

Woodthorpe Gardens The road that was never completed



The image seen on the left is of Woodthorpe Gardens, a cul-de-sac which begins at the junction of Sherwood Vale and Woodthorpe Road and runs parallel along the back of Woodthorpe Park's Greenhouses and ends as a footpath. All of which leads towards the top entrance to Woodthorpe Park and also the entrance to the Plant Shop.

However, in 1937 it was intended, when plans were submitted, to be a roadway that extended towards Woodthorpe Drive. In other words, what became Woodthorpe Gardens, with houses that were built in the 1950s should have been an extension of Woodthorpe Road.

As you will see from the image on the right not only was it the intention of building a roadway that linked Woodthorpe Road with Woodthorpe Drive but also to build new greenhouses on the left, which was intended to replace the greenhouses in the area that now occupies the Plant Shop and a tennis court on the right.

How different today Woodthorpe Gardens and the surrounding area would have looked had those plans, submitted all those years ago been approved. Alas, we can only imagine as those plans were rejected.

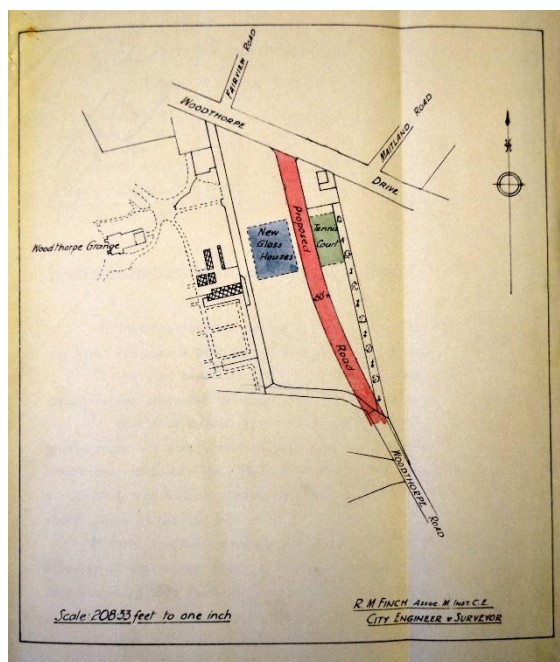
To develop the area and extend what is now Woodthorpe Gardens would have required selling off part of the land that at the time was part of Woodthorpe Grange Park.

The question of selling off the land that in 1937 was part of Woodthorpe Grange was brought to a head in a letter from the Town Clerk to the Ministry of Health dated 26th of April, 1937. All of which came following a series of questions set out in previous correspondence to Nottingham's Town Clerk.

Of the four questions that required answering, it was the first question of how the, then, Nottingham Corporation were able to purchase the whole of the Woodthorpe Estate, which is now Woodthorpe Grange Park. It was a question that formed the main body of the four questions that required answering. To which the answer given was:

“This property was purchased by the Corporation on the 29th of September 1921, for the sum of £15,000, £10,000 of which was obtained by the Corporation from the Sir Jesse Memorial Fund, and £5,000 from the general account of the Corporation. It was a condition of the gift of the money by the late Lord Trent (Sir Jesse Boot) that the property should be maintained for the purposes of recreation and that no part of the property be sold.”

Maintenance of public parks, although run and maintained by local authorities, came under the Ministry of Health. This is because parks and open spaces were, and still are, considered good for general health and general well-being. All of which is highlighted in answer to the second question:



“Generally, the Public Health Acts and every other enactment which enables a local authority to establish and maintain Parks and Public Pleasure Grounds.”

Of the two remaining questions, the third referred to the plans submitted, and that the councils' proposals are well known locally and have more than once been mentioned in the local press.

How different it could have been:

The Pathway from the bottom of Woodthorpe Gardens that leads towards Woodthorpe Grange Park



Looking forwards



Looking Back

As I have already pointed out, one can only imagine what Woodthorpe Gardens as an extension to Woodthorpe Road would have looked like today if the plans submitted all those years ago had been approved. The quiet cul-de-sac we know of today would not exist. Plus, the footpath, as shown above, that leads towards Woodthorpe Park would be a busy road, and, of course, would be a lot wider to accommodate the volume of traffic. As a shortcut, the road would become a rat run as motorists cut from Woodborough Road to Woodthorpe Drive and vice versa.

All of this is just imagery just as if it wasn't for funding from the Sir Jesse Boot Memorial Fund, Woodthorpe Grange Park would have become a housing estate. Therefore, if it wasn't for the intervention of those in authority all those years ago, for what is taken for granted today there would be no Woodthorpe Grange Park and Woodthorpe Gardens would have become a busy road between Woodborough Road and Woodthorpe Drive.