



NEWSLETTER 137 July 1998

Rubbish:

MP says people need to be told

Local MP, David Lepper has replied to our plea for help to persuade the Council to get rid of the rubbish bags.

He points out that we already have more frequent collections than other parts of the town. He suggests that the Society should help the Council to tell residents the times when collections take place.

This sounds like a good idea but it will only work if we know for certain what the collection arrangements are. Previously when we have published collection times the Council has not stuck to them.

It's good to talk

We have raised this point at a meeting with Bill Heron who is the Assistant Director of Environmental Services responsible for this part of town.

He told us that Council officers are reviewing rubbish collection arrangements and are aiming to re-launch them in August or September. There will be a publicity campaign to make sure everyone knows where to put their rubbish and when it will be collected. We have made some suggestions for what an information leaflet should say. We are also keen to see leaflets backed up

with posters in local shops and pubs and a press campaign.

The Council also plans to take action against persistent rubbish dumpers, though legal advice is still being clarified about exactly what can be done.

The Society put some specific questions to Mr Heron and got specific answers. One was that Council officers would be willing to talk to landlords or managing agents if tenants or leaseholders could not get clear information about where to store their rubbish.

Another was that the Council does accept responsibility for keeping the streets clear of rubbish, and Mr Heron agrees that while the level of the problem fluctuates over time, the present state of affairs is not acceptable.

Who are the rubbish dumpers ?

At least one source of rubbish bags has now been identified. A road sweeper has been seen on several occasions leaving bags of rubbish at the north east corner of Regency Square. So even Council contractors believe it is acceptable to dump rubbish in the street !

The West Pier:

Big Money Moves Slowly

The West Pier has at last been assured of the large sums of money needed to restore it to its former glory.

But don't get too excited. It will be quite a while before any work is started, let alone before the pier is restored.

The West Pier Trust now needs to negotiate detailed agreements with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Brighton and Hove Council and the private sector companies which will lease and operate the pier when it has been restored.

Another important step will be a planning application. It will be at this stage that the Trust will have to set out formally what they plan to do with the pier. This will also be our opportunity as neighbours to make comments on the Trust's plans before they are finalised.

So it will be "well into 1999" before the main work starts. Some emergency and preparatory work may start later this summer if an advance on the grant can be obtained. The final completion date is now expected to be in the second half of 2001.

So, if Churchill Square is finished in September as planned, we may get a few months peace before the next major building site appears on our doorsteps.

Blooming Good Show

In spite of the wind and the rain Brighton is blooming again this summer. The Society has funded the hanging baskets in Regency Square

Many thanks to those members who have contributed towards the cost.

Planning:

Don't wash your dirty linen here !

The Metropole Hotel has applied for permission to build a laundry in Queensbury Mews. It would occupy part of the car park. The only way in or out would be through doors into the mews directly opposite existing homes.

This would produce extra traffic. The laundry would need ventilation so noise and fumes would be caused.

Queensbury Mews residents already have problems with noise from ventilation equipment on the roof of the exhibition halls. This is currently being investigated by Environmental Health officers.

The Society believes that an industrial development of this kind is quite inappropriate for a residential street. We have sent a formal objection to the Planning Office

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Regeneration: SRB needs the HLF

At last we can report *some* progress on the re-generation plans for our Squares.

A firm of Landscape consultants called Chris Blandford Associates has produced a two volume report to support the Council's bid for lottery money.

The report uses a wide range of historical sources to describe the history of the squares and to establish, as far as possible, what they were like originally.

Regency Square

Proposals for the squares include new railings. The railings around Regency Square originally included large lamp standards. Re-instatement of these is suggested but may not be feasible. A gravel path with brick edging is proposed around the green, with a grass verge for seats and a 2 metre strip of low evergreens just inside the railings. Ramps will link the different levels. The bridge over the car park exit behind the war memorial might be removed.

Russell Square

A new gate on the north side is proposed for Russell Square. An existing tree is to be removed from the north side and some of the existing planting is to be gradually removed to restore a more formal layout. The elm at the eastern end will be retained and more trees planted to help screen the ugly modern buildings. Because of the need for gradual new planting the scheme would take up to ten years to come to maturity.

Clarence Square

Gates are planned for Clarence Square, in the middle of the west, north and east sides. The existing trees will be removed, though not both immediately. New small "columnar" style trees will be put in the corners and low evergreen shrubs around the edge and in the centre. Seats may be provided.

The report also suggest that all three squares should have brick pavements, but this is unlikely to be included in the current scheme which is limited to the "central islands".

Consultation - just!

This is only a brief summary of the main proposals. If you want to know more have a look at the public consultation exhibitions. They will be held at Chartwell Court (Russell Square), the Regency Hotel (Regency Square) and the Brighton Hotel (Kings Road), from 20 to 24 July between 10 am and 5 pm..

This is your chance to comment on the proposals. However, it is unlikely that the comments of local people will have much effect because of the need to meet the strict requirements of the lottery fund (HLF).

However, we may have some influence over how the funds raised by the Society are used. Seating, bins or planting have been suggested so far. If you have any views please contact the chairman, who will be attending the next steering group meeting.

The Sting in the Tail - ££££££££

Even if the HLF does approve the scheme, it may still not get off the ground if there are not enough local funds. The Council will provide some and our Regency Square Improvement Fund will also count towards it. The rest must come from commercial partners. Not enough is promised yet.

Churchill Square: Living outside the back door

The new Churchill Square will be a splendid shopping mall with wide steps up from Cranbourne Street and smart planters etc. on Western Road.

But it is beginning to feel as if we live outside the back door. The main way in from this part of town will be through the narrow alleyway which has been created outside the Prince of Wales pub.

There is now a plan to locate re-cycling bins at the end of this alley in Cannon Place. Bins are proposed for newspapers and cans.

Recycling is "a good thing" but recycling bins look unsightly and attract rubbish. Is this the right image for our fine new shopping centre? This entrance will be used not only by residents but also by visitors making their way to the Metropole Hotel, the West Pier and the seafront, and by shoppers using the taxi rank planned for the top of Cannon Place.

Residents of Clarence Square are opposing both the bins and the planned taxi rank.

Is Your Membership up to Date?

A few members have still not re-newed for 98/99. If there is a cross in the box your membership sub. is now due.

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton.

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1998/99 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

Basic subscription

Optional donation

Total enclosed

Name

Address

Members' details are stored on computer for administrative purposes only. Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please.

**A cross in the box means
your subscription is due.**

