

## **Context of the School Name Consultation**

In the summer of 2020, following the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matters Protests, a petition was launched to rename Rhodes Avenue Primary School. The petition gained some publicity at local and national level. Below is a link to a Ham and High article published in June 2020, including a quote from Catherine West MP:

*Catherine West (Lab, Hornsey and Wood Green) said she backed ditching the Rhodes name. She told this newspaper: "I fully support the campaign to rename Rhodes Avenue, and Rhodes Avenue Primary School.... in conjunction with the community and the school itself.*

*"The Black Lives Matter movement has demonstrated how racist and outdated ideologues from a bygone era still exist in our modern society and we should use this time to review and refresh historic place names to better reflect our modern world."*

<https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/lifestyle/heritage/black-lives-matter-petition-to-rename-rhodes-avenue-primary-3663384>

## **Haringey Council**

In June 2020, Haringey Council launched their Review on Monuments, Building, Place and Street Names in Haringey. As of February 2022, the only two place names that have been or are being reviewed and changed; the Albert Road Recreation Ground , (now the O.R. Tambo Recreation Ground,) and Black Boy Lane in Tottenham, now named (to be renamed LaRose Lane). Rhodes Avenue and Rhodes Avenue Primary School have not, as yet, been included as part of any review by Haringey Council.

Information on Haringey Council's Review on Monuments, Building, Place and Street Names in Haringey can be found here:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/culture/review-monuments-building-place-and-street-names-haringey>

## **Rhodes Avenue Primary School**

Rhodes Avenue Primary School is situated on Rhodes Avenue in N22. The school was founded in 1930 and the following records about the school can be found from the Institute of Historical Research:

*Rhodes Avenue school opened in 1930, with accommodation for 434 juniors and infants. In 1952 a separate infants' school was established on*

*the same site. There were 294 pupils enrolled at the junior school and 200 at the infants' school in 1972.*

Source: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol5/pp364-376>

The following information about Thomas Rhodes can be found on the Alexandra Park and Palace page of the Hornsey Historical Society website: *"In 1812, Tottenham Wood Farm was purchased by Thomas Rhodes who hailed from an established Yorkshire farming family who held other farmland in the north London area. He was a great uncle of Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902), known for his exploits in Africa. He hoped to create a dairy farm and purchased additional land in 1850. His property now extended from the Great Northern Railway in the east as far as Muswell Hill village and south to the Priory estate on the western edge of Hornsey village. The farm now encompassed 450 acres.*

*Thomas Rhodes died in 1856 aged 93 and his family inherited the farm. In 1894 the farmhouse became the clubhouse for Muswell Hill Golf Club. It remained so until 1932 when it was demolished except for its portico which remained in its original location. The portico, described as "a screen" was Grade II listed in 1974. It stands in splendid isolation in the grounds of Rhodes Avenue Primary School where it can be viewed from the road."*

Source: <https://hornseyhistorical.org.uk/alexandra-park-palace-what-was-there-before/>

The following information can be found from The Institute for Historical Research regarding Cecil Rhodes Secondary Modern School, now Alexandra Park School:

*"The following secondary modern schools were established after 1945: Markfield (mixed), Gladesmore Road, Tottenham; **Cecil Rhodes (mixed), Rhodes Avenue, Wood Green (1959)**; (fn. 205) Parkwood (girls) (1963), Bounds Green Road, Wood Green, replacing Noel Park; Woodside (boys) (1962), Glendale Avenue, Wood Green, replacing Lordship Lane.*

*Alexandra Park opened as a mixed school in 1967. The lower school took over a building in Park Road which had been erected for Bounds Green school in 1965, while the upper school occupied the former Cecil Rhodes school's premises. A library and other extensions had been built on the Rhodes Avenue site by 1973, when there were plans to increase the number of pupils to 1,320 within two years."*

Source: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol5/pp364-376>

The school amalgamated with two other schools and eventually became Fortismere School, as shown in the National Archives:

*In 1964, Bounds Green Secondary Modern School amalgamated with Cecil Rhodes Secondary Modern School; this then became Alexandra Park Comp. Sch in 1975 (in Rhodes Ave), & then amalgamated with Creighton School. It is now known as Fortismere School.*

Source: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/e95732b0-ae62-40ba-9cf4-205f23dd5d17>

In 1912, maps show that the road now known as Rhodes Avenue was named Hampton Road:

Source: <https://alexandraparkneighbours.org.uk/blog/alexandra-park-local-history-part-1>