

REGENCY SQUARE AREA SOCIETY NEWS LETTER N° 31

A Happy New Year

Better late than never, we wish all members a happy new year at the start of 1984.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the Society's fifth year of activities. The fifth AGM will be held on 26 March and we are trying to find some way of making it into a bit of a celebration.

Sadly the portland hotel has closed. It was in the ballroom there that the first meeting of the Society was held back in 1979. Since then we have had four AGMs in the same room.

The manager of the Metropole has generously offered to allow the Society to use a room for this years AGM free of charge.

New Committee Member

Howard Ward, who served the Society well for several years, has now had to withdraw from the Committee because of ill health. We give him our very best wishes and thanks on behalf of all the members for his work for the Society.

To take his place on the committee we have co-opted Wally Hampson who has been a member since the Society started. He now represents the Society on the Conservation Areas Advisory Committee which advises the Council on all planning applications within conservation areas.

Regency Mews, Russell Square

The story so far: when Dutton Foreshaw closed their garage in Regency Mews they sold it to National Car Parks who tried to open a car park. Thanks to a major campaign lead by the Society this was prevented, thus saving Russell Square from terrible traffic problems.

Next there was an attempt to develop the site as a skating rink. Again we opposed this on various grounds, including the traffic congestion it would cause.

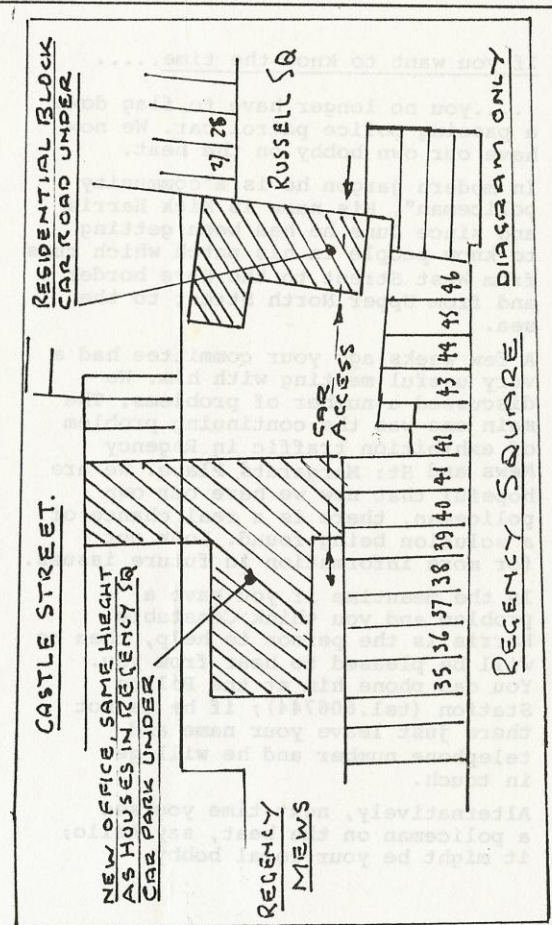
All along the Society has pressed for residential development. Ideally the Council should take over this valuable site and use it for much needed town centre housing. But they say it would be too expensive.

Now there is a new planning application being considered for 3252 square metres of office accommodation with 39 parking places, 17 retirement flats, warden maisonette and communal facilities with six parking places. The Society's committee has not yet considered the plans. They may be seen at the planning department, 83 North Street.

Please send your views on this proposed development to Eddy Edwards.

Auditor needed

Each year we need a member to volunteer to look through the Treasurer's accounts and report to the members that everything is in order. The job only takes an hour or two and does not require any qualifications. If you are willing to volunteer please contact the Treasurer, Roger Hinton (38 Regency Square, telephone 21794)



Car Park Underpass

In spite of a request from the Society and support from the Borough Engineer we still do not have double yellow lines in the underpass, so there is still a hazard caused by parked cars in this narrow section of roadway.

The reason appears to be that the police have opposed the idea. We are still hoping to get a satisfactory outcome and we have taken up the matter with our community policeman.

If you want to know the time.....

.....you no longer have to flag down a passing police patrol car. We now have our own bobby on the beat.

In modern jargon he is a "community policeman". His name is Mick Harris and since June he has been getting to know people in his patch which runs from West Street to the Hove border and from Upper North Street to the sea.

A few weeks ago your committee had a very useful meeting with him. We discussed a number of problems. The main one was the continuing problem of exhibition traffic in Regency Mews and St. Margarets Place. We are hopeful that now we have our own policeman, there is a real chance of a solution being found. Look out for more information in future issues.

In the meantime if you have a problem and you think Constable Harris is the person to help, then he will be pleased to hear from you. You can phone him at the Police Station (tel.606744); if he is not there just leave your name and telephone number and he will get in touch.

Alternatively, next time you see a policeman on the beat, say hello; it might be your local bobby.

The West Pier

Things are moving on the Pier, and not just the bits which keep falling off. A few months ago a group of Department of the Environment officials visited the pier. There is now hope that the Department will meet the cost of urgent repair works and a major survey to determine the cost of full scale repairs.

The Brighton Trust will hold its AGM at the Grand Hotel at 3 pm on Sunday 5 February. Latest developments will be reported then and we will keep you informed in future issues.

Proposed Beach Childrens Play Area

Those who came on the Society outing to Eastbourne a few years ago will know that a playground of this kind is great for both visitors and locals. For a small charge children can enter and play as long as they like on the toys and in the paddling pool. Parents can sit in deck chairs and buy a cup of tea.

Brighton would benefit from a similar Playground. But it should not be provided by robbing the local community. That is what is proposed by fencing off half of our paddling pool.

The Council are proposing to spend £250,000 on developing this play area. Five sights have been considered and the parks Committee are considering enclosing an area including the putting green, half the paddling pool and the walkway on the sea side of the putting green and paddling pool.

The Society has approached the local Ward Councillors and asked them to try and prevent this scheme from going ahead. We are not against the play ground in principle, only against the location.

If the present BlackRock development does not go ahead this would be an ideal site for the play area. Failing this the gardens to the West of West Pier should be considered.

What do you think? Write to Eddy Edwards, 38 Regency Square.

A Broader View of Brighton.

Through our delegate to the Conservation Area Planning Committee and our affiliation to the Brighton Society we are keeping a watching brief on the major developments that are now taking place. These developments will change the character of our town.

The Jubilee Site.

This is between Church Street and North Road and includes the Prince Regent Swimming Pool. Planning permission is being given to build a skating rink, new library, offices and housing. We have opposed the demolition of the houses in North place and pressed for a reduction of office space and an increase in residential housing.

Station Site Development.

This development covers 64 acres and the main feature is a bye pass relief road, diverting traffic from Preston Circus and running parallel to London Road re entering it at St. Peters Church.

The plans include extra shopping facilities, offices, housing and limited manufacturing space.

We have opposed the intention to build a large Super Market and Store and again pressed for less office space and increases residential houses.

Sea Front Development

This will provide for the demolition of the Council premises adjacent to Black Lion Square. Replacing this with a 200 bedroom Hotel and building Council Offices and a town square behind the hotel.

It was proposed to close this new town square without an outlet to the sea front. A compromise to leave a clear view and access under the hotel has been agreed.

All these plans can be seen at the Planning Office, 83 North Street. Please let us have your comments on these and other developments that are taking place in Brighton.