

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER N° 25 DEC.



Happy
Christmas

THE SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE EXTENDS TO
ALL MEMBERS GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS
AND VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY 1983.

Social evening

A very enjoyable evening was held at the George IV Hotel on Friday 30th November with entertainment, refreshments and an Old Tyme singer. 27 members attended on this wet and windy night.

Victory in Russell Square

The garage in the corner of Russell Square has been bought by National Car Parks (ltd). Last month they tried to open it as a public car park.

If they had succeeded the whole of Russell Square would have been clogged up with traffic at busy times in the way that Cannon Place already is. Local residents decided to do everything possible to prevent this happening.

The Society organized a campaign of action. Plans were made quickly so that when NCP staff arrived to open the car park for business they found a group of residents and councillors blocking the entrance. Posters appeared in most of the windows of the square and a large notice was erected on scaffolding immediately outside the garage entrance.

The message was clear: no car park in Russell Square.

Meanwhile local council officers were lobbied. They investigated the proposed new use for the premises and declared that NCP would need planning permission. NCP disagreed on the grounds that the garage was used for parking many years ago.

However the council officers made it clear that they were very unhappy with the way NCP had planned to open this new car park without consulting them. In fact they consulted no one - not even the police.

Since the Council own most of the other sites on which NCP operate car parks in Brighton the company decided it was expedient to take note of the views expressed. As a result they have given an undertaking that they will put it to the same use as the previous owners.

What does that mean? We must wait and see.

One thing is clear. Prompt action by the Society and local residents prevented NCP from getting their scheme started. It also galvanized the council into action. We must continue our vigilance.

STOP PRESS

We have just heard that the N.C.P. Russell Square are proposing to open this garage as a car park for car season ticket holders, at a cheap rate to attract them from the other car parks.

Childrens New Year Party

As most of our member's children are growing up it has been suggested that a disco/party would be more appropriate. The problem is that the social side of our Committee has been weakened by those previously active in this section of our activities having moved away or resigned. We need volunteers to join our Committee (meeting on the first Wednesday of each month) to work with others to organise our social activity. If you can help call Eddie Edwards: tel 27935

Exhibition Traffic Congestion

As a result of the meeting between our Societies Officers and the Superintendent of Police a meeting was convened between the Borough Council, the Police, the Metropole and our Society. The problems were fully discussed but no firm decisions were taken. The Metropole's traffic officer stated that he had no authority to instruct offending drivers. The Metropole said that the rates they pay should cover pay for Police supervision and the Police stated that they had no officers available. The Police also stated that they did not operate double standards for those using the Exhibition Halls and the residents. It is up to us to bring examples of this to the attention of the Police if it occurs.

Lorry drivers drive onto the pavement in Cannon place obstructing the pathway, annoying the residents and breaking paving stones. The solution would be to extend the railing to prevent lorries mounting the pathway. This is being looked into.

Industry in Russell Square (continued)

The planning application for the development of industrial buildings behind 26-7 Russell Square has been granted by the Planning Committee because the site had been previously used for industrial purposes. However conditions have been imposed: all buildings be suitably insulated against the transmission of noise, no machines shall be installed within the building without consent of the Planning Officer, no goods to be stored in open areas and business opening to be restricted to 8am to 6pm and at no time on Saturdays.

63 Regency Square and the Mermaid Hotel

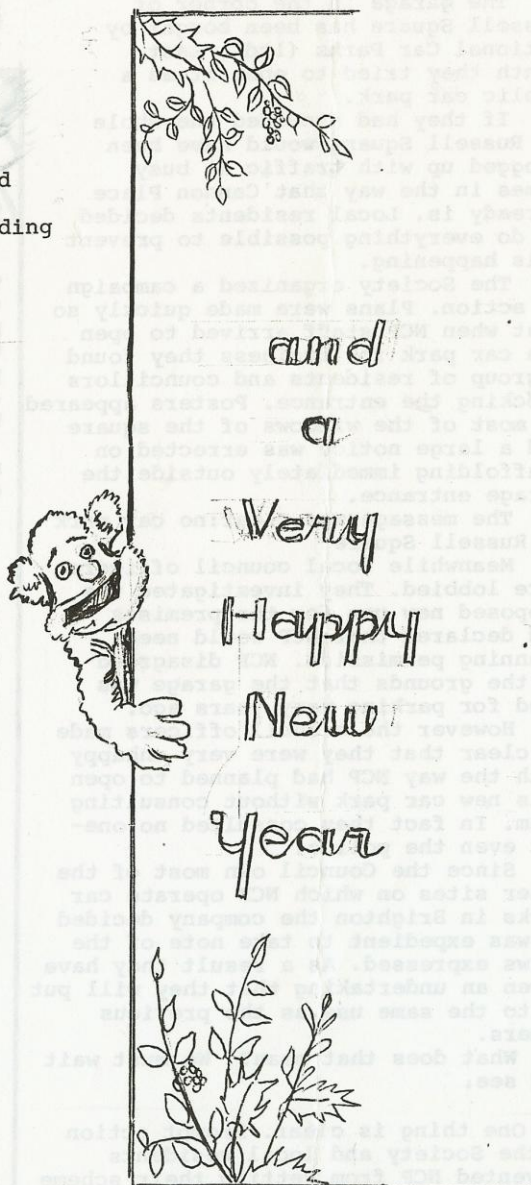
On December 7th and 8th Mr Brian Hare, the owner of the above, appealed against the Council's stand that he must have planning permission to change the use of these premises from hotels to hostels.

