

NEWTON AYCLIFFE
NEW TOWN



Visit of Her Majesty
QUEEN ELIZABETH II
and His Royal Highness The
PRINCE PHILIP
Duke of Edinburgh

27 May 1960



THE VISIT OF

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

AND

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh

TO

NEWTON AYCLIFFE NEW TOWN

on Friday 27 May 1960





*he Aycliffe Development Corporation, on
behalf of the citizens of this New Town, extend
to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness a welcome
to Newton Aycliffe and our most grateful thanks
for the great honour they have bestowed on the
town by having so graciously appeared among us.*



House, comprising shops and offices in the Town Centre

Secondary Modern School



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

On the arrival of the Royal Party at the Marquee in the town centre, Buglers of the 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, will sound a Fanfare.

After the departure of the Royal Party from the town centre, the Battalion Band and Buglers, under the direction of Mr. T. Hull, Bandmaster, will play from 4.0 p.m. until 4.20 p.m.

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, attended by The Countess of Euston (Lady-in-Waiting), Sir Edward Ford, K.C.V.O., C.B. (Assistant Private Secretary to the Queen), Major The Lord Plunket, M.V.O. (Equerry-in-Waiting) and Mr A. W. Heseltine (Assistant Information Officer) will drive from Durham City to Newton Aycliffe along the Great North Road.

3.20 p.m.

The Royal Party will arrive at the junction of Central Avenue and the Great North Road and will then proceed along Central Avenue, Dalton Way and Beveridge Way to the Marquee in the town centre.

3.25 p.m.

On arrival of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness at the town centre they will be received by Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant for the County of Durham (Brigadier L. H. McRobert, C.B.E.).

The High Sheriff of Durham (Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Chapman, D.L.) will be in attendance.

Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Officer Commanding the 151st Infantry Brigade, T.A. (Brigadier W. A. C. Collingwood, O.B.E.) and the Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry (Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Kelley) who will then escort Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the saluting base followed by Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant.

Following the Royal Salute, Her Majesty will inspect a Guard of Honour provided by the 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry under the command of Major G. W. Lear and mounted on the site adjoining the Marquee.

Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness :—

The Chairman of the Darlington Rural District Council :

H. Dent, Esq.

The Clerk of the Darlington Rural District Council :

J. Pattinson, Esq.

The Chairman of the Aycliffe Development Corporation :

C. S. Robinson, Esq., C.B.E. and Mrs C. S. Robinson.

Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant and the High Sheriff, followed by the Chairman and Clerk of the Darlington Rural District Council and the Chairman of the Corporation, will conduct Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to the Marquee where they will be joined by :—

The Minister of Housing and Local Government :

The Right Honourable Henry Brooke, M.P.

The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry :

Dame Evelyn Sharp, D.B.E.

The Under-Secretary, New Towns Division of the Ministry :

J. H. Waddell, Esq., C.B.

The Chairman of Durham County Council :

J. S. Goodwin, Esq.

The Clerk of Durham County Council :

J. K. Hope, Esq., C.B.E., D.L.

The General Manager of the Aycliffe Development Corporation :

A. V. Williams, Esq.

Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness :—

The Member of Parliament for the Sedgfield Division :

J. Slater, Esq., B.E.M., M.P. and Mrs. J. Slater.

The Secretary of The Territorial & Auxiliary Forces Association of the County of Durham :

Lieutenant-Colonel C. F. Hutchinson, D.S.O.

The District Manager for South-West District Industrial Estates :

J. Sylph, Esq.

The Chairman of Aycliffe Traders' Association :

E. Blakeborough, Esq.

The Vicar of Newton Aycliffe :

The Reverend T. A. Drewette.

Representing the Roman Catholic Church :

The Reverend Father M. McBrien.

Representing the Free Churches :

The Reverend G. R. Gostelow.

The Chairman of the Corporation will present the Members and Officers of the Corporation :—

Deputy Chairman :

W. N. Davis, Esq., O.B.E.

Members :

Mrs T. J. Cahill.

A. J. Alsop, Esq., C.B.E.

J. R. S. Middlewood, Esq., O.B.E., D.L.

C. U. Peat, Esq., M.C.

Secretary and Deputy General Manager :

J. L. Moore, Esq.

Chief Finance Officer :

F. Hiley, Esq.

Chief Architect :

G. A. Goldstraw, Esq., O.B.E.

R. Robson, Esq., Private Architect responsible for many projects in the town.

T. H. Summerson, Esq., D.L., a Member of the Corporation, will be in attendance.

A bouquet will be presented to Her Majesty by Miss Carolyn Corner (who was the first child to be born in the New Town—29th April 1949).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be invited to sign the Visitors' Book and photographs.

