

Choice of two sites for new city fire station

By GEORGE TOMBLIN, Our Municipal Reporter

Faced with the urgent necessity of providing an up-to-date fire station for the Intake area in place of the existing one in Woodhouse Road, Sheffield Fire Brigade Committee has to choose between two sites.

Either they will build it on land in Mansfield Road from which an unsightly spoil heap has been removed, or at the Ridgeway-Hurlfield Road junction. In the former case the ground slopes and will need levelling, at considerable expense; on the alternative site stand four prefabs which will have to be replaced by four permanent dwellings elsewhere.

The committee did not reach a firm decision on their annual tour of inspection of fire stations yesterday, but most members seemed to prefer the Ridgeway-Hurlfield Road site on which much less money would have to be spent before actual building could begin, compared with the other site.

No Difficulty

The question was referred to Coun. H. Redgate, committee chairman, who said they would have no difficulty in proving to anybody that a new fire station for Intake was urgently required. The present station was taken over as temporary and the owner required the site, the lease would expire in 1958.

Despite the credit squeeze and restrictions on capital expenditure the chairman claimed that progress had been made since the last annual inspection. The new fire station at Darnall was comparable with any in the country.

Many of the firemen at central fire station, as well as the Chief Fire Officer, Mr. Ben Jones had been re-housed.

Converted

Older flats had been converted into administrative offices, and now other flats would be turned into new quarters for the A.F.S.

The Chief Fire Officer claimed that Sheffield had the best fire brigade in the country, due entirely to the unfailing enthusiasm and support he received from the committee, who realised that any appliance he asked for was in the interest of the city and the efficiency of the brigade.

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Latest Equipment

The Lord Mayor Ald. R. Neill said there was no better fire brigade in the country. It had the latest fire-fighting appliances and when Mr. Jones saw anything better the committee allowed him to have it because it was economy to have the best. Ald. C.W. Gascoigne leader of the City Council, said men who had such a hazardous job as firemen deserved the best conditions, and as far as he was concerned no economy would be exercised at the expense of the fire brigade.

Other speakers were Ald. A.V. Wolstenholme and Coun. C.J. Moseley.