



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 147
August 1999

Noisy Neighbours

Members in Russell Square are suffering from noise.

The shopping centre is still one of the main causes. No deliveries are supposed to take place before 7 am or after 9 pm but Macdonalds seem to be breaching this rule.

We contacted the security office about one incident and were told that the offending vehicle had broken down so could not be moved. The problem is that it was refrigerated so its noisy cooling systems had to run continuously while repairs were carried out.

Noise from ventilators in Churchill Square is also still causing problems in Chartwell Court at times.

We are writing to the Centre manager about these problems.

Another noisy neighbour is the small warehouse behind number 26 Russell Square. It has been taken over by a dance and music group who store their musical instruments and stage props. There and make a lot of noise loading and unloading. We have been told by the planning department that no change of use is needed.

Deliveries to BUPA are still causing concern in Russell Square and Castle Street. We will be talking to them again to see if anything can be done.

Taxis calling at the Regency Tavern often blow their horns, and on these summer nights when windows are open, those within earshot are treated to frequent, loud, recorded renditions of "Happy Birthday to You".

A New Bench

Society member, Geoff Pygall has decided to place a bench in Regency Square in memory of his wife who died last year.

The bench will be located on the top green to the left of the concrete steps. It will be the same design as the new one recently placed by the Council to the right of the steps. It will be fixed to a concrete base to reduce the chance of vandalism or theft.

Parking Questions

A questionnaire about parking was distributed recently by the Council but not everyone got a copy.

It says that the Council "is considering assuming responsibility for enforcement of the parking controls throughout its area."

This is disappointing since we had got the impression some time ago that a decision had already been made that the Council would take over from the Police. Parking in the central parts of town is chaotic and much more rigorous enforcement is needed.

The questionnaire asked for public views about parking and in particular about plans to extend the controlled areas. For example pay and display on the seafront would be extended into Hove as far as Westbourne Villas.

The closing date for replies is 6 August. If you didn't get a questionnaire, contact the Brighton and Hove Parking Team at JMP Consultants - tel 0171-515 5579.

B & B in Queensbury Mews?

Well hardly. In recent weeks residents have been aware of people sleeping in their cars in the Mews.

This is just one aspect of the generally chaotic parking conditions in the area.

The huge carparks on our doorsteps are usually almost empty after about 6pm. Churchill Square are offering cheap rates for overnight parking. If this was publicised better there might be less illegal parking in the street.

We are investigating what is being done to publicise the overnight rates.

Do Fence me in !

Clarence Square lost its railing on the north side some time ago and nothing has been done to replace them. When there was hope of regeneration money for the square the delay was understandable.

That hope has now receded. So we are trying to persuade the Council to put the railings back. The square is supposed to be a dog free area and would be safer for young children if it was properly fenced.

There would also be no chance of a repeat of a recent incident when a lorry parked on the grass.

Planners Boobed on New Bay

Look carefully at the basement window in the new bay which has been added to number 43 Regency Square. It is an angled window with three sections, like the ground floor above.

All the other houses nearby have flat windows in the basement. The planners had intended that permission should only be given for this new development if it matched neighbouring properties. But when it came to approval of the detailed plans, they failed to notice the design of the basement.

So the window that has been installed does not contravene the letter of the planning permission, though it does breach the spirit.

We Never Said Nothing!

If there's one thing the Society does frequently it's to complain. So it is perhaps not surprising that the Evening Argus should have assumed that we objected to the planning application for a car valeting service in the Metropole Hotel Carpark.

We had looked at the plans, but in fact we did not object. The main reason was that the service had already been in operation for some weeks before the application had been made and residents in the neighbouring Queensbury Mews had not noticed any disturbance.

Planning permission has now been granted.

Preston Street

In the last issue we asked for your opinions of the layout of Preston Street. Member, Elizabeth Ray has strong views which are summarised below:

"There is no traffic control. Cars park on the pavement and the cycle lane must constitute a

greater hazard to cyclists than not having one at all ...if a dedicated lane is there for them at least it should be made to work.

"The single yellow line bays were meant to be for shopkeepers to unload, not for car parking. If cars continue to park on both sides of the road there is very little room for lorries or emergency vehicles.

"I saw a lorry unable to get out of Castle Street because of a car parked half on the opposite pavement. There was a line of waiting cars right down to the seafront.

"Now that the pavements have been widened there is a slope down to the centre of the footway but no drain or gutter to take any water.

"The one way system is very inconvenient for taxis which have to go a much longer way round to Regency Square."

It Hasn't Gone Away ...

...rubbish that is. In fact the problem is getting worse again. Rubbish bags are still being dumped at all times of the week. More and more of them are being torn open by seagulls and dogs.

So what is to be done? Other towns can keep their streets reasonably clean so there must be an answer. A councillor for a nearby ward has suggested that the Council needs a policy of zero tolerance for dumped rubbish bags. We are trying to find out more.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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Litter Hotline

If you see rubbish in the street at any time except Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning please call the Council and ask them to clear it away.



292200 or 292300

Membership Renewal Form

Don't delay - do it today. If there's a cross in the box below your subscription is due.

To Roger Hinton, 39 Regency Square, Brighton BN1 2FJ

I would like to renew my membership of the Regency Square Area Society for the year 1999/2000 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 _____
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Cheques payable to the Regency Square Area Society please
Members' details are stored on computer for administrative purposes only.

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means your sub is
due.