Before leaving the Marquee, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be invited by the Chairman of the Corporation to inspect an exhibition of plans, photographs and models showing the planning and development of the town.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and the Chairman and General Manager of the Corporation, will leave the Marquee and will walk to Churchill House where they will be conducted by lift to the roof of the building for a panoramic view of the town.

The Royal Party will leave Churchill House and proceed by cars via Stephenson Way to Barrington Road in the following order :—

The Chief Constable of Durham and the Chairman of the Aycliffe Development Corporation.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness.

Members of Suite in attendance.

Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and the Deputy Chairman of the Aycliffe Development Corporation.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government, the Permanent Secretary, Under-Secretary of the Ministry and the General Manager of the Corporation.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be invited to inspect the Simpasture Playing Field.

The Chairman of the Corporation will present :

The Chairman of the Great Aycliffe Parish Council :

D. Vickers, Esq.

The Chairman of the Parks, Cemeteries and Open Spaces Committee :

A. Cessford, Esq.

The Clerk of the Great Aycliffe Parish Council :

H. Bilton, Esq.

Members of Sporting Organisations in the town will be in attendance.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be invited to call upon the residents of No. 13 Barrington Road, where the Chairman of the Corporation will present the Corporation's Housing Manager, Miss E. M. B. Hamilton and the tenants, Mr and Mrs William Llewelyn.

3.35 p.m.

3.40 p.m.

3.50 p.m.

3.53 p.m.

3.58 p.m.

4.10 p.m.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then proceed to the Headquarters of the Newton Aycliffe Branch of The Royal Air Forces Association in Barrington Road where the Chairman of the Corporation will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness :—

The Area Chairman of The Royal Air Forces Association :
Wing-Commander J. Bradshaw, O.B.E.

*The Chairman of The Newton Aycliffe Branch of
The Royal Air Forces Association :*
F. Hardy, Esq.

*The Secretary of The Newton Aycliffe Branch of
The Royal Air Forces Association :*
Flying-Officer W. Carr.

4.15 p.m.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will proceed by car from Barrington Road via Pease Way, Lowery Road, Simpasture Gate, Emerson Way, St. Cuthbert's Way and Central Avenue to the Boys' Club.

4.20 p.m.

The Chairman of the Corporation will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness :—

The President of the Durham County Association of Boys' Clubs :
F. D. Nicholson, Esq., D.L.

The Secretary of the Durham County Association of Boys' Clubs :
D. Gibson, Esq.

The Chairman of Aycliffe Industrialists' Appeal Committee :
F. Woodhead, Esq.

The Leader of the Newton Aycliffe Boys' Club :
Mrs J. Kell.

The Chairman of the Durham County Association of Boys' Clubs, A. A. Muir, Esq. will be in attendance.

Mr F. D. Nicholson will invite Her Majesty formally to open the Boys' Club by unveiling a Commemorative Panel.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then be invited to inspect the Club.

4.25 p.m.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will proceed to the Secondary Modern School.

The Chairman of the Corporation will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness :—

The Chairman of Durham County Education Committee :
J. Hudson, Esq.

