

Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 126
May 1997

Money Money Money !

If there's one thing which will get people talking it's money. And that is just what happened at the Society's AGM at the end of March.

For the first time ever the accounts showed a significant loss. The chairman proposed a plan to increase membership subscriptions in order to prevent the same thing happening again this year.

Some members supported his proposal. Others were worried that higher rates would discourage people from joining or renewing. Some interesting ideas were expressed but no conclusion was reached. So the committee was sent away to find a solution.

Brighton in Bloom



One cause of the financial problems was the contribution made last year to Brighton in Bloom. This helped to pay for the marvellous display of flower baskets in Regency Square last spring.

The committee is keen to do the same this year. However, members' subscriptions only really provide enough funds for the day to day costs of the Society. So we need donations to fund this kind of project.

One member has already promised a donation of £50 which takes us well on the way. Many thanks ! If you can help with a donation - £5 or £50 (or any other figure you like !) then please send it to the Treasurer, Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square.

Thanks ...

... to everyone who helped at the AGM, including the Hotel Metropole for the room and sandwiches and members who donated prizes for the raffle. Thanks also to Steve Myall for his interesting talk and slides about the Clifton Hill area.

Welcome to New Members

We circulated a leaflet about the society to all non member who are on the voting register for the area. As a result we now have eleven new members.

Rubbish is Back on the Agenda

And on the street. For a while it seemed that the Council was making serious efforts to keep the streets clear of bags full of rubbish.

But they are creeping back. The problem became very apparent during the week after Easter when there was no collection. We wrote to the Council who have assured us that it is still their policy to maintain collections after bank holidays, though they may slip a day or so.

Rubbish with Class

We also asked why the bin men had cleared away bags of rubbish near the top of Queensbury Mews while leaving a pile of carpet. The answer was that carpet is not classed as household rubbish.

This is not the point. No matter what class of rubbish it is, it had been dumped in the street and the Council should clear it up.

The Left and Right Hands and what they know about eachother

The real problem is that people dump their rubbish in the street at the wrong time. The Council told us recently that dumpers cannot be prosecuted unless there is "photographic evidence" of them dumping.

That is why, according to one Council official, only two warning letters have been sent to offenders in the last couple of years. We suggested that maybe warning letters would be a good idea even if prosecution was not possible. We were then told by another official that "warning letters are still in fact sent." We are seeking clarification

Are Litter Bins the Answer ?

One member has suggested that we ask the Council for litter bins on the pavement in Clarence Square to discourage people from dropping fish and chip papers, etc. The Society has always avoided asking for litter bins because they are likely to be a further encouragement to people to put their household rubbish in the street.

Clear Path for the Fire Brigade

We have always been worried that illegal parking would delay the emergency services in getting to a fire or accident. We asked the Fire Brigade if they had experienced any problems when attending the penthouse fire in Sussex Heights recently.

The reply was that they are keen to make people aware of the potential risks of illegal parking, but there were no problems on that particular occasion.

The West Pier - is it feasible ?

The West Pier Trust has now had the results of a financial feasibility study to find out if a restored pier could generate enough income to pay for future maintenance. The conclusion is that it would be feasible but only if 40,000 square feet of lettable space could be created on the lower esplanade under and adjacent to the pier !

A Restaurant in Stone Street ?

Members in Stone Street and Castle Street are concerned about a planning application for number 8 Stone Street. It is for a change of use from a warehouse to a restaurant operating from 10am to midnight. No plans were submitted with the application, which seems to be speculative.

The Society has always been keen to protect the residential nature of these streets and we have objected to the application.

Consultation Results

The Council has published the results of the public consultation on the regeneration plans for Clarence and Russell Squares.

Most people supported the plans for Clarence Square though some were unhappy that seating will be in the central areas only. The only significant objection was to the lack of further tree planting and this will now be included in the plan.

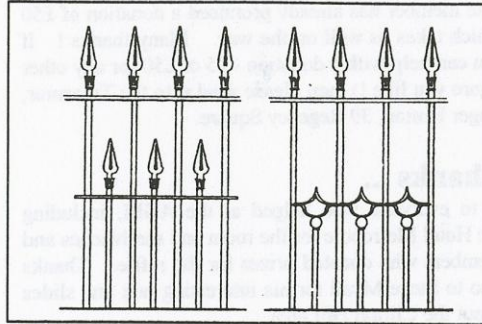
The plans for Russell Square were also widely supported, though the idea of informal seating was opposed and has been dropped.

But where will the money come from ? the Council plans to bid for £270,000 from the Single Regeneration Budget but this will be for Regency and Bedford Squares as well. A further £90,000 is to be raised locally. The Society has £4,600 in its special fund, so the target will only be reached if some other sources of money can be found.

Even if the full £360,000 is raised there are doubts about whether it will be enough to meet the full cost of the present plans. The improvements in Clarence and Russell Squares are intended to be done this year. Meanwhile plans for Regency Square are now not expected until December. The Society is keen to make sure that no money is committed to any squares until the full cost of all the schemes is known.

Meanwhile work is continuing to finalise plans. Old photographs are being used to identify the design of

original railings. The picture shows two possible designs for Clarence Square.



Were you Consulted about Preston Street ?

There has now been a public consultation exercise about the regeneration plans for Preston Street. Unfortunately residents of Regency Square were not informed about it.

The schemes being considered would involve significant changes in traffic flows and would therefore have an impact on Regency Square. We are contacting the Council to complain that the consultation was not properly publicised.

New Committee Elected at AGM

Chairman:	Brian Smith	Regency Square
Secretary:	Pat McCulloch	Queensbury Mews
Treasurer:	Roger Hinton	Regency Square
Committee:	Clive Buxton	Regency Square
	Diana Dunn	Clarence Gardens
	Mairin Forbes	Sussex Heights
	Harold Lawson	Chartwell Court
	Gail Simons	Regency Square
	Traude Tappin	Abbots

Membership Subs due for 1997

Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions.. If you have not renewed for 1997 yet there will be a cross in the box below. Please support the Society and renew as soon you can !

SOCIETY CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN Brian Smith ☎ 325175
SECRETARY Pat McCulloch ☎ 773275
TREASURER & NEWSLETTER Roger Hinton
☎ 321794 email hinton@clara.net

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 Roger Hinton, 39 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.

A cross in the
box means your
sub is due !

