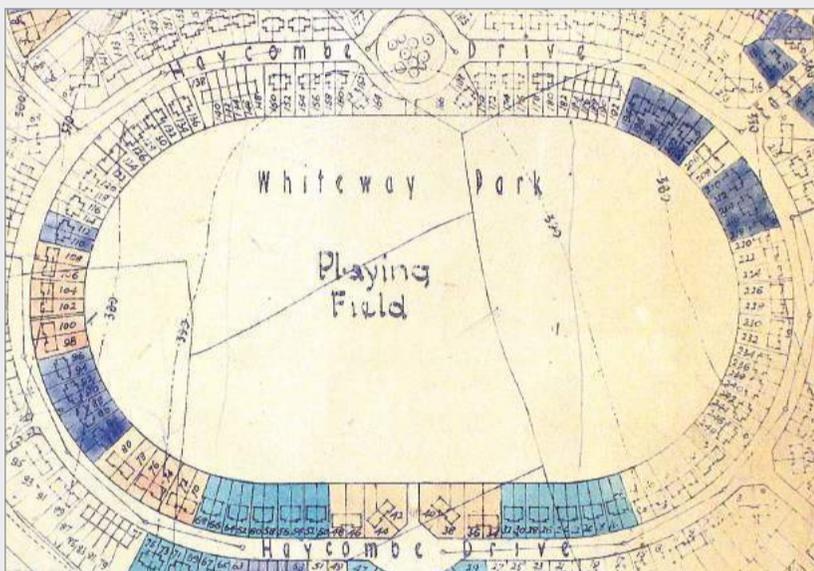


THE BUILDING OF THE WHITEWAY ESTATE

Whiteway has been around for a while and people are now rightly starting to feel that the estate has its own history. In fact the building of Whiteway was part of a pattern of changes that affected communities across the country.

When was Whiteway built?

This is a question that often gets asked. The answer is that Whiteway was under construction when war broke out in 1939. Some houses had been built and were lived in, but the construction of others was put on hold until after the war.



This wartime map of Whiteway marks in colour where the building of houses halted at the outbreak of war in 1939

A 1995 play called *The Southside Sisters* has sketches that portray what Whiteway was like during the war.¹ The play shows children getting wood from the building sites on Whiteway to help keep the coal fires going at home!

The connection with Milk Street and Avon Street

Many of the first residents of Whiteway came from an area around Milk Street and Avon Street in Bath. This was a bustling community but one that suffered a lot of poverty.



The Milk Street area before the houses were taken down

The council was pulling down houses in the Milk Street area and moving a lot of the tenants to Whiteway.

¹ The play can be watched on YouTube at: <http://tinyurl.com/84wh3ws>

The early Whiteway community was largely one that had been moved from the city centre and placed up on a hill. A belief at the time, that estates should contain green spaces and be situated near the countryside, explains the layout and location of the Whiteway estate.

This relocating of communities took place in British cities from the 1920's to the 1960's, as councils sought to improve living conditions. Poor quality housing was replaced with new estates where the homes let in more light and were free from damp.



A lady mows her lawn at Haycombe Drive in the 1960's

There has been some research into the effects that moving whole communities had on the people. Some researchers say that people regretted being uprooted and made to live somewhere else, but others say that many people chose to be moved because the new houses were much better.

A distinctive identity

Today the Whiteway community has characteristics that give it a distinctive identity of its own.

For example, there has been a tradition at Whiteway of showing respect for the deceased and caring about families that have had a bereavement. This tradition might have evolved on the Whiteway estate over the years, or it might have come from the original Milk Street and Avon Street community.

Who is Rosewarn Close named after?

Rosewarn Close is a late addition to the estate, built on part of the playing field in the 1980's. It is named after Ray Rosewarn, a highly respected former Twerton councillor and barber who also served as Mayor.

An old resident of Twerton remembered:

“Ray was a lovely man - one of the old school Labour councillors who genuinely cared for everyone in his ward...”

I was really pleased to see Rosewarn Close named after him.”



Ray Rosewarn in his Twerton barber shop in 1975