

STREAM COTTAGES & THE SANWAY LAUNDRY REDEVELOPMENT

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The redevelopment of a couple of key sites in the history of Byfleet was on the cards in 1967-68 as what had once been the old village workhouse in Rectory Lane, and the former Brewery behind the Plough Inn, were both due to be demolished to make way for new housing.

The Workhouse had apparently been built in the early 18th century to house local paupers and those out of work in the area. It had closed in 1836 when the Chertsey Union Workhouse was built at Ottershaw and had been converted into a cottage, with Stream Cottages also built in the grounds about that time.

By 1967 the old buildings had been condemned by the council, who wanted to build old people flats and new terraced houses on the site, although there appears to have been some confusion about who exactly owned part of the site, with one resident of the Stream Cottages refusing to pay his rent to a letting agent, until it was clear who exactly the money was due to!



The old village workhouse (left), with Stream Cottages (right and below) in Rectory Lane, photographed in April 1967





More views of the former workhouse (above) and Stream Cottages before demolition and redevelopment with the houses of Stream Close





Meanwhile, in the High Road, the brewery (begun in the 1840's by Henry Dennett and then taken over by the Holroyd family of Byfleet Mill), had closed in the late 19th century

following its merger with the Friary Brewery of Guildford and Healy's Brewery at Chertsey.

at Foxlake Farm, before eventually reaching the River Wey downstream from the mill at Bluegates Hole.

Staff of the Sanway Laundry pose for a photograph in the early 20th century (above), and on a works excursion sometime between the wars (below).

The Byfleet brewery had evidently had some problems with its water supply, and on a number of occasions was in trouble for discharging waste into the stream that once flowed from Stream Cottages, beside the High Road in front of the Village Hall, into the 'lake'

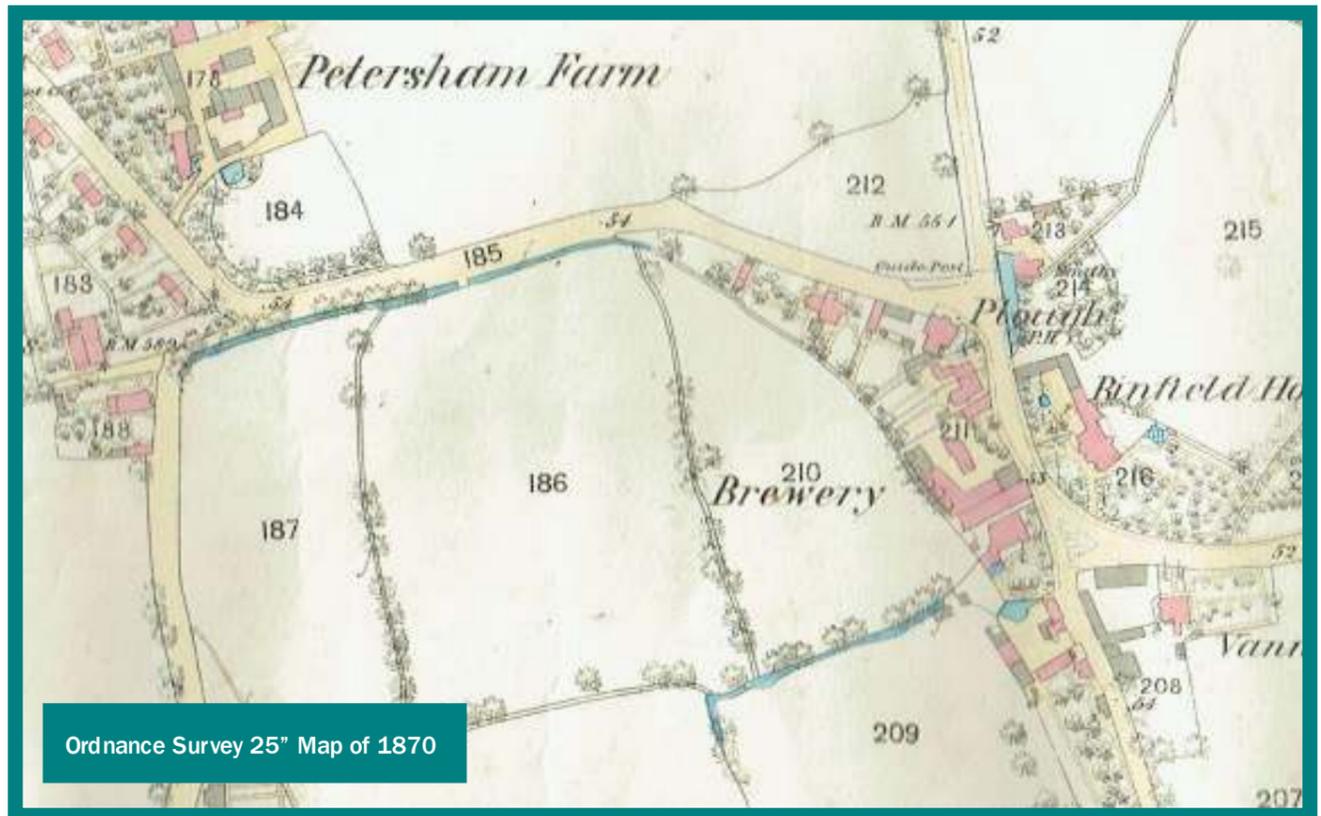
Since about 1907 the old brewery building had been occupied by the Sanway Laundry - a business that appears to have originated some years before as a small cottage industry in the Sanway part of the village.



