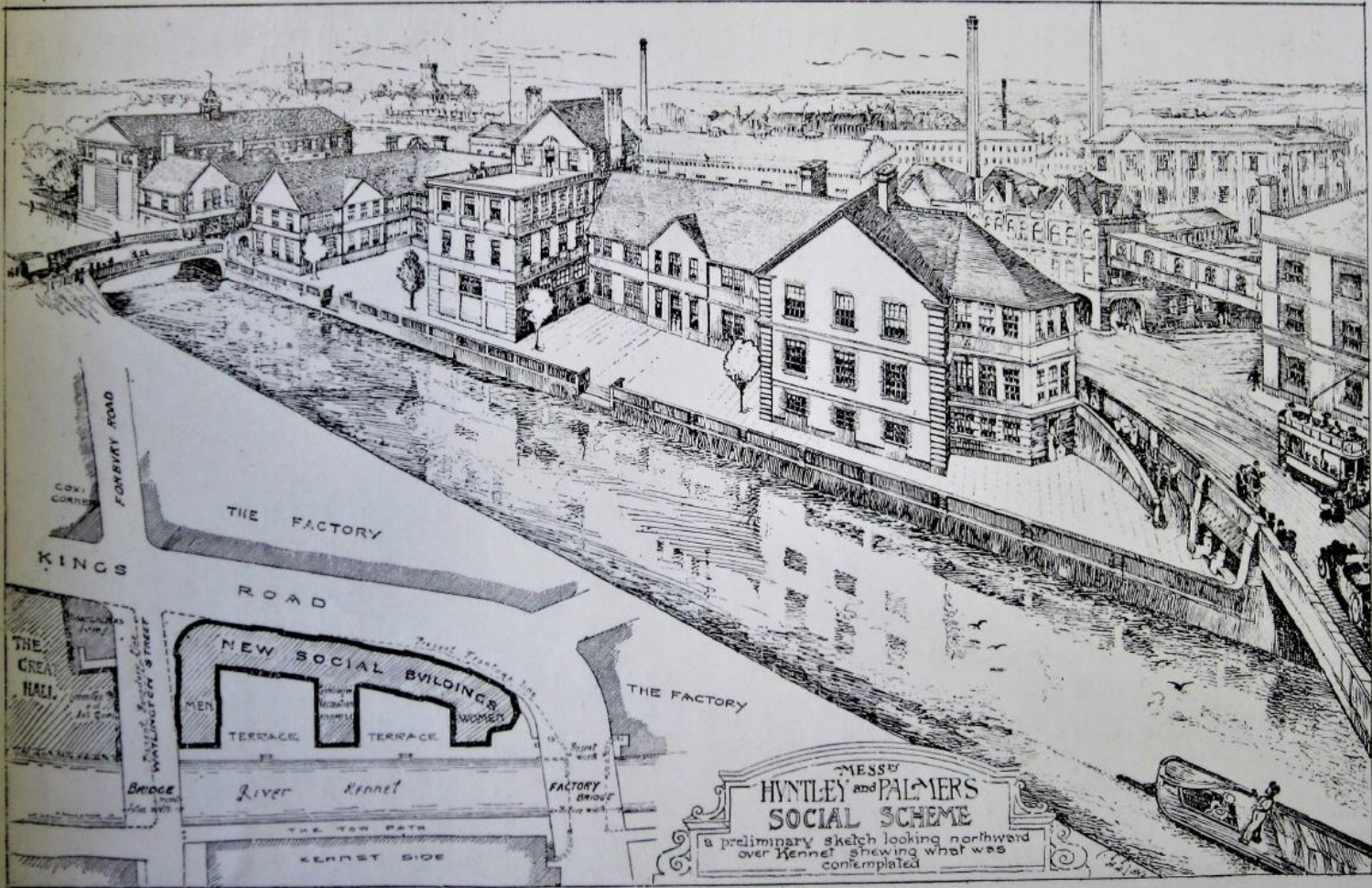
inspiration he gave led to the late Sir C. Eric Palmer, D.L., J.P., making available in 1918 premises for Huntley & Palmers' Boys' Club which was to flourish for many years and of which a great many employees have happy memories.