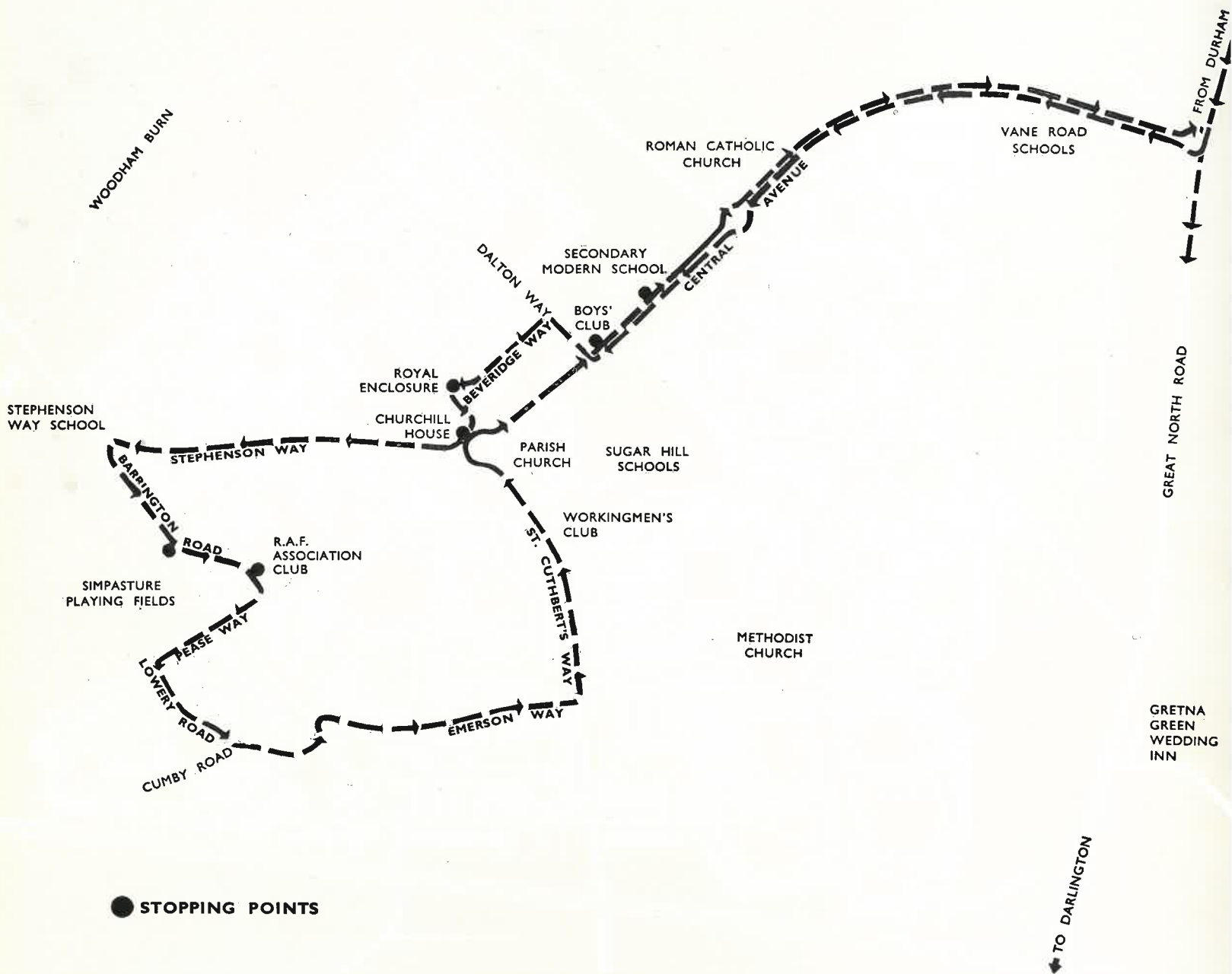
The Director of Education :
G. Metcalfe, Esq.

The Headmaster of the Secondary Modern School :
J. H. Pearson, Esq.

The Chairman of the County Education Committee will invite Her Majesty and His Royal Highness to inspect the school.

4.40 p.m.

The Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the Under-Secretary, the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the General Manager of the Corporation will take leave of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, and the Royal Party accompanied by Her Majesty's Vice-Lieutenant of the County and the High Sheriff, will then leave Newton Aycliffe escorted by the Chief Constable of Durham.



Plan of the Route to be taken by the Royal Party
when inspecting the Town



Aerial view of Newton Aycliffe



NEW TOWN OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

Newton Aycliffe lies alongside the A.I main road, six miles north of Darlington and a similar distance south-east of Bishop Auckland. The New Town is outside the Durham coalfields and on the fringe of the lovely country of Teesdale, Weardale and the North Yorkshire moors and coastal resorts. The Lake District is within easy travelling distance. The ancient village of Aycliffe lies one mile to the south.

A Royal Ordnance Factory was built at Aycliffe in 1940 and after the war was converted into an industrial estate. There are now 70 firms operating on the estate, occupying more than two million square feet of factory floor space and employing over 4,000 workers, two-thirds of them men. Most of the factories are making products for the export market, including engineering, textiles, castings, plastics, paints, toys and furniture. It is primarily to house the workers on this estate that Newton Aycliffe is being built, and Aycliffe Development Corporation is the Authority appointed under the New Towns Act, 1946 to plan and build the town.