Three members of our Society gave evidence supporting the Council.

The Council Planning Officer in his evidence stated that these premises had been described as doss houses, 70 persons, mainly homeless, use the three premises owned by Mr. Hare, 63 Regency Square, 123 and 124 Kings Road with two full-time employees, insufficient bathrooms and a crowded kitchen/dinning room. The Government Inspector visited the premises. We await the outcome of this Government Enquiry and expect Mr. Hare to be forced to conform to minimum reasonable standards as specified by the Council irrespective of the decision reached by the Inspector.

Regency Square NCP Car Park Exit

As a result of our action the pedestrian underpass to the beach no longer floods. We are now bringing the flooding that occurs at the NCP exit to the attention of those concerned and hope that this too can be solved.



Trolleys (continued)

As you know we have been bringing pressure on Tesco and Sainsburys to charge for trolleys taken from their stores. Sainsburys are considering a coin operated self-locking device. We now understand that they are consulting with Tescos for joint action and that this will be dealt with in the New Year. Pressure by letters should continue if we are to get them to act.

Regency Square One-way Traffic

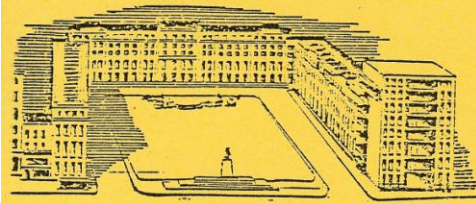
We have suggested that the Police car parking space be moved from the west side of the square to the east side (outside No. 63). Also they should not park their cars in the dip by the car park exit as this causes a traffic hazard.

Good Neighbours (continued from the last newsletter)

We reported that the Court had ordered the Metropole's Casino in Preston Street to modify the ventilation plant and reduce its noise by October 20th. Modifications have been made to the plant and the noise has not abated. The residents in Preston Court have been advised to take out a further summons to have the Court Order enforced. A noise meter has again been borrowed through Mrs. Montford of the Brighton Urban Studies Centre to prepare the case for a second summons.

STOP PRESS

The Casino owners have started to move the compressor from the roof to a new position on the ground. Because of this change in the situation it has been agreed to hold the second summons to await the results of this modification.



REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY

Dear Neighbour

We invite you to join The Regency Square Area Society, your local community association covering the area bounded by Western Road, Cannon Place, Kings Road and Little Preston Street

Our Society is starting its fifth year and has been continuously involved in activities to protect and improve our environment and promote community relations.

We are represented on the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee which reviews all planning applications.

Negotiated with the Authorities on traffic congestion, residents parking, litter bins, improvements to greens etc.

Organised seasonal parties for the children, social evenings, fire work displays and coach outings.

Membership is open to everyone who lives or is in business in the area. JOIN TODAY, send in the application form below. Come to our Annual General Meeting at 2.30 pm on Sunday March 27th at the Portland House Hotel in Regency Square.

Return this form with your subscription to Roger Hinton,
Treasurer, Regency Square Area Society, 38 Regency Square.

I would like to join the Regency Square Area Society.
I enclose my subscription as shown below (please tick the appropriate category).

| | |
|---|-----|
| Ordinary member - resident | £2 |
| Business member - non resident | £5 |
| Family - one or two adults and any number of children at one address | £3 |
| Senior Citizen | £1 |
| Junior member - under 18 | 50p |
| Associate member - non resident | £1 |

Name

Address