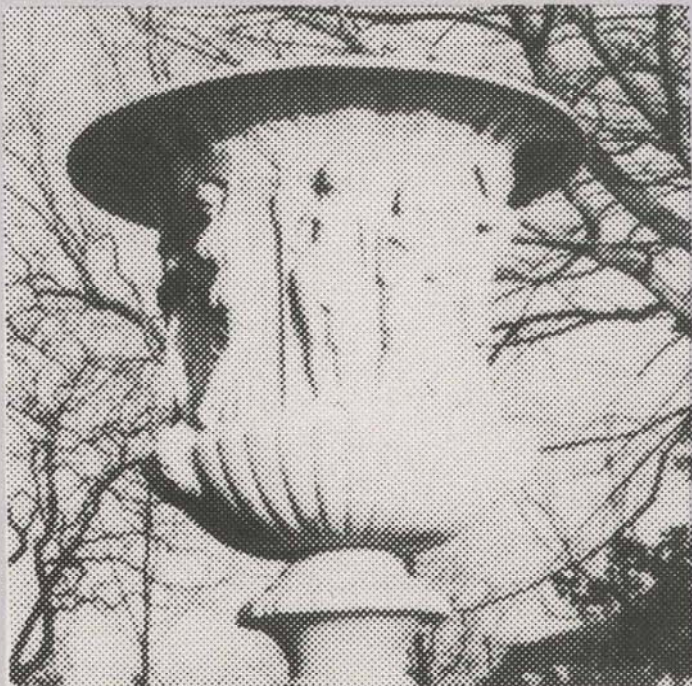




PEOPLE'S PARK

C O N S E R V A T I O N A R E A

CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation Areas are places that Councils recognise to be of special architectural or historic interest. Designating a Conservation Area is a statement of intent by the Council to protect and, if possible, improve upon its special qualities.

A Conservation Area does not mean that there will be no new developments or alterations to existing buildings. We live in a changing world, and the places where we live must be able to adapt to the demands of present-day life. However, the Council has a duty to make sure that all changes increase the attractiveness of the area and do not harm its special character.

This is important, as once unsympathetic changes to buildings and spaces have started to take place, the character of these historic areas can very quickly disappear. If we don't decide now which areas are important to retain and protect because of their historic significance and character, it could well be too late in years to come.

There are a number of special controls and requirements that apply to Conservation Areas in order to protect their character. For example, consent is required to demolish buildings and other structures, and as a

general rule, this will be resisted. New development must normally be built of natural stone, and all new buildings, along with alterations to existing buildings, must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. If you want to fell or prune a tree, the Council must be notified in advance.

If you are thinking about making any alteration to a property, or undertaking other work, in a Conservation Area, it is advisable to contact the Town Planning Department (tel; Halifax (0422) 357257) to find out if any consents are needed. Practical advice about restoration or alterations and the possible availability of grant-aid can also be obtained from the Department.

The Council hopes that being in Conservation Area will encourage owners to maintain and restore their buildings in keeping with the area's character. Such action will make an important contribution towards retaining the special character and quality of towns and villages in Calderdale.

Printed on
Recycled Card
January 1992



CALDERDALE
COUNCIL
TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PEOPLE'S PARK

LOCATION

The People's Park Conservation Area lies approximately 1 mile to the west of Halifax Town Centre.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The growth of the People's Park area was masterminded by the Crossleys of Dean Clough, one of the most influential and prestigious families in Halifax. They were instilled with a spirit of local paternalism which over the years richly endowed the area with Crossley family gifts.

Their influence began in 1849 when Sir Francis Crossley acquired the Belle Vue Estate and enlarged the house during the 1850's as a private residence for himself. The Francis Crossley Almshouses in Margaret Street were conceived as part of the setting to Belle Vue and were completed in 1855.

The inspiration for People's Park began with a visit by Sir Francis to New England in 1855.

He was impressed by the scenery and decided to donate to the citizens of Halifax a lasting memorial of his visit in the form of a landscaped park. The famous landscape architect Joseph Paxton was employed to design it, on a site to the west of the town close to Belle Vue. It opened on 14 August 1857. The park is a classic example of the Romantic movement in English landscape design featuring a serpentine pond and generously furnished with ornamentation,

culminating in the Great Terrace with its Roman statues, pavilion and effigy of Sir Francis himself.

On Park Road, an imposing row of houses was built by Sir Francis, designed by John Hogg, and on King Cross Street is the late Georgian West House.