In October 1967 it was announced that the laundry, which by then employed up to forty people, was to close, with several of the older employees taking early retirement whilst others transferred to a sister operation at Guildford (another example of Byfleet's loss being Guildford's gain).

Being a long established industrial site, there was concern from some in the village that another, less desirable, business might take over the site, and indeed there was a proposal from a developer that part of the site could remain as industrial use, whilst the rest of the 1½ acres of land was used for office accommodation.

There were calls for the council to buy the property and then either build houses themselves or sell it to a private developer, but the estimated £55,000 price tag that an



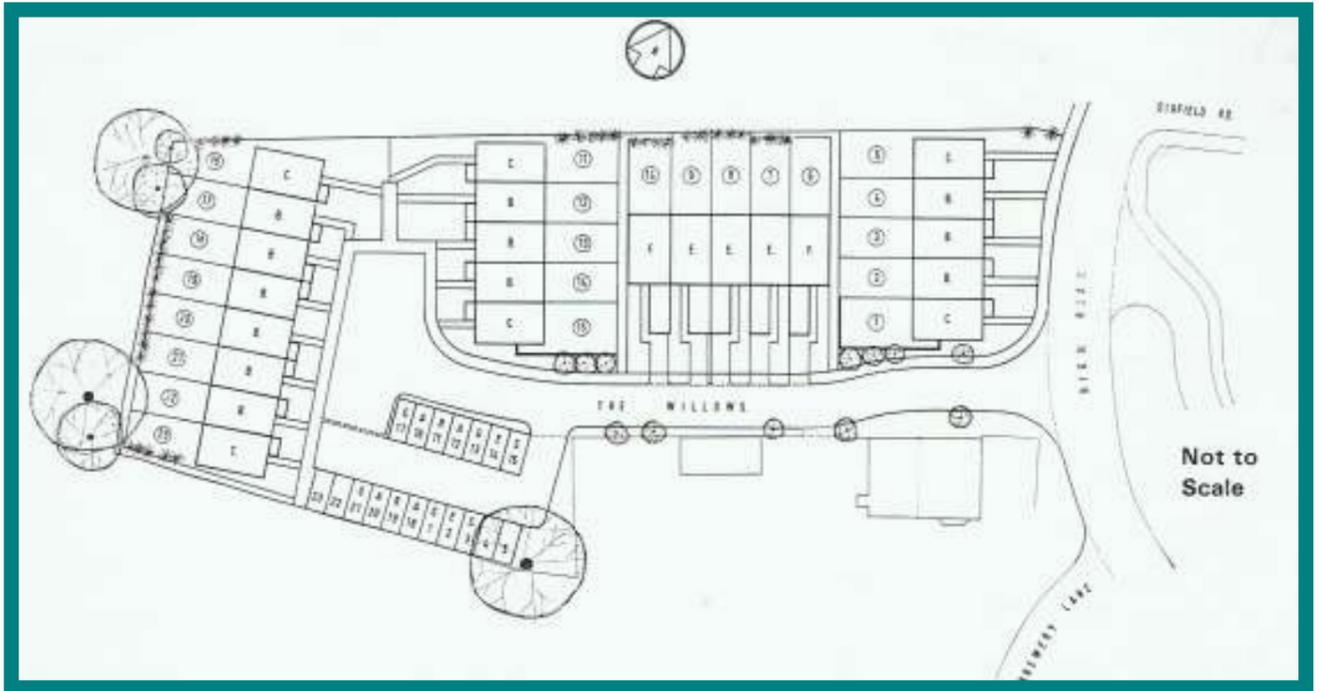
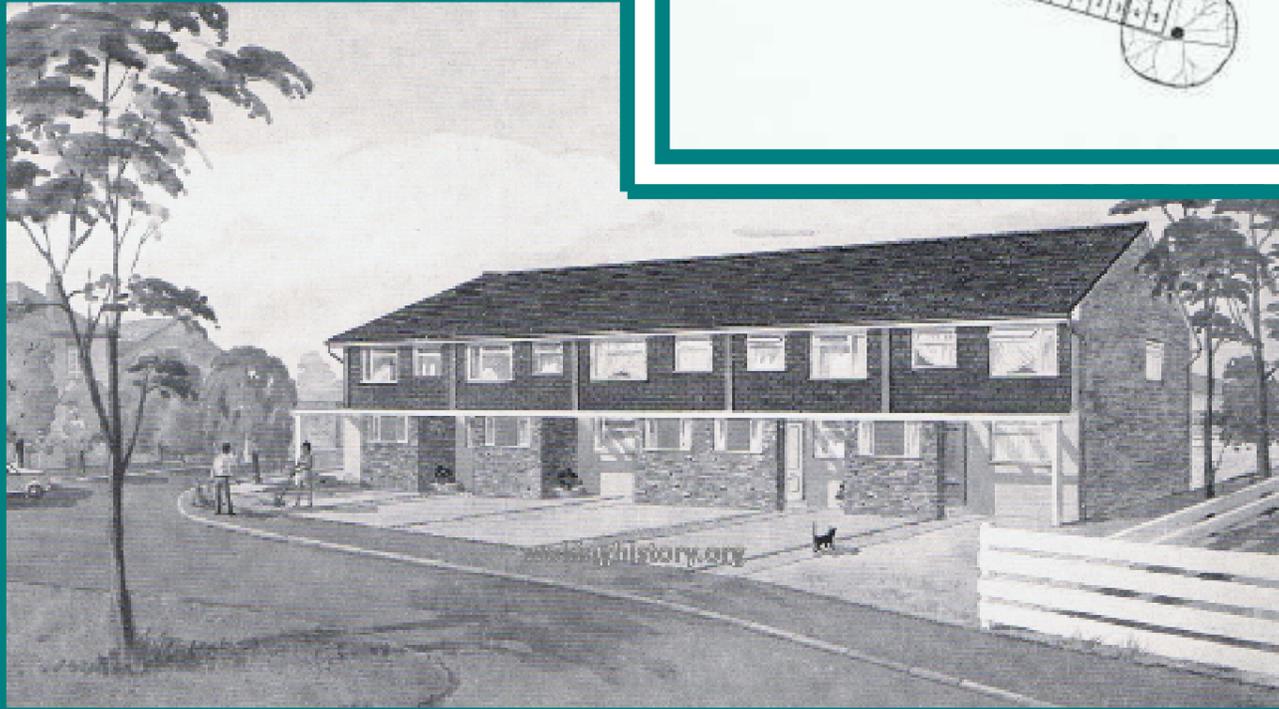
At one time Byfleet Brewery, the buildings had been a laundry for about 60 years.



industrial use apparently attracted was much more than the land was worth for residential purposes, so the council was naturally reluctant to 'invest' ratepayers money on a scheme that would inevitably result in a net loss of an estimated £25,000.