Houses and Single Women's Flats—Lowery Road

Planning

An area of 867 acres, immediately north of the Industrial Estate, was designated as the site of the New Town in April 1947. Only 60 people were then living on the site. The town, which is to be the smallest of the fifteen new towns now being built in Britain under the New Towns Act, 1946, has been planned for 20,000 and now has about 11,000 inhabitants. In planning the town, the aim has been to retain some of the advantages of country life, with both village greens and a town centre. When fully developed the town will have six housing sections described as wards, each containing about 3,000 people. Some wards will be served by a centre providing a small group of shops for everyday needs, a public house or club, a church and possibly a nursery school. Within each will be one or more small areas of public open-space acting as focal points, both socially and architecturally, and having many of the qualities to be found in the village greens so common in this region.

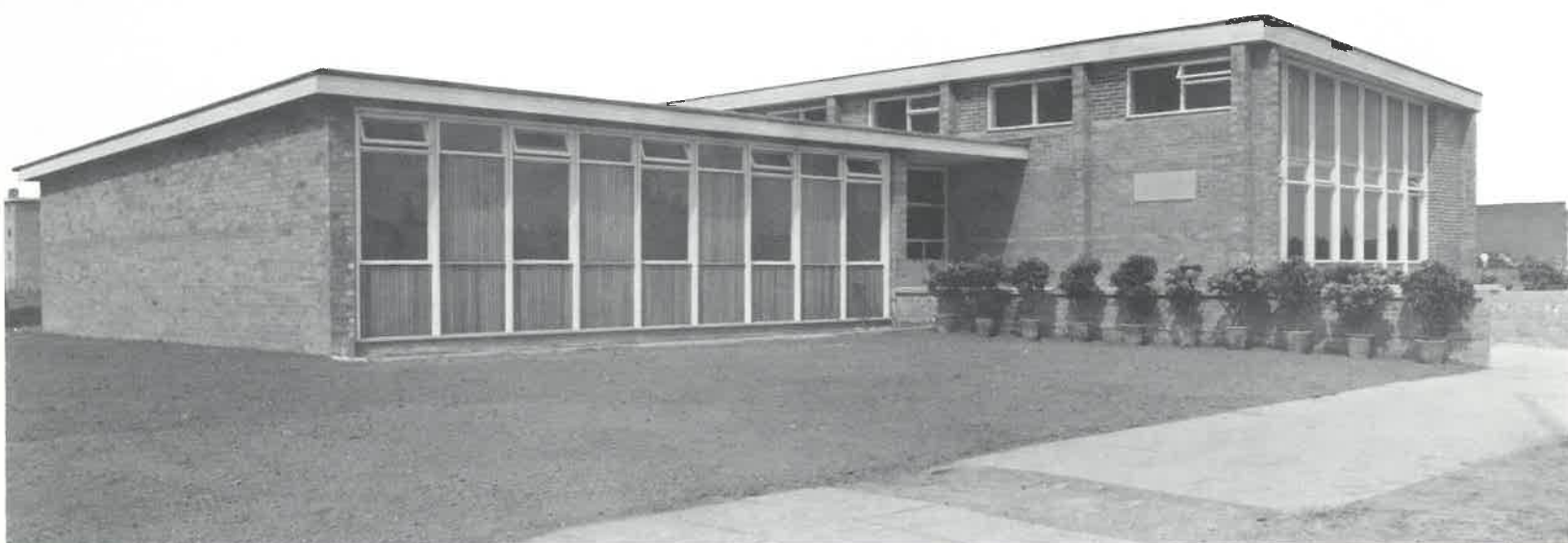
The major road system of the town takes the form of a loop from the Great North Road integrating the residential

parts with the industrial estate and intersected by a ring road linking the ward centres with the town centre.

The main shopping and business area is centrally placed to the north of two large roundabouts, one at the junction of Central Avenue, St. Cuthbert's Way and Stephenson Way and the other at the junction of Central Avenue, Burn Lane and Shafto Way. Altogether about 100 shops, as well as a residential hotel, offices, health services centre, public library, police station, fire station and other public buildings, are planned for the town centre. About half the shops in the town centre have been completed or are being built.

The master plan provides for a substantial area of park land and open spaces in the town. Particular thought has been devoted to it both in the preservation of woods and coppices and individual trees and to the planting of many thousands of new trees in belts to provide windbreaks.

The planning and building of a new town for 20,000 would normally take several decades. Newton Aycliffe should be built in little more than 15 years.