In 1938 the Company gave the Recreation Club its present buildings, to which they have added amenities, the latest being a £3,000 Rifle Range and Indoor Cricket Wicket. The Club has a four-table billiards room, a badminton hall, a miniature theatre, four lounges, a large licensed bar and facilities for most indoor games. It has also three quarters of a mile



NEARLY THIRTY YEARS AGO

A photograph taken at a Huntley & Palmers' Boys' Club Camp. No prizes are offered for spotting the following: (In back row), Bob Warswick (Experimental Pkg.) Bill Walker (Engineers' Stores) Doug Harvey (Distribution) Ted Herbert (Building) Ted Corp (Manufacturing) Vic Williams (Stores) Ted Studley (A.D.L.) Alf Wicks (Overseas Warehouse) Les Cooke (Warehouse). Third Row: Reg. Butler (Engineers) Jack Langford (Manufacturing) Roy Searle (Manufacturing) Stan Hadlow (Warehouse). Second Row: Jack Dyer (Recreation Club) Hugh Sutton (Personnel Manager). Front Row: George Trussell (Stocktaker) Norman Brooks (Engineers). Next to him, in a white shirt, is Bert Meads, who was killed at Kohima.



RIVERSIDE VIEW OF THE BUILDINGS AS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN.

of private fishing on the Thames. Huntley & Palmers' is an example of a business house club with a long history which has nevertheless kept up with the times. It is happily situated, most of its members living within easy reach of the two sports grounds and social club. The administrative set-up is somewhat different from that of most clubs of this type. The sports grounds and social club are the property of the Company who act as benevolent landlords, charging no rent and carrying out all external and not a few internal repairs and improvements. The Club, their tenant, is responsible for internal maintenance; it receives an annual grant from the Company, who also pay the salaries of the General Secretary and his staff. In every other respect except the collection of works subscriptions through the medium of wages, the Club runs its own departments. It engages its own staff, buys its own

goods, pays its bills, does its own book-keeping, has its separate banking account, deals with its correspondence, helps all sections where possible without unnecessary interference, publishes a weekly 'Sports News,' runs draws, a Christmas Club and collects office subscriptions; the office is always open for queries and any help members may require. This set-up evolved naturally; it enables the Club to keep in close touch with the Honorary Secretaries of Sections, departmental representatives and the members themselves. It is more efficient than having 'hidden' work and costs, spread throughout the Company's departments, but it does require a versatile and adaptable staff, as most jobs of necessity overlap and the work cannot be divided into watertight, compartments.

The staff of four graduated with the Company, having grown up

(continued at top of next page)

#### NEW AWARD

Last year the Committee of Huntley & Palmers' Cricket Club decided to award the "Herbert Pretty" Cup to the player who turned in the best performance of the season, coupled with consistency in most of their matches, and in its first season the unanimous choice fell on Ted Wilkins (Home Warehouse) for one of his best efforts against Wokingham Cricket Club at Wokingham when he took 3 for 21 and scored 57 not out against the clock to enable our team to win the match, the result of which appeared to be a foregone conclusion for the home side.

Ted Wilkins first played for Wallingford Cricket Club and whilst with them was chosen to represent Berkshire Bantams; he has also played for Berkshire and Berkshire Gentlemen cricket clubs.

Ted also received a gold medal as a memento.



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with the members, making their own contacts and helping to organise sections in which they are personally interested. Senior Assistant Dorothy Freed's main concern is keeping the Club books; she runs amongst other events the Weekly Old Time Dances and the Children's Christmas Party. Margaret Edgington's chief preoccupation is membership; she also produces 'Sports News,' is a shorthand-typist, ladies' hockey captain and secretary, and plays badminton. Pamela Burt, the junior, assists in all branches; she is a junior shorthand-typist and a member of

the netball team which won five trophies last season; she is keen on dancing.

The efficiency of this set-up can be judged by the fact that today's membership at 2,600 is higher than it was when the Club started, despite modern techniques having progressively lowered the number of employees. The secret, if one may so describe it, is good communications, a comprehensive 'menu' from which every member can derive some benefit, and Directors who set an example by taking a personal interest in the Club.

## THE HUYTON RECREATION CLUB

by Mr. R. YEATES.

Assistant Personnel Manager, Huyton.

THE Club first came into being at the request of people wishing to play football, and a team did play in the 1955 season by arranging friendly fixtures, which were all played away from home, as we did not have our own ground.

In January 1956 the Club proper was formed. The Recreation Hut was provided by the Company and we started playing competitive table tennis and darts. The football team acquired a local Council ground and started playing local league football. In September 1956 the first dance was held in the canteen.

The Club is run on a Committee basis, one member being selected from each department. We would say that the whole structure of the Club has been based on the Reading Recreation Club.

In the summer of 1958 the

cricket section was formed and played a full fixture list, all matches being played away. In May 1959 the recreation ground and pavilion were opened by Mrs. Neil Jacob and a cricket match took place against Jacob's cricket team.

The sports ground has two full-sized football pitches and a cricket square; last year the netball court was converted to enable tennis to be played, and by the start of this summer the second tennis court should be completed.

Work on the bowling green is already started and should be completed this year.

The Recreation Club is responsible each year for the children's party, and for the past four years we have held an annual staff dance in Liverpool, using Littlewood's Club Rooms.