



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 71

February 1991

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Put a note in your diary for Tuesday March 26th. The AGM will be held at 7-30 pm at the Metropole Hotel.

The formal business will be followed by a talk by Robert Gregory, chairman of the Brighton Society.

We are very pleased to be able to welcome Robert Gregory to one of our meetings again. He is a local historian whose talks are both well informed and entertaining. And his collection of slides of Brighton must be second to none.

Refreshments will be served.

Full details of the meeting in the next newsletter.

ROAD REPAIRS PROMISED IN RUSSELL SQUARE

Contractors vehicles from the Regency Mews site are making quite a mess of Russell Square.

The developers are legally obliged to pay for any damage caused to the highway. A Council official is negotiating with them about this.

We have been assured by the Council that when the development is complete "the footway will be reinstated with as near to original materials as possible." Does this mean that the black tarmac will be replaced with paving slabs?

The Council also say that the road is expected to be re-surfaced in 1991/92 if sufficient funds are available.

THE SOCIETY HAS ITS SAY

In our last issue we explained the Society's objection to the Council policy of not allowing conversion to flats of houses in multiple occupation.

The policy is part of the Brighton Borough Plan which will be considered in detail at a public enquiry. It will be held at the Town Hall starting on 12 February.

This particular policy will be considered on the afternoon of 8 March. The Society has been given an opportunity to present its objection to the enquiry and Harold Lawson will be speaking on our behalf.

The enquiry is open to the public, so why not go along and give him some moral support.

THIS OL' HOUSE

Number One Clarence Square sounds like a smart address. But it is actually a sorry sight.

The cornice is crumbling; drainpipes have fallen off onto the pavement; broken windows let in the rain. The ground floor is boarded up.

It was occupied for a while by squatters. Since they were evicted it has apparently been left to rot.

We have raised this problem with the Council Planning Department who are investigating.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Memberships come up for renewal in February. Please continue to support your local society by renewing early. And if you have any new neighbours, why not get them to join too.

To Harold Lawson, 7 Chartwell Court, Russell Square, Brighton.

Please renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1990/91 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

LIFE ON THE FRINGE

Do you feel like a member of an "articulate single issue focussed fringe" ?

This is a phrase used by management consultants, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte in a recent report they prepared for the Department of the Environment.

The report looks at the likely impact on local authorities of proposed new legislation in the Environmental Protection Bill.

If it becomes law the Bill could give private citizens the right to sue their local authority for not clearing litter. Local authorities fear that this could place local councils in the hands of fringe groups, and thereby "divert scarce manpower from potentially higher priority tasks."

NOT MORE OFFICES !

Plans have been submitted for a new office development at 40/41 Castle Street. It is an empty building at present. The ground floor used to be a musical instrument shop, and then, briefly a motor cycle showroom.

The proposed building is larger than the existing one and includes a semi-basement car-park.

Local residents are very much opposed to the plan. The Society has written to the Planning Committee to oppose it.

We are very pleased to learn that the Planning Officer is recommending refusal on the grounds of over-development. For once the planning officials seems to have realised the importance of preserving the small scale of the buildings in Castle Street. Let's hope the Planning Committee agree.

NOT MORE POLES !



Any day now all the parking meters will be gone. Parking will be controlled by means of vouchers.

Although the meters will disappear immediately, the meter poles will probably remain in place for some time. Meanwhile the Council has erected a whole series of new taller poles to display notices about the new scheme.

So it seems that for a while we will have almost twice as many poles as before obstructing the footway. We have asked the Council for an estimate of how long it will take to remove the meter poles.

WHAT ABOUT THE RESIDENTS ?

And what effect will this new voucher scheme have on residents' parking bays.

The scheme does not affect them officially, but it will surely make it more difficult for visitors to understand where they can and where they cannot park. Previously it was pretty obvious that they could park where there were meters and not elsewhere.

So watch out for more cars parked illegally on residents' spaces.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Roger Hinton: tel 21794
SECRETARY Richard Pau: tel 26711
TREASURER Harold Lawson tel 28203

THE BUSES ARE COMING !

Some time ago the Council published a questionnaire in their newspaper, The Brighton Line. Its purpose was to find out what people thought about the problem in traffic in Western Rd.

Not surprisingly, most people thought that something should be done about it. The trouble is that the questionnaire did not say what. In particular, it did not say where the traffic would go if it was banned from Western Rd.

Plans are now being published which include the banning of buses from Churchill Square. So where will they go ?

The answer seems to be that they will use either Regency Rd or Russell Rd. This in turn probably means buses in Cannon Place and Russell Square.

Similar plans have been proposed in the past and the Society has successfully opposed them.

There will be an opportunity for public consultation before the new plans are finalised. However, it is already being suggested that the results of the questionnaire mean that this consultation will only be a formality because there is already overwhelming public support.

We disagree. The questionnaire was full of mis-leading questions designed to elicit public support for an idea which had not yet been worked out.

Full and proper consultation on the scheme is essential and we shall do everything we can to ensure it happens. More details in future newsletter.