Newton Aycliffe Boys' Club

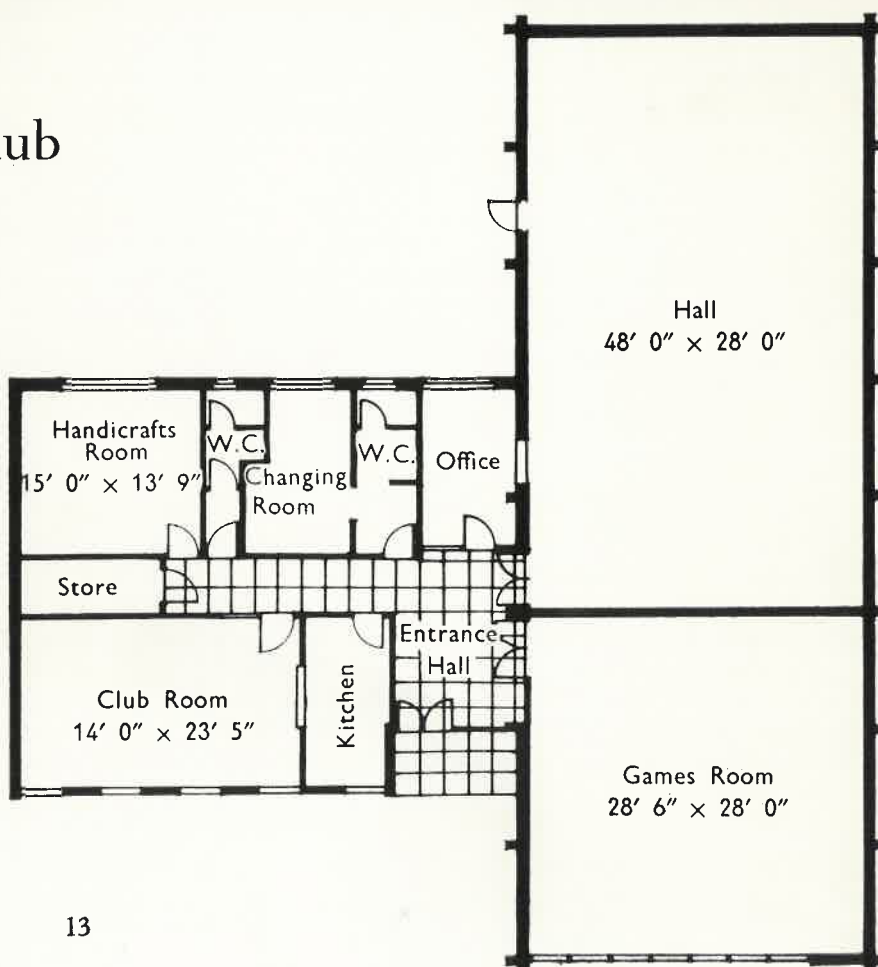
THE DURHAM COUNTY Association of Boys' Clubs aims to promote and help Clubs where they are most needed, and considered this new town as a first priority.

The Club is the first completely new building built for the purpose since the War.

Although a grant up to half the cost can be obtained from the Ministry of Education, this still left approximately £4,000 to be found by voluntary subscriptions. This has been raised one-fifth by the boys and their supporters in the town and four-fifths from the industrialists of the Trading Estate under the Chairmanship of Mr F. Woodhead.

The building is designed to have a main hall for games and gym. with a sitting-room and recreation room and further annexe rooms can be added for other youth organisations.

In Newton Aycliffe there are approximately 422 boys between the ages of 12-19, and a successful small club has already been operating without any suitable building.



People

The population of the town is increasing at the rate of 1,000 newcomers a year. In addition to the constant stream of newcomers, the natural increase in population is exceptionally high, the birth-rate being twice the national average. Most of the residents are young couples with children already, but still more with their families yet to come, and it can be truthfully stated that the population of Newton Aycliffe, in contradiction to the general trend throughout the country, is growing younger. The original plans for school provision have, in conjunction with the Durham County Council, been re-cast to provide for a greater number of children than had first been thought necessary. Plans are also being made to provide for the employment and the leisure time of the abnormally large number of adolescents that will soon be living in Newton Aycliffe.

The population is cosmopolitan, for only 60 per cent has been drawn from Durham County, the remainder having come from other parts of the country as far apart as Cornwall in the south and Argyllshire in the north. Practically every dialect in Britain can be heard in the town. This has had the effect of creating a very active and vibrant community spirit among the residents. Evidence of this may be found in the wide pattern of activities carried on, which already provide most varied opportunities for enjoying a full social life.

The population too, has a well balanced employment structure; about 50 per cent of the householders being employed on the local industrial estate and of the remainder, some in industry in neighbouring areas but the majority in central and local government, teaching and commerce.

Almost one out of every two householders own a car and nine out of every ten houses have a television set.

Housing

Since building began, more than 3,500 dwellings have been completed and occupied. There are over 150 different types of family dwellings with gardens, as well as a few maisonettes and flats. About 5 per cent of the dwellings are small bungalows which are let to old people, priority being given to the parents and other near relatives of younger residents. The presence of these parents in the town not only helps the young families to settle down more quickly in their new environment but it also helps considerably to secure a more balanced age structure in the population of the town.

About 10 per cent of the houses built are termed 'middle income' group houses and each has a garage attached. Other garages are built in groups throughout the town.

As far as possible, prospective tenants are permitted to choose the type, size and situation of their homes.

All houses are available for purchase by tenants, the Corporation being willing to make generous advances, secured by mortgage on the property, to enable them to do so.

Areas of land, too, have been provided with the necessary services and are available for purchase for privately-built houses.

Schools

The Durham County Council, which is the Local Education Authority, has a high reputation for its educational standards. In Newton Aycliffe, it has already built five primary schools and a secondary modern school and a further secondary modern school is being built. A further three primary schools, a secondary modern school and a grammar technical school are planned to be built in the near future. In addition, a Roman Catholic School is to be started this year.

Churches

The Church of England have built the first stage of the Parish Church with the Parish Hall and a Vicarage on a site adjacent to the town centre.

The Methodists, too, have built a large hall, at present used for religious and secular purposes and a Sunday School, in the Ward 'A' Centre. They hope to start building their Church on the same site in the near future.

The building of a Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery near to the town centre will be completed this year.

The Church of Latter Day Saints are also to build a Church on a site which they have acquired in Shafto Way and the Church of the Assemblies of God are negotiating for the purchase of a site for a similar purpose.

Social Facilities

There are more than fifty organisations catering for the recreational and educational pursuits of the residents and most of these are fostered by the Newton Aycliffe Community Association which manages two Halls forming a Community Centre in Finchale Road.

Teenagers have their own Youth Clubs attached to the Community Centre and the Churches, and there are several Companies of Boy Scouts, Air Scouts and Girl Guides with their associated packs of Cubs and Brownies; Red Cross Cadets, a junior section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and, of course, the Boys' Club, to look after the interests of teenagers and those who are younger.

Other popular social centres in the town are the Workingmen's Club in Sheraton Road, which is one of the finest in the country, having recently been completed at a cost of £50,000, and The Royal Air Forces Association Club in Barrington Road.



View of Town Centre looking eastwards

The Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association for the County of Durham has formed a unit of the Royal Army Service Corps in the new town which, for the time being, is using The Royal Air Forces Association's premises. During this year, work is expected to start on the erection of a Drill Hall for this unit near to the town centre which, in addition to military training, will provide recreational facilities for members.

For the 'not-so-young' there is the Over-Sixties' Club which meets regularly for social activities in its splendid new hall recently built at a cost of more than £6,500.

Sports and Receptions

The Newton Aycliffe Sports and Recreation Club have about 7 acres of land which is laid out for cricket, football and athletics; the Cricket Club being members of one of the senior Durham County leagues and the Athletic Club being members of the premier athletic leagues in the district. A club house on the playing fields, from which are served refreshments, including intoxicants, is available for members.

Newton Aycliffe Tennis Club play on private hard tennis courts in Macmillan Road and public tennis courts are available at the Simpashire Recreation Ground, which also provides facilities for other outdoor sports.

An indoor roller-skating rink is provided at the Community Centre.

Both sides of Woodham Burn, for a distance of about two miles along the north-west boundary of the town, is being laid out as a natural parkway, and the Great Aycliffe Parish Council and the Development Corporation are working together towards providing more open spaces and recreation grounds in the town.

Licensed Premises

Two public houses have been built, one in each of the centres of Wards 'A' and 'B', and further licensed premises to include the provision of a public restaurant are shortly to be built in the town centre.



Four-storey Maisonettes—Faulkner Road



Shops in Town Centre

Two and three-bedroom standard houses—Tunstall Road





The Children's Corner—Simpasture Playing Field

THE FUTURE

NEWTON AYCLIFFE has a bright future. Its industrial area has all the attributes necessary to support an expanding industrial economy. It is located in pleasant country, clear of the coalfields and near to the River Tees, main-line railways and the Great North Road. Its existence increases the flow of labour to the industrial estate and has given industrialists the confidence to expand their activities. The New Town and the adjoining industrial estate are interdependent and with the certain expansion of the latter, a thriving prospect for the town is assured.

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in conjunction with

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