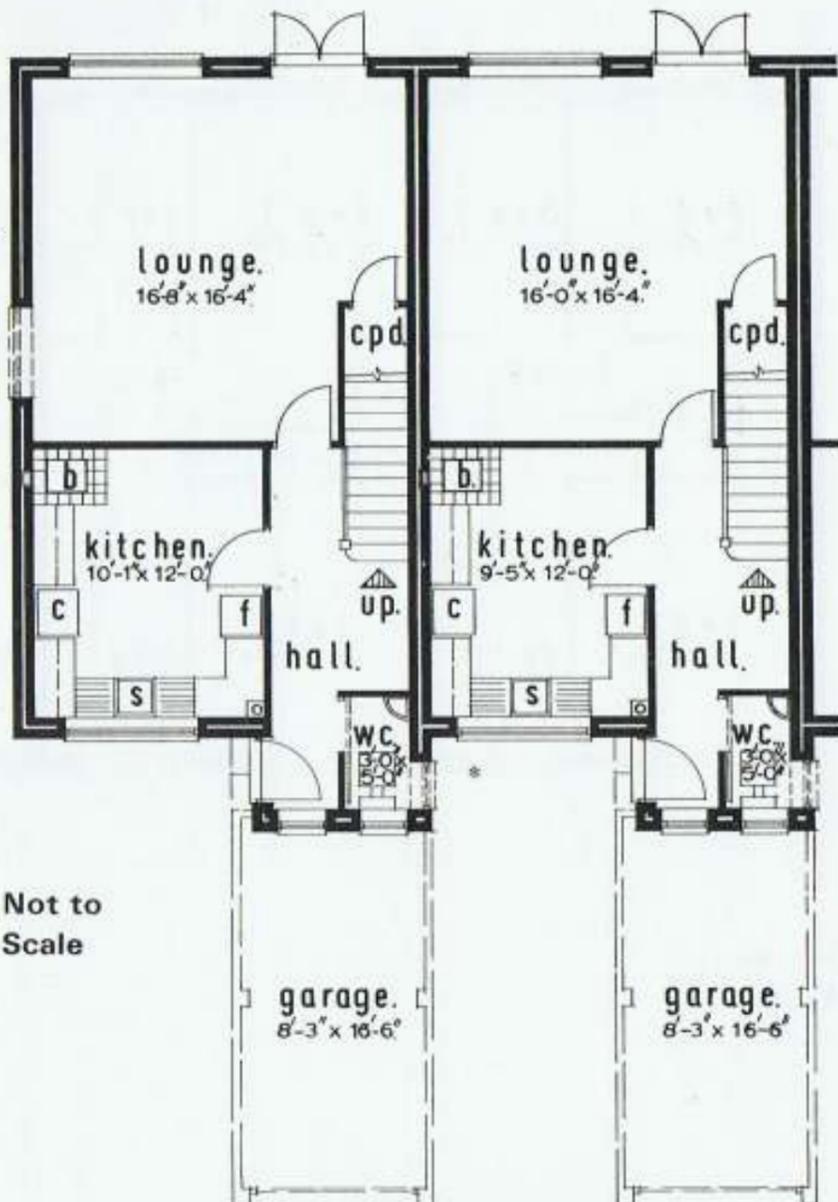
Venture Estates eventually got permission for new housing on the site - the first phase of which was available in the spring of 1969.

It was named 'The Willows' after the flats that had once been the brew-master's home.



In the end, of course, the site was sold for residential development with Venture Estates Ltd converting the old brew-master's house into flats, and building in stages a new estate on the site of the laundry - the first phase of five houses of which were due for occupation in the spring of 1969.

It would be another two or three years before the old Stream Cottage site was redeveloped by the council - the old condemned cottages, like the 'eyesore' of the Sanway Laundry, giving way to the delightful 1960's architecture of Stream Close and The Willows!

