



Blue Plaque Heritage Statement



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Introduction:

Barnsley Civic Trust runs a Blue Plaque scheme for Barnsley. Blue Plaques are put up to recognise a building or place's connection with a significant person or an event in the history of Barnsley; they are a symbol of our heritage.

Barnsley Civic Trust has been working with the High Street Heritage Action Zone on Eldon Street which agreed to fund five new Blue Plaques to tell different stories of Eldon Street.

The Eldon Street High Street Heritage Action Zone was a project funded by Historic England, Barnsley Council, and Local Businesses which looked to restore and revitalise our heritage on the north side of Eldon Street.

The funding enables Barnsley Civic Trust to add the five new blue plaques on Church Street, Regent Street, and Eldon Street relating to significant people or events in the history of Eldon Street.

Two of the plaques will be added on grade II listed buildings: 14 Regent Street and the Queen's Hotel (Queen's Business Court), Regent Street, and are subject to Listed Building Consent.

The other blue plaques are not on listed buildings and are classed as deemed consent.

This Heritage Statement accompanies the applications for Listed Building Consent.

The plaques are approximately 18" diameter plaques which will be fitted to the buildings using two or three screws into the mortar joints.

Heritage Statement:

14 & 16 Regent Street – 14 Regent Street is a former town house built in circa 1825. The building is located to the north side of Regent Street. It was designated as a grade II listed building in 1986 on the 13th of January. The building was converted into offices and is currently used as a base for Smiths Chartered Surveyors.

- Description – 14 Regent Street is a two-storey town house built in dressed stone with a Welsh slate roof. The building has many architectural features including 3 bays with entrances to left and right in good Doric doorcases, and other features as well. [16 Regent St. is a similar house.]
- Historic England Designation 1191936 - <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1191936?section=official-list-entry>

The Blue Plaque proposed to be fixed to 14 Regent Street commemorates John Whitworth, the architect, surveyor and town planner, who was appointed by the Barnsley Town Improvement Commissioners under the Act for Improving the Town of Barnsley 1822. As stated on the Blue Plaque, he laid out Regent Street and Eldon Street. He lived in 14 Regent Street, one of the first houses on Regent Street, and deserves to be commemorated there.

Queen's Hotel – The Queen's Hotel is a former hotel built between 1872 and 1874 for James Fox to designs by Wade & Turner. The building is located to the east of Regent Street and north of Eldon Street. It was designated as a grade II listed building in 1986 on the 13th of January. The building was converted to offices and is presently used as offices, as Queen's Court Business Centre.

- Description – The Queen's Hotel is a classical building built in ashlar stone and enlivened by high-quality detailing including pilasters with enriched capitals, window heads and eaves cornice, carved eagles, lions' heads, an elaborate main entrance with a carved keystone head of Queen Victoria and other keystone heads by the sculptor Benjamin Payler, an apprentice of Catherine Mawer, Master Stonemason.
- Historic England Designation – <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1286809?section=official-list-entry>

The Blue Plaque proposed to be fixed to the Queen's Hotel (now Queen's Court Business Centre) commemorates Catherine Mawer Master Stonemason whose studio produced the carved heads and artistic masonry on the Queen's Hotel. Benjamin Payler, her pupil, also referred to on the Plaque, was the sculptor involved. The carved heads include not only Queen Victoria but also the first two mayors of Barnsley, and both Catherine Mawer and Benjamin Paylor. Their contribution to the artistry of the Queen's Hotel and Barnsley's heritage deserves to be commemorated.

Locations

The location of each plaque has been chosen to fit in with the design of the building.

14 Regent Street. Plaque to be positioned at a height of 2.5 metres, on the wall between the gateway and the columned doorway, horizontally centred (at 350mm), above the existing signage.

Queen's Hotel: Plaque to be positioned at a height of 2.9 metres, on the wall to the side of the portico, horizontally centred (at 360mm), above the existing Queen's Court Business Centre signage, near the carved heads of Catherine Mawer and Benjamin Payler.

Impact Assessment

We believe the placement of these Blue Plaques would enhance the historic value of the buildings and would not harm their character or appearance. This is because the plaques are relatively small and discreet. Their purpose is to share the stories of Barnsley and celebrate part of its history and heritage.

However, to attach the plaque, a slight amount of the buildings' original material will be impacted. The plaque will cover a small part of the stonework but will be fixed with two or three screws into the mortar joints to avoid any impact on the stonework.

Appendix 1 – 14 Regent Street Blue Plaque:



Note: The wording has been changed to read INCLUDING LAYING OUT REGENT STREET AND ELDON STREET

Appendix 2 – Queen's Hotel (Queen's Court Business Centre Blue Plaque

