



Regency Square Area Society

NEWSLETTER 266
December 2011

Happy Christmas!

Very best wishes from the Society committee. We hope you have a good break and a happy new year.



To help get the festivities started, why not join us for a chat and a drink on Wednesday (21st December) in the Regency Tavern. We'll be there from 8pm.

To start the New Year there's nothing better than a good breakfast and some local gossip. That's what you get at our New Year breakfast at the Regency Restaurant.

It starts at 10am on Sunday 1st January. Just take a seat at the long table and order whatever you want. Then sit back and enjoy the buzz. (Don't forget to pay at the bar before you leave.)

Big changes in the car park

The Council is going to spend £2.4 million improving the car park in Regency Square. The aim is to increase use by making it more secure and attractive. The full cost will be recovered from increased revenue.

What's the plan?

Secure doors and shutters are to be fitted at entrances and exits so that only ticket holders can get in or out.

Once inside drivers will find better signs, lighting and improved pedestrian walkways. Parking charges are not expected to go up.

Watch the traffic flow

There will be a major change to traffic flows at the exit. New traffic lights will appear in Kings Road by the Regency Restaurant.

The central barrier in Kings Road will be breached, allowing traffic from the car park to turn right and left.

There will be room for up to eight cars to wait in the underpass for the lights to change.

The car park entrance will now be accessible without needing to drive right round the square.

A pedestrian crossing will be included with the new lights to give access to the south side of Kings Road.

When will it happen?

The planning application will be submitted by the end of the year. Work is due to start next April and the whole project should be finished by the end of 2012.

There will inevitably be some disruption but the car park will stay open most of the time.

Benefits for the locals

There will be clear benefits for users of the car park and it will be inaccessible to rough sleepers or vandals.

The modern railings at the car park entrances will be painted as part of the work. The remaining hooped garden railings are also due to be painted in the spring as part of our own garden improvement project.

New residents who apply for a resident parking permit will get free parking in the car park between 4 pm and 11am while they are on the waiting list.

What's not to like?

Are there any problems? We are concerned about a few things.

The entrance to the car park via the stairwell at the top of the square needs to be made secure. The current plan is to erect a glass building to enclose it. It will include a door which can only be opened by inserting a valid parking ticket.

Opposite this stairwell there will be a second, smaller glass and steel cabin for a disabled lift.

These structures will not be in keeping with the heritage architecture of the square. We have raised this issue with the managers of the project. Council conservation officers have not yet seen the plans.

The pedestrian stairwells into the car park from the lower and central gardens will be closed and used for emergency exit only. The current plan is to build metal cages above them to prevent anyone climbing in.

Again, we are unhappy with the appearance of these and have asked for them to be re-considered.

Pedestrians walking through the underpass from the beach will find the corridor leading into the car park blocked by a door only accessible by ticket holders.

Anyone heading for the east side of the square will have to follow the tunnel which comes out on the west side and then re-trace their steps above ground. We have asked for the existing pedestrian route through the car park to be retained.

What do you think?

We will be commenting on the planning application when it is published. Please let us know your views.

Society Contacts:

Chairman: Roger Hinton,

✉ hinton@clara.net, ☎ 01273 321794

Treasurer: Trix Webber,

✉ tew100@hotmail.co.uk ☎ 01273 321858

www.regencybrighton.com

What about the tailbacks?

We have been complaining for years about car park queues which form in Regency Square and Cannon Place.

On busy days they can stretch so far back that the road becomes blocked and local traffic can't get through.

The planned car park improvements described over the page offer a good opportunity to solve the problem in Regency Square. We have a meeting planned with Councillor Ian Davey, the cabinet member responsible for transport.

We will ask him if he can remove the parking spaces on the right hand side of the road leading to the car park entrance. This will create two lanes, allowing vehicles to queue without obstructing local traffic.

We will ask for parking places to be removed from the corresponding positions on the east side of the square. This is to improve the appearance of the square which currently has too many cars parked in it, while the car park below is rarely full.

We will press for the number of resident spaces in the square to remain unchanged.

And what about Cannon Place?



We will also show Councillor Davey the problem in Cannon Place, which can result in residents waiting twenty minutes or more just to get past the queue.

The solution to this problem is less obvious, but something needs to be done. The present situation is unacceptable.

Bobbi's back on the beat

We are pleased to welcome PCSO Bobbi King back to our area. She was our local community support officer until earlier this year. She has now resumed that position.

If you want to speak to Bobbi you can call her on 07766 997945 or email on Roberta.King@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

She is not always in duty of course so if you are reporting an incident which is in progress you should use 999 for emergencies or the new non-emergency number 101.

If you need the
POLICE but it's NOT
an emergency, dial

101



Keeping it safe for the kids!

One of the things that she and her colleagues have been trying to do in recent weeks is to discourage dog owners from the using the top garden in Regency Square.

This space was made "dog free" many years ago following a campaign by the Society. The aim was to make it safe for children to play on the grass.

As time has gone by some dog owners have taken to ignoring the "no dogs" sign. So we have asked the Council to put up a new sign, explaining why dogs need to be kept out.

We have also asked the police to enforce the rule and they have been trying to do so in recent weeks.

If you see a dog in the top garden, dial 101 and let the police know

Dates for your diary:

Wed 21st Dec – meet your committee in the Regency Tavern from 8pm

Sunday 1st Jan – New Year breakfast at the Regency Restaurant from 10 am

Monday 26th March – Society AGM at the Metropole Hotel at 7:30 pm

Job done ... undone ... done!

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped the Council gardener plant wild flowers earlier in the month.

The sad news is that some unfriendly passerby took it into their head to yank a couple of them out a few days later. Fortunately committee member, Duncan Cameron managed to get them back into place. So let's hope for a good display when spring comes!

And keep your eye on the top garden. Work will start after Christmas to create a new bed in the centre of the lawn. This will be filled with a variety of sturdy plants and should discourage footballers from using the area.

Waitrose, here we come!

We need to raise £570 to pay for a new bench for Regency Square. We hope to get help from the Waitrose scheme, where shoppers drop green tokens into a box for the good cause of their choice.

To get one of the boxes we need lots of people to recommend us. You can pick up a request form in Waitrose or from the Treasurer. Please do it today!

Newsletter sponsored and printed by

EMBE MAIL BOXES ETC.®

Print & Copy Packing & Shipping
 Office Services Packing Materials
 Stationery Post & Parcels

Tel: 01273 70 60 20 • www.mbebrighton.co.uk
Email: print@mbebrighton.co.uk • 91 Western Road, Brighton, BN1 2NW