



## NEWSLETTER 107 June 1995

### Churchill Square

Plans for the re-development of Churchill Square have now been published. Here are some of the main points which are likely to affect our area:

- closure of Regency Road - there will no longer be a way through to West Street underneath the Square for cars or pedestrians
- Grenville Street (off Regency Road under the Square) to be closed by security gates with access for deliveries only
- main carpark entrances will be in West Street but ones in Cannon Place to stay
- Russell Road (behind the Brighton Centre) will be two way for part of its length with traffic lights at the West Street end. The main car parks will all exit into Russell Road.
- Cannon Place to be two way, providing a turn off the seafront between the Grand and Metropole hotels
- no improvements planned to the external appearance of Churchill Square in Cannon Place
- service area with a rubbish compactor to be located behind the entrance the Chartwell Court
- the shopping mall to have security doors next to W H Smith and Austin Reed and be closed at night

- superloos to go and be replaced by toilets inside the mall
- some offices to be demolished but Grenville House (entrance in front of W H Smith) to be retained with no improvement to external appearance.

An exhibition giving some details of the plans is on show in the former chemist shop behind W H Smith. The full planning application can be inspected at the planning office in Bartholomew Square.

### What does the Society think ?

The committee has had a lengthy discussion of the plans. We need to submit our comments before 26 June if they are to be taken into account.

Our initial reactions are set out below; if you have any comments on them please contact the Chairman, Harold Lawson (tel 328203) before 15 June.

- We regret very much that the opportunity has not been taken to improve the external appearance of the buildings, particularly in Cannon Place facing Russell Square, which is a major feature of the conservation area. The Planning Authority should make some external improvements a condition of planning permission.
- We are concerned at the loss of a pedestrian and vehicle way through Regency Road: this is currently one of only two ways that vehicles can enter Russell and Clarence Squares.
- But the plan does replace it with the possibility of access from the seafront up Cannon Place which could be an advantage for residents with cars. This will only work if illegal parking by exhibition traffic in Cannon Place is prevented.
- Exhibition traffic prevented from using Cannon Place must not be allowed to move into St Margaret's Place causing even worse congestion there than at present during exhibition periods.
- If the shopping mall development is successful it will attract far more traffic to the area. As traffic congestion gets worse residents need greater protection of their right of access and to park; so

the new traffic scheme should be augmented with changes to the resident parking scheme and improved enforcement: more residents' places and longer restricted parking hours are needed. Perhaps a limited revival of the tow-away square is needed to combat growing parking anarchy.

### Not the National Lottery

The Society has decided to take some action to improve Regency Square.

So often we find ourselves putting pressure on the Council to do something. Now we are going to do something ourselves by setting up a Regency Square Improvement Fund. Money will be raised by a lottery with prizes, donated by local businesses, such as dinner at various local restaurants and possibly even a night in one of the grander hotels in the area.

The money will be kept separate from the Society's ordinary funds and will be used for projects such as purchasing new benches, improving the gardens and contributing to the proposed security camera.

The lottery is being organised by committee member Traudi Tappin. She will welcome any help in obtaining prizes or selling tickets. Please give her a ring (735167) if you can help, or if you just want to buy some tickets. The draw will be held at a social event in September. Full details in a future issue.

### Well Well !

Builders working in the basement of number 39 Regency Square recently uncovered a disused well. It went down for 30 or 40 feet and probably pre-dated the house, which was built about 1818.

Brighton Museum sent someone to inspect the well before it was covered over again. Apparently there was no previous documentary evidence of its existence. There is now - at least there is if anyone keeps copies of these newsletters.

## Even Ambulances Need to Park

Parking in and around Regency Square is becoming impossible. Society member Terry Wing who runs the Regency branch of St John Ambulance is trying to find a somewhere to park his vehicles.

He applied for an ambulance parking bay outside numbers 49 and 50 Regency Square, at the top of Queensbury Mews. The Society has objected to this location because the area is already congested; large vehicles would make it worse and take light from the front rooms of the north facing houses.

We have suggested that a bay should be created in Queensbury Mews alongside the blank wall of the exhibition hall, and under the watchful eye of the Metropole security camera.

## Of Pasta and Posts

Three posts have appeared outside the Mama Mia restaurant on the corner of Preston Street. They are designed to protect the new paving by preventing vehicles from driving on it to cut the corner.

The Society welcomes this attempt to keep vehicles off the pavement. But the posts are very ugly.

This is supposed to be a conservation area. Just compare these red and white metal tubes with the attractive bollards which have been installed in other parts of the town such as the Lanes. Are we a second class conservation area?

We have asked the Council to replace the posts with something better.

## The Big Issue is ...

Premises in Preston Street near the turning into Regency Square are being used as the local distribution centre for the Big Issue magazine which is sold in aid of the homeless.

Planning permission was not obtained for the new use of the premises and a retrospective application has now been made. The Conservation Areas Advisory Group, on which the Society is represented, has objected to the change of use because it involves the loss of retail premises in the street.

## Of Fish and Micro-chips

The information super highway and the Internet are two buzz words that need to be mentioned regularly by those who pretend to know where the world is headed. Your newsletter is not to be left out.

What does it all mean? One thing it means is that if you connect a computer to your phone you can obtain information from all over the world.

But information about what? Well, about a town you might want to visit, like Brighton for instance. Brighton is featured on the Internet and the information provided includes the following plug for one of our local eating places:

"The Regency, corner of Regency Square on the front. Far more than just an up-market chippie."

## Of Sleepers and Sweepers

Since the new street cleaning contract came into force there has been increased activity at the Council yard off Castle Street.

This is good news for those who want to see tidier streets. But it is bad news for those who live near the depot because the noisy sweeping machines have been starting up as early as 5 in the morning.

Pressure from residents, supported by the Society, has forced the Council to review the situation and there are hopes that the machines will remain quiet until a more reasonable hour.

### SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Harold Lawson tel 328203  
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch tel 773275  
TREASURER Brian Smith tel 325175  
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton tel 321794

## Seafront Shelters to Go

The Council has applied for permission to demolish five shelters on the seafront between West Street and the Peace Statue and two more on the lower promenade near the band stand.

The Society has registered an objection. The shelters provide shelter (No!) and are often used, especially when the weather is bad, which is often.

They are also a part of Brighton's heritage and a reminder of the days when the town was a "bucket and spade" holiday resort.

To Brian Smith, 45 Regency Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Society for 1995/96 in the category ticked below:

|                          | £    |
|--------------------------|------|
| Ordinary member          | 3.00 |
| Family                   | 3.50 |
| Senior Citizen           | 2.50 |
| Junior                   | 1.00 |
| Associate (non-resident) | 2.50 |
| Business (non-resident)  | 5.50 |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

**A cross in the  
box means your  
sub is due!**