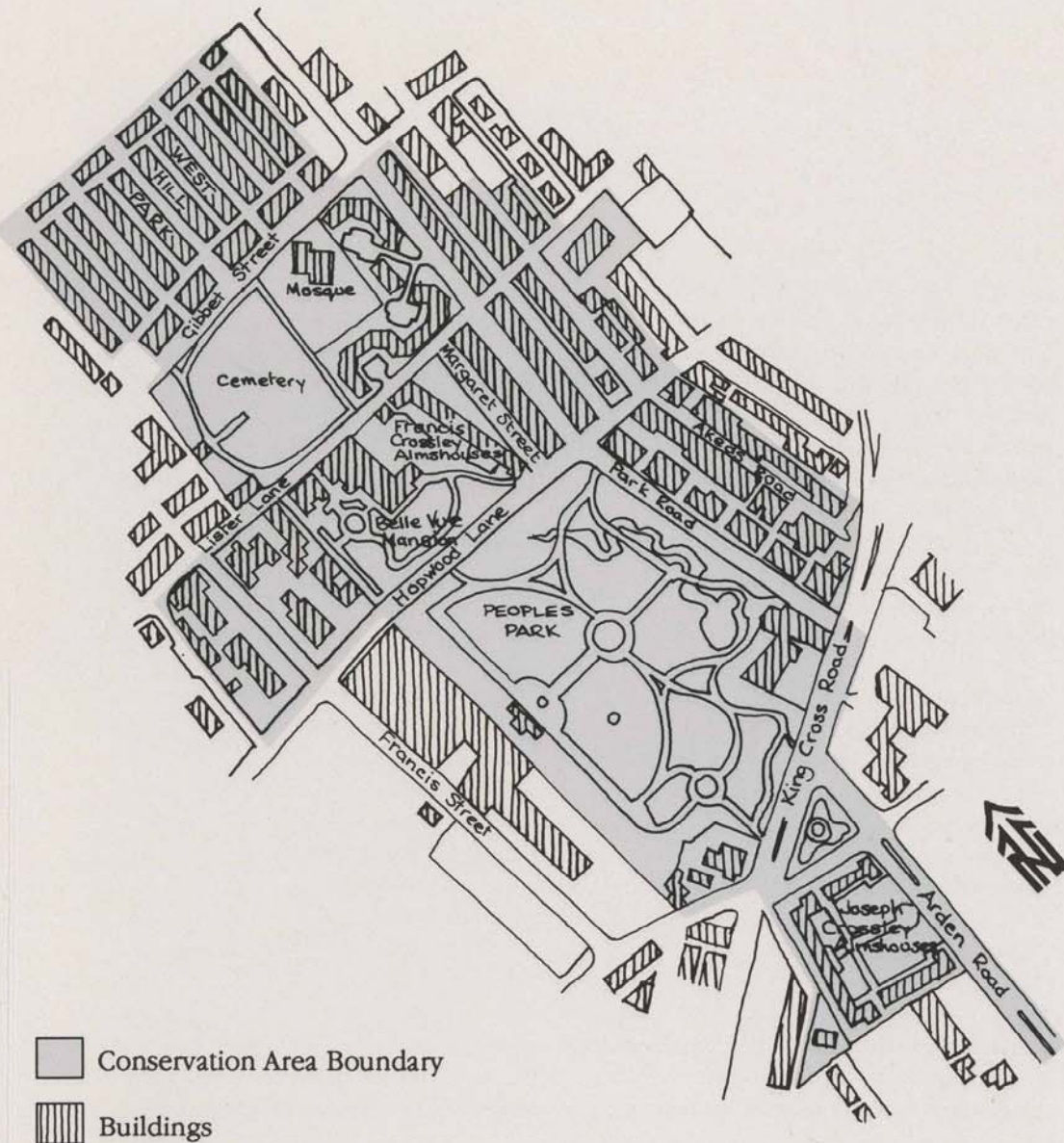
The most ambitious project undertaken by the Crossley family was the West Hill Park development designed by Paull & Ayliffe. The estate of 185 'model' dwellings was completed in 1868 and at that time represented a major advance in housing development. The scheme illustrates early traffic segregation principles, with open spaces between fronts laid out as gardens, and a central pedestrian link.

An essential element in West Hill Park is the Park United Reformed Church of 1869. Gothic in form, it has a large tower and spire at the west front.

The Almshouses in Arden Road were developed by Joseph Crossley. They form three sides of a rectangle enclosing lawns and terraced gardens.

CHARACTER

Today, the People's Park area remains largely as it was conceived in Victorian times. All the essential elements of the Crossley work in the area remain intact and deserve protection. The People's Park Conservation Area was designated on the 23rd of September 1981.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Great care should be taken in preserving or improving Conservation Areas. New development must be designed in sympathy with the character of the area. Many alterations could harm the character of buildings in People's Park and work should be carefully considered before proceeding. The drawing opposite shows some of the characteristics of the Conservation Area that it is important to keep, so that it will remain at its most attractive.

Remember that the simplest form of conservation is regular maintenance, as this will retain the original building fabric and reduce the cost of subsequent repairs and renewals. Roofs are particularly important and should be inspected each autumn. Chimneys should also be inspected, checking the condition of the masonry, pointing and pots. Flues should be swept to prevent fire hazards.

Any cast-iron gutters, downpipes and railings should be inspected annually for corrosion and repainted every 5 years. All gutters should be kept clear of leaves and vegetation. Windows and doors should be repaired at the first sign of ill fit or decay, and any renewal should be in a matching style. Ideally, external paintwork should be renewed every 5 years.

Natural materials and traditional methods should be used for all repairs and restoration work.

