

Preserving the Ritz Parade. (No.17 in the Draft List)

Enfield Council have a Local Heritage Assets list. The list helps councils and communities identify local landmarks. BHORA supports the Ritz Parade inclusion to the list and have submitted the following to the council consultation.



The Broomfield Home-Owners and Residents Association (BHORA) warmly supports the inclusion of Ritz Parade in the List of Enfield's Local Heritage Assets.

The Parade together with the former cinema, now the Jehovah's Witnesses Assembly Hall, meets almost all of the criteria listed in Historic England's Good Practice Guide. The protection of the integrity of these buildings is self-evident imperative.

Most obviously, the Parade is a distinctive landmark building at this point of the North

Circular Road, its linear form remarkably apt for such a highway.

The Parade and in particular the scrupulously-maintained former cinema designed by the specialist cinema architect, W.J. King, FRIBA (1878-1965), are rare survivals of an architectural style, immediately identifiable with the 1930s, with that era of suburban expansion and with a range of associated cultural and social developments. The cinema itself, although in the Art Deco style, is Art Deco with a difference in that there are distinctly Moorish touches to the tops of the windows piercing the facade just below the architrave.

Along with other excellent local examples of 1930s "Art Deco" architecture - the Charles Holden underground stations, the Arnos public library, clinic and pool complex, the remaining apartments of Powys Court and Palmers Green library - Ritz Parade plays an important part in giving this Southern part of the Borough a particular and under-appreciated character.

For all its extensive scale, the Parade, itself combining residential and retail elements, manages to relate to the terrace housing nearby, much of it dating from the same between-the-wars era.

After so many years of prevarication over this section of the North Circular Road, the insertion of extensive new housing and the imminent expansion of the local population are bound to change the feel and look of the district. Local residents, existing and new, need as pleasant, interesting and well-resourced an environment as possible, the more so given the aggressive nature of the NCR, the atmospheric pollution it generates and the less than robust infrastructure of the district. Ritz Parade deserves the sort of recognition that inclusion in the List offers as a contribution to the residential, commercial and social fabric

in its current form. Moreover, it exudes its own heritage value, a link in continuity from the past to a changing present.

BHORA takes the view that with the prospect of development hanging over the Ritz Parade site (as suggested in the Council's draft Opportunity Development Brief), inclusion of these buildings in the List could offer a degree of well-deserved protection from insensitive and destructive alteration or worse.

William James King 1878-1965

Architect of the Enfield Ritz opened in 1933

Obituary in The Builder, v209, 24 Dec 1965, p 1384

Mr William James King, FRIBA, who until recently was in practice at Gloucester-place, London, died at his home at Ottershaw, Surrey, on 20 December [1965]. Mr King who was 87, became a Licentiate of the RIBA in 1931, and was elected a Fellow after passing the qualifying examination. The fact that King was a Licentiate of the RIBA indicates that he was in practice before the Architects' Registration Act 1931 when previous unqualified practice was accepted in lieu of professional study.