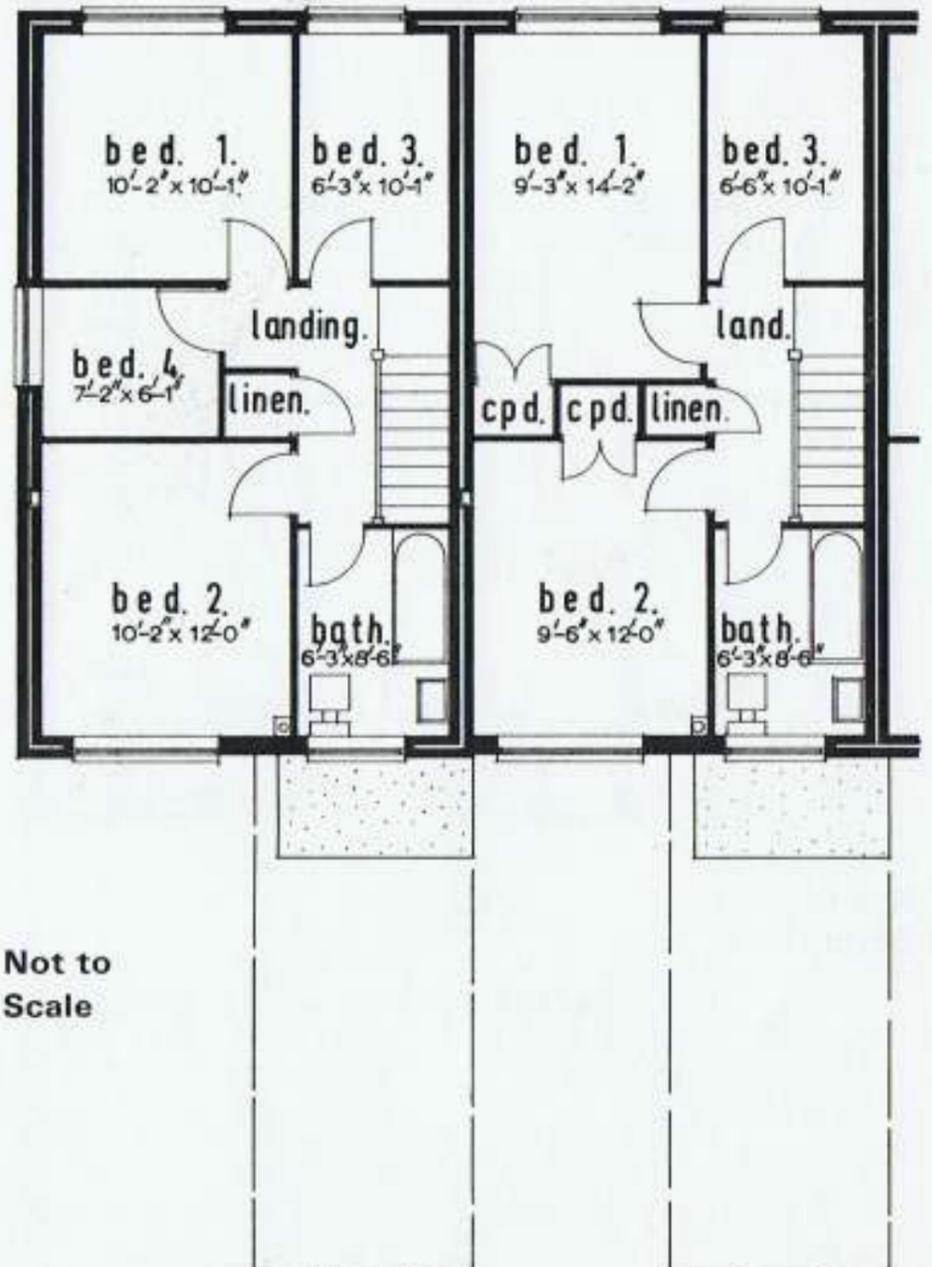


Garage on Plots 6-10 only in this position.

TYPE C & F TYPE B & E.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

*Plots 6 and 10 only



Not to Scale

TYPE C & F TYPE B & E.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN