



**NEWSLETTER 124**  
**February 1997**

## Carry on Dumping

Last year we asked the Council what they could do to prevent bags of refuse being left in the street. They told us that it was their policy to search through bags to find evidence of who dumped them. If they found evidence they would send a warning letter and then, if necessary, prosecute.

We were impressed. It sounded like a serious attempt to deal with the problem. So recently we enquired how they were getting on. We wanted to know just how many warning letters and prosecutions there had been.

The reply from the Council's Cleansing and Highways Enforcement Officer makes fascinating reading. He says "I am amazed that our records from September 1994 to December 1996 only show a couple of letters being issued."

We are amazed as well! It seems that what we were told earlier about how the Council deals with the problem was just - well, rubbish!

## Why?

The reason given for the lack of action is that legal proceedings can only be taken against dumpers if they are caught "red handed". Photographic evidence would be needed of the refuse actually being dumped. Things like envelopes with names and addresses can be found in the rubbish bags but on its own this is not enough to get a conviction.

So rubbish dumping is illegal, but the law is virtually unenforceable.

The Council's Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) scheme is aimed at improving the local area. What is the point of spending thousands of pounds making our local squares look better if they then going to be used as a rubbish dump?

Our chairman has raised this issue with the Council SRB team and they are trying to find a solution.

## Hedges - the pros and cons

We reported recently that the planned regeneration schemes for Clarence and Regency squares involves new railings with hedges inside.

Hedges have been proposed in the belief that they will discourage people from dropping rubbish bags over the railings.

However, concern has been expressed that they will also provide attractive resting places for vagrants and drunks. We will raise this issue with the Council SRB team.

## High Speed Mall

The re-development of Churchill Square is ahead of target. Work was originally scheduled to finish in time for Christmas 1998. The latest estimate has brought this forward to April 1998.

## Glazing Refused

The Planning Committee has refused permission for the Sun Hall restaurant, next to the Metropole, to glaze in their outdoor seating area.

The Society had objected to the scheme on the grounds that it would set a precedent and could result in all the properties on the seafront have glazed front areas.

## Quiet and Cool

Cooler units which had been constructed on the Metropole exhibition halls without planning permission have now been approved.

The main objection was from residents of Sussex Heights who complained they were noisy. Planning permission was given on the condition that they should not generate noise above general background levels. The units have been modified to comply.

There had also been objections that the units were unsightly but the committee took the view that their appearance was acceptable.

## Put it in your Diary!

The Society's annual general meeting will be held in the York room at the Metropole Hotel at 7:30 pm on Thursday 27 March 1997. Full details in the next issue.

### SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175  
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275  
TREASURER Gail Simons ☎ 202690  
NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton ☎ 321794

## Another Fine Mess !

Fed up with having to circumnavigate dog mess on the pavements?

Recently two particularly large dollops appeared on the northern pavement of Regency Square. They were soon redistributed over a wide area as pedestrians failed to negotiate them successfully.

There doesn't appear to be any light on the horizon in solving this particular problem. In a response to residents' complaints in another area of the town a Brighton Council spokeswoman admitted there was a serious problem but said there was only one animal welfare officer available to enforce the rules.

She said "Brighton is far too big an area for one person to cover. We try to do the best we can with bins and signs."

A case of a guard dog with no bark or bite perhaps?

## Russell and Clarence Squares - your chance to see the plans

The Council's proposals for regeneration schemes in Russell and Clarence Squares will be on display in the foyer of Chartwell Court (at the eastern end of Russell Square) from March 3rd to March 9th. The foyer is open when the caretaker is in attendance.

The display will then move to the Dove Hotel on the west side of Regency Square from March 10th to March 14th between 11am & 2pm.

Please have a look at the plans let the Council know your views.

## How to Reduce Illegal Parking



The Society often complains to the police about the lack of consistent enforcement of the parking rules.

The answer usually consists of an explanation that the police do not have enough resources, plus a promise to target this area.

Why are there not enough resources when each ticket issued represents potential income? The answer is simple: the money collected by the wardens does not go to the police but straight to central government.

All this could change. The new Brighton and Hove Local Authority can (if it chooses) apply for permission to employ its own parking wardens. The money they collect can be used to meet their cost.

This seems to make sense. The authority would actually have a financial motive to clamp down on illegal parking. And the police meanwhile could devote their limited resources to other problems.

It won't stop people parking in residents' bays without a permit, or leaving their car on the pavement. But it should increase the chance of them being fined if they do.

We have written to the new authority to encourage them to tackle the parking problem by employing their own wardens.

## Membership Subs due for 1997

Thank you to those members who paid their subscriptions last month. If you have not renewed for 1997 yet please do so as soon as you can !



## Membership Renewal Form

The subscription rates shown below are the minimum payable for membership. If you are able to give more, please do. You can give a donation for general Society funds or for the Regency Square Improvement Fund which is reserved specifically for environmental improvements.

To Gail Simons, 28 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1997/98 in the category ticked below:

|                          | £    |
|--------------------------|------|
| Ordinary member          | 4.00 |
| Family                   | 4.50 |
| Senior Citizen           | 3.50 |
| Junior                   | 2.00 |
| Associate (non-resident) | 3.50 |
| Business (non-resident)  | 6.50 |

Optional donation: £ \_\_\_\_\_ for Society funds OR Regency Sq Improvement Fund (delete one)

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.